



WALLA WALLA COUNTY

Community Development Department

310 W. Poplar, Suite 200 • Walla Walla, WA 99362-2865

January 29, 2016

NEWS RELEASE

Walla Walla County Community Development Department
310 W. Poplar Street
Walla Walla, WA 99362
www.co.walla-walla.wa.us
509-524-2610

CITY AND COUNTY SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAMS UPDATE MEETINGS CONTINUE

Walla Walla County, and the cities of Prescott, Waitsburg, and Walla Walla, are working cooperatively to update their existing Shoreline Master Programs (SMPs) as a partnership coalition. The State updated its guidelines for SMP's in 2003. The County and the three cities are updating their SMP's to be consistent with the new State requirements and reflect current information about Walla Walla County's shorelines. Walla Walla County is serving as grant administrator, Bill Stalzer, county planning consultant, as project team leader, and The Watershed Company as technical consultant.

What is a Shoreline Master Program?

A Shoreline Master Program is a locally prepared set of policies and regulations, required by State law, that govern development in shoreline areas. *However, Shoreline Master Programs do not apply to existing agricultural activities on agricultural lands. Also, existing residences, regardless of location, are allowed.*

The following public meetings are scheduled for February:

City of Walla Walla Planning Commission Meeting and Informational Public Meeting – February 1

Prior to the City of Walla Walla's regular Planning Commission meeting on Monday, February 1, there will be a public informational open house from 6:00 – 6:45 PM at City Hall in Council Chambers (15 N. Third Avenue, Second Floor). The purpose of this informal meeting is to provide members of the public an opportunity to learn more about the update of the City's Shoreline Master Program. City staff and consultants will be available during this time to answer questions regarding the SMP update. The regular Planning Commission meeting will follow at 7:00 PM. The meeting agenda includes a discussion of Chapter 3, Shoreline Vision and Goals, and Chapter 4, Environment Designations in the City's draft Shoreline Master Program update.

Lower Yellowhawk Creek Open House – February 2

Non-agricultural uses along the portion of Yellowhawk Creek from Cottonwood Creek to the confluence with the Walla Walla River are subject to the Walla Walla County Shoreline Master Program update. This includes land within two hundred feet in all directions as measured on a horizontal plane from the ordinary high water mark; floodways and contiguous floodplain areas landward two hundred feet from such

floodways; and all wetlands and river deltas associated with the streams and lakes which are subject to the State Shoreline Management Act (RCW 90.58).

On Tuesday, February 2, from 7:00 – 8:00 PM, there will be an informational open house at the Walla Walla County Public Health and Legislative Building (314 W. Main Street, 2nd Floor) specifically to provide information about how the Walla Walla County Shoreline Master Program update applies to lands along lower Yellowhawk Creek. Staff and consultants will make a brief presentation and answer questions.

Walla Walla County Planning Commission Meeting and Informational Public Meeting – February 3

Prior to the Planning Commission meeting on Wednesday, February 3rd, there will be an informational public meeting from 6:00 – 6:45 PM for the public to learn more about the County's Shoreline Master Program update. This informal meeting will be held at the Walla Walla County Public Health and Legislative Building (314 W. Main Street, 2nd Floor). County staff and consultants will be available during this time to answer questions regarding the SMP update.

At its regular meeting on Wednesday, February 3, at 7:00 PM the Walla Walla County Planning Commission will discuss the draft Walla Walla County Shoreline Master Program update. The primary focus of this meeting will be Chapter 3, Shoreline Vision and Goals, and Chapter 4, Environment Designations. This meeting will be at the same location as the informational public meeting.

Can't attend these meetings?

If you are unable to attend these meetings, you can find information about shoreline master programs in general and the SMP updates at the Regional Shoreline Master Program link on the county's website at <http://www.co.walla-walla.wa.us>. You also can email questions or comments to: shorelines@co.walla-walla.wa.us or contact Bill Stalzer, the SMP project team leader, through that email address or by phone at 206-264-1150.

There also will be additional informational open houses prior to the City and County and Planning Commission meetings in March and April followed by public hearings tentatively planned for April and May before the Planning Commissions and the elected bodies.

-End-