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**COMMUNITY PLANNING &
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

Joshua Cummings, Director

Creating Solutions for Our Future

MEMORANDUM

TO: Thurston County Planning Commission

FROM: Kaitlynn Nelson, Associate Planner

DATE: August 17, 2021

SUBJECT: Wireless Communication Facilities, Development Code Docket #A19
Thurston County Zoning Code Chapters 20.33, 20.03, and 20.54
Formation of Stakeholder Group

Board of County Commissioner's Direction

The Thurston County Board of County Commissioners provided direction for staff to supply a list of potential participants for a wireless stakeholder group to the Planning Commission. The BoCC outlined next steps, stating that Planning Commissioners will review potential participants, determine who to invite to the stakeholder group, and then County staff (including Ken Fellman, consulting with the County) will work with the stakeholder group to determine suggested changes to the draft code over a 60 day period, which will then go back to Planning Commissioners for any necessary work sessions.

The potential participants listed here are drawn from those who have actively participated and commented throughout the process of reviewing the draft code for Wireless Communication Facilities, or were suggested by a local group of concerned citizens (see attached bios, provided by Christy White). Staff also recommends two Planning Commissioners serve on the Committee (Commissioner Pestinger previously volunteered).

Planning Commission Direction

The Planning Commission directed staff at the August 4th work session to provide a larger pool of volunteers as potential participants to choose from in the wireless stakeholder group, and to

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focus on those who live within Thurston County. A webmail was provided to subscribers of the Community Planning email listserv.

Additional Participant Volunteers

Volunteers who have come forward since the August 4th work session:

- Sam Milhaum, community member
 - Retired from State Department of Health, author of publications on EMF health effects and the book, Dirty Electricity.
- Walt R. Jorgensen, community member
 - Did not provide specific interest in code update.
- Jeff Merryman, community member
 - Did not respond to clarification of address or interest in code update.
- Terry Krause, community member
 - Dealt with wireless infrastructure as part of law enforcement duties prior to retirement.
- Milt Doumit, wireless provider representative
 - State Government Affairs Director for Verizon Wireless

Previous Participant Volunteers

Potential stakeholder group participants are not listed in any particular order.

- Josh Stottlemeyer, community member
- Dorothy Lyons, community member
- Christy White, community member
- George Rother, community member
- Meridee Pabst, AT&T wireless provider representative
- Kim Allen, Verizon wireless provider representative
- Chris Listfeld, Crown Castle wireless provider representative
- Maria Emig, T-Mobile wireless provider representative

Other Background

The Wireless Communication code establishes the permitting process for numerous types of wireless facilities in both the public rights-of-way and private property, the criteria for approval, and the design guidelines for each type of facility. An update to the wireless code is required for compliance with the Federal Telecommunications Act and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), which has adopted multiple orders over the years that impose new and restrictive conditions on local control. Updating the code allows the County to preserve the ability to assert the remaining authority in the review of wireless facilities. The timeline for adoption of the draft code is based not on a calendar deadline, but on the need to fill the gap

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where the County does not have code in place to request any requirements beyond the determinations made by the FCC.

Staff have worked closely with consultant Ken Fellman, with Kissinger & Fellman Law Firm, who was hired by the County Prosecuting Attorney's office, and who has experience in updating wireless code, as well as actively participating in the ongoing legal updates by the FCC. The draft code is a complete rewrite, with elements of the existing county wireless code considered where applicable, as well as examples of other local codes from cities like Tumwater and Anacortes. This item has been officially docketed since 2014 at the direction of the BoCC.