



and Associates

PLANNING, LAND USE
AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Memorandum

Date: May 31, 2015
To: Project Management Team, Shoreline Master Program Updates
From: Bill Stalzer, Project Team Leader
Re: Regional Working Group Meetings

As you are aware, the regional working group met monthly from January through April. Seven 3-hour meetings were held during that period. In addition to the 21 hours spent in meetings, members devoted numerous hours before and after meetings reviewing the materials provided. Attendance typically ranged from 8 to 10 of the 14 members (see Attachment A), with a variety of perspectives represented at each meeting.

Some of the major topics, in no particular order, that were addressed during the review and discussion of the draft SMP were:

- Recognizing the economic importance of agriculture, Port activities, and tourism to the county and state
- Protecting fish habitat and new efforts to improve fish habitat
- Protecting natural areas on the Snake and Columbia Rivers
- Ensuring that allowed uses and modifications are appropriate for the existing conditions along the river, stream or Bennington Lake, existing zoning, and ecological functions as well as the SMP priority requirements of the RCW and WAC
- Creating SMP rural environment designations that acknowledge the vast difference between the size of rural and agricultural lands
- Recognizing the unique nature of the covered portion of Mill Creek through downtown Walla Walla
- Ensuring that lands in the CREP program remain designated as existing agricultural lands if removed from CREP
- Ensuring that the Restoration Plan is realistic and relies on funding and incentives
- Ensuring that the requirements for vegetation conservation are realistic
- Ensuring that public access requirements are not overly burdensome on private property owners
- Exploring ways to reduce the costs of special studies to property owners
- Avoiding undertaking a separate critical areas effort by incorporating existing critical areas regulations into the SMPs

A final meeting for this part of the SMP update process will be held on May 16th or 17th, depending on the results of a poll I emailed to all members. This meeting will focus on final comments and suggestions from members and a discussion of topics raised by Ecology's review of the preliminary draft SMP.

Attachment A
Regional Shoreline Master Program Updates
Walla Walla County and the Cities of Prescott, Waitsburg and Walla Walla
Regional Working Group Members

Property Owners

- Michael Buckley
- Sheryl Cox

Interest Groups

- Citizens for Good Governance, Don Schwerin
- Gardena Farms Irrigation District #13, Mark Wagoner
- Snake River Salmon Recovery Board, Steve Martin
- Tri-State Steelheaders, Brian Burns

Partner Jurisdiction Planning Commissions

- Walla Walla County Planning Commission, Chuck Carruthers (Bruce McCaw, alternate)
- City of Prescott Planning Commission, Brent Potts
- City of Waitsburg Planning Commission, Karen Gregutt (Randy Hinchliffe, alternate)
- City of Walla Walla Planning Commission, Larry Bayman

Local/State/Federal Agencies

- Port of Walla Walla, Jim Kuntz (Paul Gerola, alternate)
- Washington State Department of Ecology, Jaime Short
- Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, Mark Grandstaff (Tim Schirm, alternate)
- Walla Walla County Conservation District, Larry Hooker



City of Prescott

February, 2015