



and Associates

PLANNING, LAND USE
AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Memorandum

Date: March 8, 2016
To: Project Management Team
From: Bill Stalzer, Project Team Leader, Walla Walla Regional Shoreline Master Programs Updates
Re: Status Report

I am providing the following summary of activities that took place since January since there was no meeting in February.

Year 3 Grant Status

Due to vacations and the holidays at the end of last year, the December 2nd version of the year 3 grant agreement was delayed. When I inquired about the status with our grant manager in January, February, and again as recently as last week I was assured that there were no problems, and that the county commissioners' office should be receiving a the year 3 grant agreement reflecting the agreed-upon budget and task deadlines shortly. The county has yet to receive the agreement.

Quarterly Report

In spite of not having a year 3 grant agreement, I prepared the attached second quarterly report for this grant cycle as required, which Diane Harris in turn submitted to Ecology at the end of January.

Draft Shoreline Master Programs Status

On January 11th, I received Ecology's comments on the preliminary draft SMPs submitted on November 23rd. There were very few comments and they related entirely to details. The Watershed Company and I discussed our responses which Dan Nickel subsequently discussed with Jeremy Sikes. All were resolved satisfactorily and resulted in the following revisions:

- Replace the term "Community Dock" in the Definitions with the term "Joint Use Dock" and use the term in place of "community dock" throughout the draft SMPs.
- Change to Policy-3 for Flood Protection (Chapter 5.5) for consistency with the WAC
- Change to Policy-1 for General Shoreline Modification Requirements (Chapter 6.3) for consistency with the WAC
- Change Boating and Moorage Facilities (Chapter 6.6) Regulation D.2 to allow treated wood in certain situations for consistency with the Guidelines.
- Add a new Regulation C.3 to Fill and Excavation (Chapter 6.10) regarding flood hazards and reference local flood control regulations.
- Add language to Regulation D for In-Stream Structures (Chapter 6.13) requiring consistency with local flood control regulations.
- Add new Regulation I to Amendments to the SMP (Chapter 7.12) requiring submittal of amendments to Ecology for consistency with the WAC.

The Watershed Company was able prepare updated versions of all four SMPs promptly. After my review of the draft SMPs for the county and the City of Walla Walla, I arranged for 10 copies of each SMP to be printed and delivered in to county and city staff. The documents were posted on the website and disseminated by the staffs to their planning commissions prior to their meetings this week. After my review of the draft SMPs for the cities of Prescott and Waitsburg, I arranged for the printing and delivery of a sufficient number of copies for each city's planning commission, staff and files in time for distribution prior to their March meetings.

January Planning Commission Meetings

For both the City of Walla Walla and the Walla Walla County planning commissions I made a PowerPoint presentation that was an overview of the Ecology grant, SMP process to date, major elements of the SMP,

and the project Timeline. I also discussed briefly the three background documents most recently given to the planning commission (Shoreline Analysis Report, 2014 Community Visioning Report, and 2015 Summary of the community meetings).

The main comment from the City of Walla Walla planning commission concerned public access. I said that I would prepare a memorandum on the topic for the planning commission prior to its February meeting. The Walla Walla County planning commissioners asked about the major issues raised by the Regional Working Group and the background for the change to the critical area buffer for Yellowhawk Creek.

Lower Yellowhawk Creek Property Owners Meeting

As suggested by the Regional Working Group and approved by the Project Management Team, I scheduled a special meeting with the Yellowhawk Creek property owners. Lauren Prentice researched all property owners in SMP jurisdiction on Yellowhawk Creek (58) and mailed the attached notice announcing a meeting to each property owner. An informational meeting was held on Tuesday, February 2nd at 7:00 pm in the County training room. Dan Nickel made a brief PowerPoint presentation on the SMP and Yellowhawk Creek, and he, County planning staff, and I were present to provide information and answer questions. Six people attended the meeting, four of whom were affected property owners.

February Public Informational Open Houses

As you are aware, Lauren Prentice prepared and submitted a news release to the Union-Bulletin about the upcoming public informational meetings. The Union-Bulletin posted an announcement online and in their Sunday edition (attached). Informal public informational open houses were held from 6:00 to 6:45 pm before both the City of Walla Walla planning commission meeting on Monday, February 1st and the County planning commission meeting on Wednesday, February 3rd. Ten people attended the city open house although some were there for items on the city planning commission agenda that night and at least three were there about the county's SMP. Two people attended the county open house.

February Planning Commission Meetings

Dan Nickel of The Watershed Company made a PowerPoint presentation and led the discussion Chapter 4 of the draft SMPs at both the City of Walla Walla Planning commission meeting on Monday, February 1st and the County planning commission meeting on Wednesday, February 3rd. I presented a brief overview of the memorandum I had prepared in response to a question about public access at the City of Walla Walla planning commission's January meeting and participated with city and county staff at both meetings as needed.

March Informational Public Open House and Planning Commission Meetings

After my discussions with staff at the county and each of the cities, it was agreed to follow the same "public informational open house" followed by a planning commission meeting format in March. The City of Prescott published a special planning commission meeting notice in The Waitsburg Times and the Board of County Commissioners issued a news release to their media list for the meetings in Prescott and Waitsburg (attached). All meetings were posted on the project website and I emailed notification of the meetings to all citizens who had indicated on sign-in sheets at the February meetings that they wanted to be notified of future meetings.

Dan Nickel, local officials or planning staff, and I will be available for a brief presentation followed by time to answer questions and provide additional information at each of the public informational open houses preceding all four planning commission meetings this month.

For the City of Walla Walla and the Walla Walla County planning commission meetings Dan Nickel will make a PowerPoint presentation on Chapters 5 and 6 of the draft SMPs then will lead the discussion along with Elizabeth Chamberlain, Lauren Prentice and me. For the City of Prescott and City of Waitsburg planning commission meetings Dan Nickel will make a PowerPoint Presentation on SMPs generally, then he and I will lead a discussion of each city's SMP and answer any questions.