Shoreline Master Program (SMP) Update

I. Introduction

II. Overview of Website Information and where to find it.

III. Summary of Previous Meetings

IV. Components of SMP Chapters 19.100-200

V. Comments on 19.100-200

VI. Next Steps / Changes to Schedules of Meetings
Website Information

- Current Shorelines homepage:  
  http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/PLANNING/shoreline/shoreline_home.htm

- New Shorelines homepage:  
  http://www.thurstoncountywa.gov/planning/Pages/shorelines.aspx
Review of Previous Planning Commission Meeting

• Discussed topics raised at Community Stakeholder and Regulatory Group Meetings

• Reviewed questions received from members of the Planning Commission concerning areas of increased flexibility in the proposed draft SMP versus the current 1990 SMP.

• Reviewed question from the Planning Commission on “no net loss”
Review of Previous Regulatory Meeting

- Discussed substantive comments received from Regulatory Group on Chapters 100 & 150, didn’t get to discuss Chapter 200.

- Discussed shorelands in UGA’s and how Thurston County plans to regulate them per Chapter 19.100.120. Need to be consistent between the different SMP’s.

- Discussed proposed changes to definitions (e.g. Bulkheads, Ecological Functions, Principle Building, etc.)

- Discussed options for Administrative Permits for “like projects” similar to the Corps of Engineer's Nationwide Permit program. A pre-conditioned permit where a streamlined review is allowed if the proposed project meets certain conditions/criteria.
Major Topics at Community Stakeholder Meeting

- Discussed “legally non-conforming structures” - - can there be another term for this? Staff looking into other terms to use (grandfathered, historically conforming, etc.)

- Buffers – Particularly proposed buffer width on shorelines with Shoreline Residential environmental designation. Keep at 50 feet?

- Remodel/Reconstruction – New proposed options available to rebuild in current footprint in case of natural disaster/fire.

- Normal maintenance and repair can continue on legally established structures. Exemption language is in Chapter 19.500.100 (B) – Must still meet intent of the Act.
Major Topics at Community Stakeholder Meeting

• Received comments related to “takings” where stakeholder members submitted information where they believe their land is unjustly being taken without compensation.

• Continued concern from some stakeholder members of the makeup of the members on the Regulatory Group.

• Concerns with water quality of Puget Sound and aquaculture were also topics of discussion.

• Concerns with how the County informs the public concerning meetings.
Shoreline Master Program (SMP) Update

I. Draft Document: Some information is required by statute but most topics are up for discussion. Some appendices still being completed.

II. Meetings will continue into 2018.

III. Planning Commission public hearing will take place after series of Community Stakeholder meetings. BoCC process to follow PC public process.
Draft SMP Chapters

- 19.100 Introduction
- 19.150 Definitions
- 19.200 Shoreline Jurisdiction and Environment Designation
- 19.300 General Goals and Policies
- 19.400 General Regulations
- 19.500 Permit Provisions, Review and Enforcement
- 19.600 Shoreline Use and Modification Development Standards
- 19.700 Special Reports

- Appendix A Shoreline Environment Designations Map
- Appendix B* Mitigation Options to Achieve No Net Loss for New or Re-Development Activities
- Appendix C* Shoreland Restoration Plan
- Appendix D* Channel Migration Zone Maps
- Appendix E Critical Area Regulations Incorporated By Reference

* Still being finalized
I. Doesn’t impact legally established structures unless a project proponent wants to expand structure or add new structures.

II. Normal maintenance and repair can continue on legally established structures.

III. New options available to rebuild in current footprint in case of natural disaster/fire.
Chapter 100 & 150: Introduction & Definitions

- Introduction
- Purpose and Intent
- Adoption Authority
- Applicability
- Definitions
Purpose and Intent

- The purpose of the Shoreline Master Program (SMP) is to guide future development of the shorelines in Thurston County in a manner consistent with the Shoreline Management Act of 1971 (i.e. the “Act”).

- Thurston County also utilizes a variety of other regulations, plans, policies, and programs to supplement the goals and regulations contained within the Shoreline Master Program (SMP) to manage shoreline resources and development near the shoreline.
Three fundamental policy objectives of the Shoreline Management Act:

1. Encourage water-dependent uses
2. Protect shoreline natural resources
3. Promote public access
State and Local Partnership Roles

- **Shoreline Management Act of 1971 (RCW 90.58)**
- **Developed Shoreline Guidelines (WAC 173-26)**
- **Ecology Reviews and approves SMPs (per RCW 90.58 & WAC 173-26)**
- **Local Jurisdictions Develop Shoreline Master Programs (SMPs) tailored to local conditions**
Chapter 200: Shoreline Jurisdiction and Environment Designation

• Shoreline Jurisdiction
• Shoreline Environment Designations
  • Aquatic
  • Natural
  • Rural Conservancy
  • Urban Conservancy
  • Shoreline Residential
  • Mining*
Regulation of ‘Shorelines of the State’ is done by Department of Ecology in conjunction with local governments who are responsible for administering the regulatory program thru local SMP’s.

Shorelines of the State are defined as:

- Marine waters
- Lakes and reservoirs 20 acres or greater
- Rivers and creeks - mean annual flow ≥ 20 cubic feet per second
- Floodways & portions of contiguous 100 year floodplains
- Associated wetlands
- Shorelines of statewide significance

SMA: RCW 90.58.030(2)(g)
Shoreline Inventory & Characterization

- Foundation for the Shoreline Master Program.
- Serves as a snapshot of current conditions and a baseline for tracking “no net loss of ecological functions.”
- Leads to understanding of relationship between shoreline processes and functions and built environment
- Based on review by Department of Ecology revised draft completed in 2013
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<tr>
<th>Basin Name</th>
<th>Waterbody Name</th>
<th>Reach to</th>
<th>Designated Shoreline Length (m)</th>
<th>Physical Features</th>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Habitat and Site Specifics</th>
<th>Land</th>
<th>Zoning</th>
<th>Current SNAP</th>
<th>Public Access Sites</th>
<th>Shoreline Structures and Modifications</th>
<th>Functions that may be impacted</th>
<th>Opportunities for Protection and Restoration</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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Shoreline Environment Designations

• Effective shoreline management requires that the SMP prescribe different sets of environmental protection measures, allowable use provisions, and development standards.

• Manage shoreline conditions by assigning a shoreline environment designation. (Chapter 19.200.105)

• Updated Shoreline Environment Designation Report completed in 2013 classifying individual reaches into preliminary Shoreline Environment Designations.
Proposed Shoreline Environment Designations

*Aquatic SED applies to all shorelines of the state below the ordinary high water mark. Please see Map 1, Thurston County Shorelines of the State to identify areas where the Aquatic SED will apply.
Shoreline Environmental Designations

Natural:

• Protect those shoreline areas that are relatively free of human influence or that include intact or minimally degraded shoreline functions intolerant of human use.

• Only very low intensity uses are allowed in order to maintain the ecological functions and ecosystem-wide processes.
Rural Conservancy:

- Provide for sustained resource use, public access, and recreational opportunities while protecting ecological functions, and conserving existing ecological, historical, and cultural resources.
Shoreline Residential:

• To accommodate residential development and appurtenant structures and provide appropriate public access and recreational uses in areas where medium and high density residential developments and services exist or are planned.
Shoreline Environmental Designations

**Urban Conservancy:**

- Protect and restore ecological functions of open space, floodplain, and other sensitive lands where they exist in urban and developed settings, while allowing a variety of compatible uses.
Shoreline Environmental Designations

Aquatic:

• Protect, restore, and manage the unique characteristics and resources of the areas waterward of the ordinary high-water mark.
Shoreline Environmental Designations

**Mining:**

- To protect shoreline ecological functions in areas with mining activities within shoreline jurisdiction.
- To provide sustained resource use, and protect the economic base of those lands and limit incompatible uses.
Mineral:  

- Staff looking for comments on recommendation to Planning Commission to remove mining as shoreline environmental designation.

- Comments received to date from Regulatory Group recommend removing Mining SED in favor of Rural Conservancy.

- Shoreline Environmental Designation would be based on proposed future land use and existing ecological functions.
Next Planning Commission Meeting

• Present “decision memos” on certain topics and comments received to date.

• Mining Designation? Staff proposal will be to remove mining designation.

• Retain 50 foot buffers in Shoreline Residential designations? Freshwater? Marine?

• Different term for “non-conforming”. Looking at using “legally conforming” as the new term.
Next Steps

• Staff to review information/comments received at last Community Stakeholder Group and add to website.

• Next Community Stakeholder Group and Regulatory Group meetings will recap Chapters 19.100-200 and start review/discussions of Chapter 19.300 Goals and Policies.

• Will have more topic driven discussions/meetings when we start to discuss/review Chapters 19.400-600.
Currently Scheduled Community Stakeholder Group Meeting Dates*

- November 30\textsuperscript{th}  
- December 26\textsuperscript{th}  CANCELLED
- January 30th
- February 26\textsuperscript{th}  CANCELLED
- March 20\textsuperscript{th}
- April 17\textsuperscript{th}  CANCELLED
- May 22\textsuperscript{nd}
- June 19\textsuperscript{th}  CANCELLED

*Could change due to Planning Commission review schedule*
# Meeting Schedule Dates

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regulatory Group</th>
<th>Community Stakeholder Group</th>
<th>Planning Commission</th>
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## Tentative Dates

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<td>November</td>
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- New Shorelines homepage: http://www.thurstoncountywa.gov/planning/Pages/shorelines.aspx
Submit Comments

- Submit comments electronically:
  - PlanningCommission@co.thurston.wa.us
  - SMP@co.thurston.wa.us
Information on DRAFT SMP @

- Documents:
- DRAFT Shoreline Master Program Inventory and Characterization:
  - [http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/planning/shoreline/shoreline-inventory.html](http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/planning/shoreline/shoreline-inventory.html)
- DRAFT Shoreline Master Program Shoreline Environmental Designation Maps:
  - [http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/planning/shoreline/shoreline-designation.html](http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/planning/shoreline/shoreline-designation.html)
- On the shoreline designation report page the currently existing shoreline designation map is Map 1. The new proposed preliminary designation maps are Maps 2 thru 7. The 2013 report is the draft that accompanies the 2017 proposed updated SMP chapters (not the 2010).
Contacts

• Project Contacts:
  • Thurston County
    • Brad Murphy, murphyb@co.thurston.wa.us
  • Ecology
    • Sarah Cassal, salu461@ecy.wa.gov

• Register for e-mail updates: www.thurstonplanning.org