

COUNTY OF WALLA WALLA
STATE OF WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER COURT

NEWSRELEASE

May 5, 2015

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 PUBLIC MEETINGS

On Tuesday, May 12th and Wednesday, May 13th Walla Walla County and the cities of Prescott, Waitsburg and Walla Walla are holding public information meetings on the preliminary draft of the Shoreline Master Program update of each jurisdiction's current Shoreline Master Program. A separate meeting is scheduled also to update landowners in the Touchet area. Project staff will give a brief presentation then be available to answer questions and provide additional information. Computerized aerial maps of shoreline designations will be available for all affected properties.

The meetings will be held Tuesday, May 12th from 6-7:30pm in the Prescott city hall at 108 South D Street in Prescott (NOTE: This meeting will cover the Prescott and Waitsburg areas); Wednesday, May 13th from 7:30-9:00am in the Touchet-Gardena Lions Building, 152 Gardena School Road in Touchet; and Wednesday, May 13th from 6:30-8:30pm in the Board of County Commissioners' chambers, Walla Walla Public Health and Legislative Building, 314 Main Street, 2nd floor, in Walla Walla. There also will be a drop-in open house on Wednesday, May 13th from noon to 4:00pm at the Walla Walla Public Health and Legislative Building, 314 Main Street, 2nd floor.

Shoreline Master Programs were first adopted by the county and cities in the 1970s and affect properties within 200 feet of Bennington Lake and Walla Walla River, Touchet River, Snake River, Columbia River, Mill Creek, and lower section of Yellowhawk Creek. These public informational meetings are intended to let citizens know about the proposed regulations for the Shoreline Master Programs; properties that are affected; and the process for updating county and city Shoreline Master Programs.

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
JAMES L. DUNCAN

COUNTY-WIDE SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAMS UPDATE PUBLIC MEETINGS

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 Jim Johnson, who represents the county on the project management team, “urges property owners and citizens to come to these meetings to learn first-hand about the proposed Shoreline Master Program regulations and how their property could possibly be affected by these updates.”

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>.

- end -