Thurston County Commissioner’s unanimous choice for Resource Stewardship director

fyi, LR

Your gopher complaints will now be addressed by...

By Lisa Pemberton
lpemberton@theolympian.com
January 10, 2018 01:13 PM

The county department that manages gopher inspections and handles building permits in unincorporated areas has a new name and boss.

Joshua Cummings, who has served as interim director for Resource Stewardship since Sept. 26, gets to permanently keep the gig, county officials announced on Wednesday. And his department is being renamed the Department of Community Planning & Economic Development (CPED).

Cummings previously served as the county’s sustainability and economic development manager, and one of his jobs was to oversee the Thurston County Fair. He has worked for the county since February 2013. He has a bachelor’s degree in political science from Western Washington University and is enrolled in a master’s of science program in management and leadership from Western Governors University.

"Joshua's leadership, strategic thinking and communication have been, and will continue to be, a great asset for the Department of Community Planning & Economic Development and the county," county manager Ramiro Chavez said in a news release. "He has made some innovative adjustments in the department during his interim appointment and I believe he has the right vision to move the department forward."

Cummings previously worked as the federal affairs manager for Weyerhaeuser Company, congressional staff for former Rep. Norm Dicks, and as staff for the Leon and Sylvia Panetta Institute for Public Policy.

The three-member Board of County Commissioners held an executive session on Monday, and voted unanimously during an open public meeting to hire Cummings for the position, according to the news release. The board axed the previous department’s leader, Brent Butler, in September, after they “had lost confidence in his leadership ability,” according to county spokesman Bryan Dominique. Butler held the office for about 16 months, and was one of three county department heads to be dismissed during 2017.
CPED has about 90 employees, and Cummings’ annual salary will be $115,000, county spokeswoman Meghan Porter told The Olympian. The department is made up of mix of offices and services including environmental review and permitting, water resources, WSU Thurston County Extension, noxious weed control, agritourism and the fair.

Lisa Pemberton: 360-754-5433, @Lisa_Pemberton

Nancy Partlow

Posted by: NANPARTLOW <nanpartlow@comcast.net>

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Above: Dakota Case, Puyallup, and Eva Ingram, Santee Sioux Niabrara Nebraska, start Tuesday morning with a blessing on the grounds of the Washington State Capitol Campus. Ingram, left, is one of seven women staying in a tarpee overnight outside the Legislative Building.

By Janine Gates
Little Hollywood
https://janineslittlehollywood.blogspot.com

Drumming, singing, prayer and ceremony, along with the burning of sage and cedar, continued on day three Wednesday as several indigenous women occupy the land and spend nights in a tarpee on the Washington State Capitol Campus. Supporters are always present.

At about 4:00 p.m. Tuesday, a second notice was delivered to occupiers to vacate the grounds or face arrest.

Everyone was respectful as two Department of Enterprise Services representatives handed out the notice, explaining that they just wanted consistency in the application of the rules. The notice cites Washington Administrative Code regarding the prohibition of camping and a process for obtaining a permit.

According to the notice, the Department of Enterprise Services is open to issuing the group a permit to erect their structures and displays on a nearby location that doesn't damage Capitol grounds.
Robert Satiacum, Puyallup, and others spoke with the representatives and showed them a copy of the Medicine Creek Treaty. That interaction was videotaped on a live Facebook feed by Angie Spencer.

On Wednesday, they were served another notice and were told it would be the final one. The announcement was made that everyone would be subject to arrest, but the order was unclear as to where observers could stand and not be arrested.

As of Wednesday evening, there was no police presence.

Eva Ingram, Santee Sioux Niabrara Nebraska, of Seattle has been sleeping in the tarpee. She runs her own company, Independent Two Spirit Media, and explained why she was there to Little Hollywood.

“We are here so we can pray over this land – as indigenous people we look to our women as life givers and life bringers. You as women teach our young ones the ways that we should live, and bring them up that this land is for you, and you are to respect it, the four-legged, the two-legged...and that’s the power that the life bringers and life givers hold. It’s more power than any male will ever understand. So that’s something that we needed here. There’s never been in history seven women to occupy a tarpee or teepee or any kind of structure in front of a Capitol Building in the world. No matter what happens, we made history,” she said.

Ingram and supporters say 2018 is the time for action against the climate crisis.

The occupation is also to bring awareness of the Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) plant being constructed by Puget Sound Energy at the Port of Tacoma on Puyallup Tribal land. The plant, which will serve natural gas customers and maritime transportation needs, does not yet have all the proper permits. Authorities say the permits will continue to be obtained until it is scheduled to open in 2019.

Dakota Case, Puyallup, explained how the LNG will further threaten the Puyallup tribal way of life.

“We live there, right at the mouth of the river. The Tacoma City Council allowed PSE to do their own environmental impact statement and the site is on top of a 70 acre solvent plume – a Superfund site - that’s over an aquifer...I don’t know how they got the dirt samples clean enough to present them...it’s on top of a leaking arsenic site and they’re trying to figure out how to clean it up. How they got past everything is beyond me....

“The toxic air pollutants will emit 81 pounds of ammonia a day at peak, but they only did the environmental impact statement at 50 percent...It goes up into the air and will come back down right into our water. The air quality in the City of Tacoma is so polluted that we have one of the highest cancer rates in the State of Washington.”

He says that in four more years, there will be no more salmon.
“Our elders are coming forward and saying it’s a salmon estuary, that’s stated in the land claim settlement. The pH balance is already off in our water – our fish are having a hard time accumulating at the mouth of the river before they head up stream. They’re not able to spawn so we have to gut them to get the eggs out of there and fertilize the river manually instead of them letting them do it the natural way….Only twenty five percent of our salmon run is original, the rest is imported. The fish farms and the LNG are a threat to us so we’re trying to set up a government to government to negotiate.

“Enough is enough – we’re protecting our part of the Salish Sea....”

As our interview concluded in the still of night, the rhythmic sound of rain and indigenous drumming and singing got louder.

Case encouraged Governor Jay Inslee to come out from his office or the nearby Governor’s Mansion to talk with them, hoping the drumming and singing was loud enough for him to hear.

Nancy Partlow

Posted by: NANPARTLOW <nanpartlow@comcast.net>

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Another mistake? Public sounds off on controversial downtown development

By Abby Spegman

January 10, 2018 09:33 AM

More than 200 people turned out for a public hearing Tuesday evening on a proposal to remake what may be the most controversial building in downtown Olympia.

The development known as Views on Fifth would transform the nine-story Capitol Center Building on Fifth Avenue Southwest — known to many as the “Mistake on the Lake” and vacant for more than a decade — into a mixed-use building with 140 residential units, a ground-floor restaurant and retail space. Developer Ken Brogan, who owns the property, plans to reconstruct the nine-story tower, tear down a one-story building on the lot and build two more buildings with apartments and parking.

The hearing, which went past midnight, was a chance for the public to weigh in prior to a hearing examiner deciding whether to approve project. Many talked about the risk for flooding and earthquake damage on the isthmus between Capitol Lake and West Bay, and how the building spoils views of Puget Sound and the Olympic Mountains from the Capitol Campus.

“The Capitol Center Building needs to come down,” said Ralph Munro, a former Washington secretary of state whose grandfather helped build Capitol Campus buildings. “Allowing it to be reconstructed will set us back decades. It’s like a wart on the queen’s face — it has to go.”

If the development goes through, Bonnie Jacobs said, “it will just be Mistake on the Lake No. 2.”

The Thurston County Chamber of Commerce and Olympia Downtown Association have endorsed Views on Fifth; the latter said in an email newsletter it “redevelops what has long been a blighted, unused, and unsightly” building. It also would add much-needed housing since the city projects that 5,000 people will move into downtown over the next two decades.

Others at the hearing said Views on Fifth would help create a more vibrant downtown.
"This building will help move us in that direction," said Bob Van Schoorl, a former Port of Olympia commissioner who lives within walking distance of the site.

The current 100-foot, mid-century modern tower was built in 1966. The city has since implemented a 35-foot limit on buildings in the area, but city staff determined the tower can stay as long as it doesn’t get any taller.

There have long been calls for the city to tear down the building to make room for a park on the isthmus. That would cost about $30 million, according to a feasibility study commissioned by the city in 2009.

Last month, city staff determined Brogan’s project does not fall under the state’s Shoreline Management Act and would not require an environmental impact statement to move forward.

A group represented by Olympia attorney Allen Miller, who opposed the project when he ran for Olympia City Council unsuccessfully in the fall, has appealed that decision based on “adverse effects” from building in an area susceptible to floods and earthquakes damage and with existing soil and groundwater pollution. In its appeal, the group called the building of the Capitol Center Building “the greatest land use error in the history of Olympia.” That appeal will be heard later, after which the hearing examiner will issue a decision.

Public comment about the project can be submitted until noon Friday to City Planner Nicole Floyd at nfloyd@ci.olympia.wa.us.

Abby Spegman: 360-704-6869, @AbbySpegman

Nancy Partlow

Posted by: NANPARTLOW <nanpartlow@comcast.net>

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VISIT YOUR GROUP
Subject: Thurston Conservation District: Jan. 8, 2018

Dear Mr. Mark Clark, WA State Conservation District,

I am writing to you as part of the Washington State Conservation Commission, thank you for your work in this area. Currently there is dysfunction demonstrated by the Thurston County Conservation Board (TCB). I attended the last meeting.

The report of Thurston County Board members demonstrates three of them, missing important budget meetings. This resulted in loss of funding for programs important to the TCD mission. Such a breach of responsibility, should lead to the removal from TCB Board membership.

AT TCB, there is also toxic, hostile work environment for the staff. There has been board discussion to cut staff hours, this will hurt the TCB. It is apparent the current Board seeks to dictate their own agenda.

The mission of the TCD to conserve and protect the natural resources and Partnerships with established programs and agencies, is so important, it must not be destroyed by these board members.

Failure to support, promote and fund those programs constitute an evasion of duty.

The Conservation District is too valuable a resource to be left in the hands of those who sabotage (either intentionally or by philosophy) the TCD mission.

Please take appropriate action to require the TCD Board to fulfill its stated mission and purposes.

Thanks;

Linda Drinkwater
2103 5th Ave.
Oly., WA
98502
Hello All;

Wed, Jan. 10th will be a Thurston Chamber of Commerce meeting. They are calling this meeting a "State of the Community Address", yet it is at the Red Lion Hotel, near the Courty Court House, and costs $35. to attend. Bud Blake will be there, and tell us "how it is now, with Thurston County". We will also have local mayors there, giving their opinion along with the Chamber of Commerce (the group that has been working with the Thurston County Commissioners on their Tea Party issues). We hope that some people can attend! We hope that some people speak out and let this private group know that their "visions of Thurston County" are not widely accepted? There should be the presence of a citizens group here as well as business interests. Correct?

We could ask questions if we see any public officials ready to talk to residents?

Date: Wednesday, January 10, 2018
Time: 11:30 a.m.
Place: Hotel RL; 2300 Evergreen Park Dr SW, Olympia WA 98502
Contact: Whitney Pearsall (360) 786-5440  AGENDA:

Chamber Forum: State of the Community Address
On Wednesday, Jan. 10, Olympia Mayor Cheryl Selby, Lacey Mayor Andy Ryder, Tumwater Mayor Pete Kmet, Yelm Mayor JW Foster, and Thurston County Commissioner Bud Blake will collectively present a State of the Community address at the Thurston County Chamber Forum.
During the luncheon, representatives will respectively share the state of their jurisdiction, and then will address moderated topics, including, but not limited to the transportation issues, job growth and managing the influx of new residents.
This month's forum is at Hotel RL Olympia from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cost is $35 general admission, $25 for online prepaid Chamber members and $.30 for members at the door.

Dear Thurston County;

Here in Thurston County we experience low instream flows in several streams during the summer. As you know, this impact will be heightened by climate change.

Our County needs to comply with the requirements of the Growth Management Act to "provide for the protection of groundwater quality and quantity." This is a consumer protection issue, people buy houses, presuming that there will be water in the well for decades to come. Consumer protections mandate that water availability be proven. We must protect our County to avoid possible litigation for issuing a permit that did not yield sufficient water.

Thurston County needs to accurately map its water resources to protect them for current residents and future generations. I support the Hirst decision, we must have well water for all. I support more financial resources for the counties and for the Water Resources Division of the Department of Ecology to do just that.

I also support better development of "the critical area ordinance", and better public education for it. Thurston County must protect its riparian buffers, to 100 feet. We must protect habitat for fish, and wildlife. The Deschutes Watershed Land Use Analysis of November 2016 was a good document, it identified the best ways to protect water quality in the region. It's also important we start building smarter through the use of rain cachement and innovative stormwater and septic systems to reduce the impacts of development on our natural environment.

Thanks;
L. Riimer
2103 Harrison AVE
Oly., WA.98502
360-336-0221
Send in comments!
See below;
fyi, LR

Periodic Update Code Amendments. Some of the proposed topics include:

- Reviewing critical areas buffer requirements and approval processes
- Allowing more time to rebuild following the loss of a building due to an accident
- Review of administrative variance procedures and allowed approvals
- Ensuring consistency between sections of the development code

-----Original Message-----
From: Grace Kronenberg <wekrone@gmail.com>
To: allyson brooks <allysonbrooks@gmail.com>; Annie Cubberly <anniecubberly@gmail.com>; ashley Mcbee <ashley.mcbée.ashley@gmail.com>; Bill Depoto <bdepoto@yahoo.com>; Carol Goss <cgosslink@gmail.com>; Carolyn Love <carolyn@dietiker.org>; Cindy Tufford <ctufford@bellsouth.net>; Cynthia Stewart <stewdahl1@comcast.net>; Daniel Einstein <daniel@olyecosystems.org>; Deb Shapiro <greendebbie2030@gmail.com>; EJ Zita <ejz@portolympia.com>; Eli Sterling <agatemoons@yahoo.com>; Erich Brown <eueditor@gmail.com>; Esther <wekrone@gmail.com>; Gary Kline <gky@blossomera.com>; Gordon Darby <gdarby360@gmail.com>; Gwen Gadberry <gwenegad@gmail.com>; Helen Henry <hh.henry@comcast.net>; Jane Hooper <janehooper@yahoo.com>; Jeffrey M Thurgood <sullivanshomestead@gmail.com>; Jim Abraham <gymdi@comcast.net>; Julie Frick <svsurance@aol.com>; Karen Fraser <karenfraser22@comcast.net>; Karen Gordon <gokar1@comcast.net>; Kathy Package <kathy.package@gmail.com>; Kim Danke <dankefam@msn.com>; Larry Hill <larhill23@gmail.com>; Lawrence Taylor <eltay3@yahoo.com>; Lily Moore <lily Nichols moore@gmail.com>; Lisa Riener <northbeachcomm@cs.com>; Madeline Bishop <mbishop.bishop@gmail.com>; Madelyn Schwartz <heartworkco@aol.com>; maureen canny <mocanny@comcast.net>; Meghan Hopkins <meghanhopkins27@gmail.com>; Melanie Boots <svtterra@gmail.com>; Michael Dolan <mail@burntridgenursery.com>; Mike Leonard <KmLeonard@comcast.net>; Pat Dickason <p.dickason@comcast.net>; Paul Schroeder <pschroeder@venture.com>; Paula Holroyde <hapapafarm@gmail.com>; Penny Chatfield <pcchatfield1988@yahoo.com>; Phyllis Farrell <phyllisfarrell681@hotmail.com>; Roger Robinson <14rdr14@gmail.com>; Ryan Jensen <jensentaylor1991@gmail.com>; sara Shapiro <sarathepilot@gmail.com>; Sarah Moorehead <wosar01@gmail.com>; Sophia Barashkoff <vanandelsa@hotmail.com>; Sue Bredensteiner <suebred@comcast.net>; sue Medeiros <sambiz@rocketmail.com>; Sue Morganroth <sue.slifeinbalance@gmail.com>; Tara Young Brown <tybrown@earthlink.net>; Tom Gardner <tommy.gardnerjr@gmail.com>; Zena Hartung <zhartung@gmail.com>

Sent: Sat, Dec 30, 2017 9:45 am
Subject: Fwd: Public Comment Period Closing on Jan. 5th for Proposed Development Regualtion Changes for 2018-19

------- Forwarded message -------
From: Thurston County Long Range Planning <wwm-webmaster@co.thurston.wa.us>
Date: Fri, Dec 29, 2017 at 4:36 PM
Subject: Public Comment Period Closing on Jan. 5th for Proposed Development Regulation Changes for 2018-19
To: wekrone@gmail.com
Greetings from the Thurston County Long Range Planning Division.

Public Comment Period on Proposed 2018-19 Preliminary Development Code Docket Closes Soon!

Citizens can now review and provide written comments on the proposed changes to the 2018-2019 Preliminary Development Code Docket for Thurston County through Friday, January 5, 2018 at 5 p.m.

**What:** Comment Period on 2018-19 Preliminary Development Code Docket  
**When:** Comment Period Ends January 5, 2018 at 5:00  
**How:** Send Written Comments to Jeremy Davis by Email or Letter

Written comments can be emailed to Jeremy Davis, Senior Planner, at davisj@co.thurston.wa.us, hand delivered, or mailed to:

Thurston County Resource Stewardship Department  
Long Range Planning, ATTN: Jeremy Davis  
2000 Lakeridge Drive SW  
Olympia, WA 98502

Projects on the docket are organized into four major areas that include High Priority, Low Priority, Interjurisdictional Requests and Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update Code Amendments. Some of the proposed topics include:

- Reviewing critical areas buffer requirements and approval processes
- Allowing more time to rebuild following the loss of a building due to an accident
- Review of administrative variance procedures and allowed approvals
- Ensuring consistency between sections of the development code

More information on the proposals may be found by going to the Development Code Docket web page.

Residents of unincorporated Thurston County and those who may be affected by regulatory changes at the county are asked to review the preliminary docket and provide written comments about the proposals the county should address in 2018-2019.

After public review, the Thurston County Board of Commissioners will select items from the Preliminary Docket for the Official Docket.

These items will then will be forwarded to the Thurston County Planning Commission for review. The Planning Commission and the Board of Commissioners will hold public hearings on the merits of the items approved for the Official Docket prior to adoption of any final regulations.
Dear Brad,

I copied you on my recent message to Scott Neilson and Pattison Lake owners. Unfortunately, your copy was not delivered. I am re-sending to the alternative addresses I have. I hope it will arrive. It affirms the constitutionality of shoreline regulations.

From: Robert Jensen <rvmijensen@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 28, 2017 4:17 PM
To: pattisonlake@freelists.org; scneilson@comcast.net; pmrlowe@comcast.net
Cc: murphy@co.thurston.wa.us
Subject: Re: [pattisonlake] Re: shoreline plans

Dear Scott,

Your comments are helpful. I agree with you the policy of the law is to phase out nonconforming uses.

I disagree the constitutional test of a shoreline regulation is, whenever "... any government regulation ... deprives an owner of substantial or any economic viability for their land." (emphasis added). Rather, "... the landowner must show that the mere enactment of the statute [or regulation] denies the owner of all economically viable use of the property." (emphasis added).  

Lund v. Department of Ecology, 93 Wn. App. 329, 39-40, 969 P.2d 1072 (Div. 2 1998). Orion Corp. v. State, 109 Wn. 2d 621, 658, 747 P.2d 1062 (1987), cert. denied, 486 U.S. 1022, 108 S.Ct. 1996, 100 L.Ed. 227 (1988). The Shoreline Management regulates the setback of buildings and structures from the water for the public welfare. "If one house sits far ahead of the others, then for that one person's financial benefit, he would be allowed to cause a drastic invasion into the aesthetics of the neighborhood and a tremendous financial loss to all of his neighbors."  Department of Ecology v. Pacesetter Construction Co., Inc., 89 Wn. 2d 203, 208, 571 P.2d 196 (1997). The setback requirements in the general area of a proposed structure, are restrictions not only for the benefit of the neighbors; but also the benefit of the project owner itself and its potential grantees, serving to protect the view from the project's property. The Pacesetter court affirmed the historic setback line as constitutional under the balancing test.  Pacesetter, at 208-211. Without deciding, the court declared, "Many cases hold protection of aesthetic values alone justify the exercise of police power without payment of compensation."  Pacesetter, at 211.
I hope this is helpful.

Blessings,
Bob

From: pattisonlake-bounce@freelists.org <pattisonlake-bounce@freelists.org> on behalf of Scott Neilson <scneilson@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, December 27, 2017 7:55 PM
To: pattisonlake@freelists.org
Subject: [pattisonlake] Re: shoreline plans

Our home was entirely destroyed by fire in the south basin in 1997. We rebuilt on the same house foundation. I don't understand the idea that if your home is destroyed by more than 50%, you could rebuild if you were non conforming. The public policy is to phase out non conforming uses. More typically if you lose more than 50% of a non conforming you are toast. This suggests you could not rebuild if it were destroyed by 25%? The issue of non conforming uses is quite complicated in land use law. Typically, and as a generalization, any government regulation that deprives an owner of substantial or any economic viability for their land is an unconstitutional "taking" and compensable. Remedy is an inverse condemnation. Any insight from anyone? (I did land use law for AG, DOT). Thanks to those who could attend.

Sent from my iPad

On Dec 27, 2017, at 5:58 PM, Treesa Hertzel <Autumn207@comcast.net> wrote:

Our Pattison Lake Association has joined the Stakeholders Coalition, a group consisting of Long Lake, Black Lake, and Lake Lawrence folks, who meet with the county regularly to go over shoreline management updates. Here are some of the issues that are being discussed with the County, and agreement has been tentatively reached:

1. They were proposing to increase the lakefront set-back from 50 feet to 75 feet. This would have made 80% of the waterfront homes "nonconforming." They have agreed that for lakefront properties, the set-back will stay at 50 feet. They are evaluating the percent of developed property in the marine environment to determine if the marine set-back should stay at 50 ft or increase to 75 ft.

2. Structures that are or will become "nonconforming" will be given a different classification such as "Legally Conforming," "Grandfathered," etc. in order to get away from the negative connotation and potentially legal issues of the term "Nonconforming."

3. If your home is destroyed beyond 50% you will be able to rebuild it in the existing footprint.

4. Maintenance and repair can continue without a major permit.

5. The Planning Department has agreed to place one or more of the Coalition members on the Shoreline Technical Advisory Board (STAG) or on a different group where direct dialogue is accomplished.

Next meeting is January 30, at Thurston county courthouse.
Dec. 20th
We just attended this public meeting of the Thurston Conservation District board. The Chairman, Eric Johnson, allowed his buddy to give public testimony that was critical of conservation district staff, and their procedures, wanting to get rid of district conservation staff. But then Eric Johnson attempted to stop any other public comment from the 10 extra people who wanted to speak before the board.

Fortunately, a few of us had the courage to get up and speak. Some of us repeated the issues (shown below). Some of us think that Eric Johnson and Rick Mankamyer should be removed from the Conservation Board. We made these comments to Mark Clark, the Wa State Exec. Director of the Conservation Board.

We hope you will send an email to Mark Clark, email below.

Thks, LR
Subject: Thurston Conservation District

Please review this information and send an email Mark Clark.

John-----

To: mclark mclark@scc.wa.gov  (Mark Clark is the Exec. Director of Wa State Conservation District).
Subject: Thurston Conservation District

Dear Mr. Clark,

The Thurston Conservation District will be losing 1/3 of its funding. Why is this happening? This will not help Thurston County farmlands, the water quality, or the environment of the county. The audio recordings of the TCD Board, are given out. I was surprised by the Board members, Eric Johnson and Richard Mankamyer. They do not seem to care about the mission of the TCD. They failed to attend or even call into a meeting in which the 2018 funding would have been approved resulted in the loss of $550-600,000 of the TCD’s 2018 budget.

They have jeopardized programs, grants and the credibility of the Thurston Conservation District organization.
They have misused public funds by attending meetings not approved by the entire Board thereby spending down the entire expense budget for the year in 3-4 months. Plus they have created a toxic work environment where staff input is not valued and people are afraid to speak up.

I believe their goals are incompatible with the mission of the TCD. This and all the misuse of the funding process should be grounds for their immediate removal. The men should be removed from the Board.

The Thurston Conservation District is valuable, helping farmers and people to become responsible stewards of their property on a voluntary basis. The TCD needs to be protected so it can fulfill its mission.
Please remove these Board members who against the interests of the TCD.

Thank you;
Polly Stoker

From: Grace Kronenberg <wekrone@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, December 15, 2017 2:38 PM
To: Jeremy Davis
Cc: PlanningCommission
Subject: Preliminary docket CP-7, A-1, A-7, A-16

Dear Jeremy Davis,

I write as a member of the League of Women Voters in support of water policies that are responsible and adequately funded, well planned, coordinated with growth management goals, and that cooperate with the state and tribes.

Our County faces a number of important issues related to the increased growth and development projected in the next 20 years, including the availability of water sufficient to provide for that growth while maintaining environmental quality. Key to ensuring a secure future is ensuring there is enough water for residents. To achieve this, I support the Hirst decision that requires Counties only issue water permits where they can prove water availability is sufficient without impairing instream flows or senior water rights.

Thurston County already experiences low instream flows in several streams during the summer, and this impact will be heightened by climate change. Our County needs to comply with the requirements of the Growth Management Act to "provide for the protection of groundwater quality and quantity." Aside from this, what if the well output of a new water permit holder or his neighbor decline? Consumer protections mandate that water availability be proven before subjecting the County to possible litigation for issuing a permit that did not yield sufficient water. It is only common sense to know what you've got before giving it away. The County needs to accurately map its water resources to protect them for current residents and future generations. I support more financial resources for the counties and for the Water Resources Division of the Department of Ecology to do just that.

In line with support for following the Hirst decision, items A-1, A-7 and A-16 address issues of development in critical areas and how best to do that. It is imperative that the County protect riparian buffers, which the Deschutes Watershed Land Use Analysis of November 2016 identified as one of the best ways to protect water quality in the region. It's also important we start building smarter through the use of rain catchment and innovative stormwater and septic systems to reduce the impacts of development on our natural environment.

I encourage the County staff to seek out these innovative development designs that can both protect our environment and provide for sustainable growth. We can no longer afford to do business as usual. We need to set a new standard for building and development that honors our creativity and respects the natural systems we depend on.

Let's make Thurston County a leader in sustainable growth and development. We need to hear ALL stakeholders to do that and we are fortunate in having a wealth of informed and creative citizens. I encourage the County to include as stakeholders The League of Women Voters, the Thurston Conservation District, the Northwest Ecobuilding Guild, the Thurston Climate Action Team and the Sierra Club.

These groups do not serve special interests; they serve the public interest and need to be heard.

Thank you.
Esther Kronenberg
Futurewise VS Thurston County, Notes from the Meeting

FYI,

Lisa R.

Dec. 13, 2017
Futurewise VS Thurston County

We attended the GMHB, Growth Management Hearing Board, meeting, yesterday, Dec. 13th. Only a couple people of the “general public” attended, Thurston County had 5 staff attend.

As was mentioned, below, in 2005 the Thurston County Com. Oberquell, McCloud, and Wolfe had adopted a staff recommendation regarding rural density issues, that was being challenged by Futurewise, (Tim T. spoke). He said much of what was mentioned below, the ruling by the Board will be issued in Jan. 2018, we were told.

The County attorney, Travis Burns, mentioned the “innovative techniques” that the county was using to preserve “rural densities and character”. One of those “techniques to preserve rural densities” mentioned, was the “Critical Areas Ordinance”, that our GOP/ Tea party friends hate so much.

Burns showed several County GIS maps of critical areas, and rural densities. As Tim pointed out, most of those maps disproved the counties points regarding densities. These County GIS maps use the military base (Lewis McChord) as part of the “rural densities” section that preserve rural densities and character. As Tim said, the huge military base can build anytime it wants, and change that rural density with buildings, so it is not wise to use them in the map. The maps proved of little worth to the County. Tim pointed out that Thurston county was zoning 76 to 90 percent of rural land for five acre lots, and that this will harm Puget Sound, rivers, water quality, and ground water.

Tim also mentioned the three studies that Thurston County has produced on this subject; the McLane Study, the Black Lake study, and the Deschutes study. Each study, Tim said, showed that Thurston County needs to follow the Growth Management Act (GMA) compliance of rural densities. Tim read a list of “findings” from the “Index of Record”, that showed that Thurston County is not in compliance. The Board asked some good
questions of both attorneys. The Board seemed to show that they believed Tim more that the county on these issues?
Thanks;
LR

On 12/9/2017 6:39 PM, nwsurveyqc@cs.com [envirotalk] wrote:

Is anyone familiar with this case with Futurewise against Thurston County and the Alpaca Farm ?
John
-----
Compliance Hearing
Dec. 13, 2017 10 AM
Wa State Growth Management Hearings Board
1111 Israel Road SW Ste 301
Tumwater, WA 98501

Subject: Futurewise VS Thurston County and More
http://www.gmhb.wa.gov/CaseDetail.aspx?cid=58
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Case 05-02-0002

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Jim Lazar

-----Original Message-----
From: Jim Lazar Listserve Account <jlazar@jimlazar.com>
To: nwsurveyqc <nwsurveyqc@cs.com>; envirotalk <envirotalk@yahoogroups.com>
Sent: Sat, Dec 9, 2017 8:02 pm
Subject: Re: [Envirotalk] Futurewise VS Thurston County and More ----

The alpaca farm is somewhat irrelevant. They intervened early, but have long since left the case. This is the case where Futurewise appealed in 2005, and the GMHB ruled that Thurston County had failed to comply with the GMA in adopting "a variety of rural zoning" because the Oberquelle Commission had set everything at one unit per five acres. The case went to the state supreme court, which ruled in favor of Futurewise. That Supreme Court decision came in 2009. The case was remanded to the GMHB to enforce the terms of the decision. When the Women were in office, they adopted a staff recommendation that looked different on paper, but really was not very different: they simply took all the unbuildable land, and made THOSE parcels have less density. So, a 40 acre parcel with 30 acres of wetland was rezoned to 2 units instead of 8. But it was still 1 unit per 5 acres of the buildable land. I was furious that they wasted the opportunity to protect ag lands, to concentrate growth, and to recognize unbuildable lands as IN ADDITION to the "variety of rural densities" obligation.

It's now been strung along for a decade. Since then, the County has been arguing that the decision made in 2012 was "good enough" and Futurewise argues that it is not. I'm pretty sure that is the subject of the December 13 hearing. The County has gotten year after year extensions, arguing it was "working on it." I think Futurewise figured out that THESE County Commissioners are NOT "working on it" and decided it's time to have the hearing.
If any of you have time to go, please do, and write it up for the rest of us.
I am surprised that the briefs for Futurewise and Thurston County are not on the GMHB website.
(1) We need to know how our water resources are being protected for current residents, and for future generations. Please address (put on the docket) and comply with the Hirst Decision.

(2) We want non-partisan groups like the League of Women Voters and Thurston County Conservation District involved in the Hirst stakeholder meetings, and also want environmental groups like The Sierra Club, Northwest Eco-building Guild and Thurston Climate Action Team involved.

Sincerely,
Madeline Bishop
9529 62nd Ave SE
Olympia, WA 98513
Polly Stoker

From: Cami Petersen
Sent: Monday, December 11, 2017 7:27 AM
To: Patrick Townsend
Cc: PlanningCommission; Brad Murphy; Cynthia Wilson
Subject: RE: Public records request

Good morning Mr. Townsend,

I have sent this through to our public document coordinator for processing. Michael Fulmer will be in contact with you.

Sincerely,

Camí Petersen
Land Use Clerk
Resource Stewardship Department
754-3355 ext. 6348
Please note that on December 15, 2017 my new phone number will be 360-867-2117.

From: Patrick Townsend [mailto:patrick.townsend@townsendsecurity.com]
Sent: Friday, December 08, 2017 3:32 PM
To: Cami Petersen <peterscs@co.thurston.wa.us>
Cc: PlanningCommission <PlanningCommission@co.thurston.wa.us>; Brad Murphy <murphyb@co.thurston.wa.us>; Cynthia Wilson <wilsonc@co.thurston.wa.us>
Subject: Public records request

Hi Cami,

Please find attached a public records request related to the SMP update process. We will be glad to pay necessary document preparation fees. If they exceed the specified $150 maximum please contact me for approval. I will also send you this request by mail.

Thank you,

Patrick
----
Patrick Townsend
CEO
As we talked about, it might be effective to email the Planning Commissioners directly, with a cc to Brad.

The Planning Commission's direct email address is:

planningcommission@co.thurston.wa.us
Hi Cami,

Please find attached a public records request related to the SMP update process. We will be glad to pay necessary document preparation fees. If they exceed the specified $150 maximum please contact me for approval. I will also send you this request by mail.

Thank you,

Patrick
-----
Patrick Townsend
CEO
Hi Jeremy,

I enjoyed speaking with you on November 30, 2017 at the SMP Community meeting!

You gave me a stack of flyers (see below) and requested that I put them in people's mail boxes in our neighborhood. Unfortunately, these flyers have no information that provides a reason for anyone to pay any attention to them. It is likely that most, if not all of these flyers will go into the junk mail pile. If you truly want to engage people, you must design the flyer to capture people's attention and convey to them in a straightforward and informative way why it would benefit them to sign up. Give them compelling reasons to read the flyer and more compelling reasons to sign up at the Thurston County website.

Tell people about the SMP update process and how the SMP Update will impact property owners and shoreline users and what those impacts might/will be.

If you want to get something into every mail-box, then use our suggestion to Brad Murphy and put a well-thought out informative flyer into the Thurston County Utility bill. Take a look at the eight suggestions we made to Brad about a week ago for informing the public about the SMP process.

We encourage you to use all available means to solicit public participation in the Thurston County Shoreline Master Plan update process.

Sincerely,
Kathryn Townsend

Following is the flyer that you gave to me. It doesn't mention the SMP update process.

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Thurston County Planning Department
www.thurstonplanning.org

Please sign up for our web mail service to receive updates via email. Just go to the main toolbar on the web site and click on “web mail.”