

COUNTY OF WALLA WALLA
STATE OF WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER COURT

NEWSRELEASE

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Walla Walla County Board of Commissioners
Walla Walla Public Health and Legislative Building
314 West Main/P. O. Box 1506
Walla Walla, WA 99362

509/524-2505

COUNTY-WIDE SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAMS UPDATE PROCESS BEGINS

On Tuesday, October 29, 2013 at 6:30 PM Walla Walla County and the cities of Prescott, Waitsburg and Walla Walla are holding a public information meeting on the update of each jurisdiction's current Shoreline Master Program. The meeting will be held in the Board of County Commissioners' chambers, Walla Walla Public Health and Legislative Building, 314 Main Street, 2nd floor, in Walla Walla. There will be a brief presentation with time for general questions from 6:30 to 7:15 followed by an informal open house from 7:15 to 8:30. Preliminary shoreline jurisdiction maps will be posted and project and Washington Department of Ecology staff will be available to answer questions and provide additional information.

Shoreline Master Programs were first adopted by the county and the cities in the 1970s and affect properties within 200 feet of the following: Dry Creek, Mill Creek, Whetstone Hollow Creek, the Walla River, Touchet River, Snake River and Columbia River. This public informational meeting is intended to let citizens know about the basic requirements of the Shoreline Management Act and Shoreline Master Programs; properties that are affected; and the process for updating county and city Shoreline Master Program regulations.

In 2003 the State updated regulations for shorelines. The Washington State Department of Ecology is making grant funds available to Walla Walla County and Cities of Prescott, Waitsburg and Walla Walla to update their Shoreline Master Program regulations by June of 2016 for consistency with the State regulation. To more efficiently use the grant funds, the four jurisdictions have entered into an intergovernmental agreement and formed a project management team with a representative from each jurisdiction to oversee preparation of a regional update that reflects the vision and interests of each jurisdiction. Walla Walla County is acting as the grant manager.

Commissioner Greg Tompkins, who represents the county on the project management team, "urges property owners and citizens to come to this meeting to learn first-hand about the process and determine if their property will possibly be impacted during this update."

This meeting will be the first of many public meetings and hearings over the next 2½ years. Additional information about Shoreline Master Programs and the update process is available online at <http://www.co.walla-walla.wa.us/departments/comms/ShorelineMasterProgramUpdate.shtml>.

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WALLA WALLA COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH AND LEGISLATIVE BUILDING, 314 WEST MAIN
P.O. BOX 1506 • WALLA WALLA, WASHINGTON 99362-0316 • wwcocommissioners@co.walla-walla.wa.us
PHONE: (509) 524-2505 • FAX: (509) 524-2512

District No.1
JAMES K. JOHNSON

District No.2
PERRY L. DOZIER

District No.3
GREGORY A. TOMPKINS