

COUNTY OF WALLA WALLA
STATE OF WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER COURT

NEWSRELEASE

July 21, 2014

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

COMMUNITY VISIONING MEETINGS SET REGARDING COUNTY-WIDE SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAMS UPDATE

By June of 2016 Walla Walla County and cities of Prescott, Waitsburg and Walla Walla are required to update their Shoreline Master Program regulations for consistency with State regulations. As part of the update process, community visioning meetings will be held at three locations in July to provide basic information about the Shoreline Master Programs and an opportunity for citizens to discuss and express their preferences for shoreline uses. Additional meetings will be held over the next two years. The visioning meetings schedule is as follows:

- Tuesday evening, July 29, at 7:00 p.m. in the Waitsburg Lions Club Memorial Building, Waitsburg
- Wednesday morning, July 30, at 7:30 a.m. in the Touchet School Cafeteria, Touchet
- Wednesday evening, July 30, at 7:00 p.m. in the Walla Walla County Commissioners' chambers, Walla Walla Public Health and Legislative Building, 314 Main Street, 2nd floor, in Walla Walla.

Additionally a drop-in informational open house will be held Wednesday, July 30th from 1:30-4:30 at the Walla Walla County Commissioners' training room in the Walla Walla Public Health and Legislative Building, 314 Main Street, 2nd floor, in Walla Walla.

As a further way to get out information on these meetings, residents with property currently subject to the shoreline regulations of either Walla Walla County or the cities of Prescott, Waitsburg, or Walla Walla will receive an automated telephone notification of these meetings. Properties affected are those generally within 200 feet of the following rivers and streams: Mill Creek, Walla Walla River, Touchet River, Snake River, Columbia River and the lower portion of Yellowhawk Creek; associated sloughs and wetlands; and Bennington Lake.

Walla Walla County is the lead agency for this project, which is funded primarily by a grant through the Washington State Department of Ecology. Project team leader is Bill Stalzer, a county planning consultant from Stalzer and Associates in Seattle.

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. He emphasized that existing uses and agricultural activities will be allowed to continue. ”

These meetings are part of the public process established to compile the plan for the county and incorporated cities, so input from affected landowners and interested persons is very important. Additional information about Shoreline Master Programs and the update process, along with a survey to help with the draft plan due next summer, are available online at

<http://www.co.walla-walla.wa.us/departments/comms/ShorelineMasterProgramUpdate.shtml>.

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