

From: [Bob Jensen](#)
To: [Andrew Deffobis](#)
Cc: [pmlowe@comcast.net](#); [mcbeehler@outlook.com](#)
Subject: Thurston County Shoreline Master Program Amendments -- Toxic Blue-Green Algae Blooms
Date: Wednesday, June 03, 2020 9:45:31 PM

Dear Andrew,

I just watched on Zoom, the Thurston County Planning Commission discussion, and your presentation regarding proposed amendments to the County Shoreline Master Program (SMP). It was not open to public discussion. Therefore, subsequently, I left you a voicemail message on your office phone.

My name is Robert (Bob) Jensen. I am deeply concerned about the increasing occurrence of toxic blue-green algae blooms on Pattison and other shoreline lakes in the County.

I have an extensive history in the administration and adjudication of activities on the shorelines of the State. I believe I have detailed this to the County in previous written comments. Please advise me if you need elaboration of this.

The toxic algae blooms are primarily caused by leaking phosphorous into lakes. This accumulation is due to the continual of phosphorous into the lakes from septic systems. Absent requiring sewers, which is unlikely to happen any time soon; the only practical control currently available is the limitation of the outflow of phosphorous from residential septic systems into the lakes. For this reason, I advocate mandatory monitoring and maintenance of the existing systems. In addition, the problem is grave enough to consider a moratorium on new residential development on shoreline lakes; until the toxic blue-green algae blooms end on the lakes.

Unfortunately, the County Commission, approximately three years ago, rejected a proposed ordinance, which would have required a fee; which would have been used by the County Health Department, to regulate septic systems on lakes subject to increasing residential use.

As a result of this failure, and as a complement to the authority of the County Health Commission, the Shoreline Master Program must be the primary tool to control these toxic algae blooms.

I know how critical the placement of sewers is to controlling the blooms. I lived in Seattle, as a youth, when many beaches on Lake Washington were closed due to such blooms. Once the residential development around the lake was protected by sewers, the toxic blooms stopped. Once again, the beaches were open both to the public, and private use.

I later saw this same situation occur on Eastern Washington lakes in the mid 1970's. Studies then proved toxic blue green algae blooms were occurring due to the over-loading of phosphorous. In fact, in 1976, a major toxic algae bloom occurred during this time on Lake Spokane, below Spokane on the Spokane (Columbia) River. It caused a major fish kill, as well as adverse physical and psychological effects on many of the

residents of that lake. The source of the phosphorous loading in that incidence, was a temporary planned bypass of Spokane's sewage treatment plant, during the period when the upgraded plant was connected to the sewer, which discharged into the river.

Please advise me how and when I can present my proposal to the Planning Commission, prior to approval of the proposed amendments to the SMP.

My telephone number is: 360-259-2736; my email address is: rvmijensen@hotmail.com.

Thank you kindly for your attention.

Respectfully yours,
Bob Jensen

7600 Redstart Dr. SE

Olympia, WA 98513

July 1, 2020

SMP comments to Thurston Planning Commission July 1, 2020

Greetings Commissioners,

As the SMP update process is nearing completion, I would like to emphasize the importance of the wording you recommend as this document will be in effect for many years and be the guiding document regarding the use of and protection of our shorelines. Your questions and recommendations have been reflected in the draft language, but much of the public comment and recommendations have not made it into the draft language. You can ask those be included in the draft plan.

I would like to refer you to two documents submitted by Anne Van Sweringen, representing 5 local environmental groups...the 30 pages of draft language suggestions dated July 15th, 2018 and 16 pages dated September 10, 2018. Anne is a retired environmental planner and the documents contain best available science recommendations.

Also, the Futurewise letter of March 6, 2019 has specific recommendations for areas in the draft SMP that do not meet the requirements of the SMA. Please request those recommendations be included in the draft language.

I would like you to ask how the County is addressing the “no net loss” standard required by the SMA? Between development, pollution and aquaculture, this standard is obviously not being met as evidenced by water quality issues and the decline of salmon and Orcas. Please consider asking for a “net gain” standard and the requirements to implement that....the tribes, Orca Task Force and the Puget Sound Partnership have the rationale to support such language in an SMP.

The recent federal court decision invalidating the Army Corps of Engineers general NW48 aquaculture permits will require new individual aquaculture permits. The court found that shellfish bed preparation, spraying, the use of plastics and hydraulic harvesting all have impacts on the environment. Thurston County should heed that ruling and look closer at aquaculture processes. Recommend staff prepare appropriate regulations for aquaculture permits that will address these practices and ensure “no net loss”.

Maintaining and increasing marine buffers, reducing marine armoring and requiring more public access will benefit the shorelines and public interests. Please make sure these recommendations are included in the draft SMP.

Thank you

Phyllis Farrell

From: [Polly Stoker](#)
To: [Polly Stoker](#)
Cc: [Andrew Deffobis](#)
Subject: FW: Planning Commission Meeting 7-1-2020
Date: Wednesday, July 01, 2020 4:44:30 PM

Hello Planning Commissioners,
Below is another written comment for tonight's PC Meeting.
Thanks
Polly

From: Annabel Kirschner <kirschner01@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 4:33 PM
To: Andrew Deffobis <andrew.deffobis@co.thurston.wa.us>
Subject: Planning Commission Meeting 7-1-2020

Dear Planning Commission:

I am making a few written comments for the Planning Commission, because the speaker on my computer doesn't always work for ZOOM meetings.

First, like many others in Thurston County, I strongly think the Planning Commission must do all it can to preserve the natural environment (streams, lakes shorelines, forested areas, parks, etc) from the runaway development we see just north of here. Pierce, King and Snohomish counties have been destroyed by sprawl and development. The commission's job is to see that it doesn't happen here.

Yes, the county will grow substantially in the next few decades. That growth MUST be confined to the urban growth area, making these more compact. This will make public transportation more feasible and help reduce traffic congestion.

Developers will NOT LIKE THIS. They make easy money by plowing up new land and creating sprawl. There is NO reason your office or Thurston County residents need to put up with this. If a developer doesn't like county regulations, he/she can go elsewhere. There are plenty of responsible developers.

Also, the agency must do much more to protect our shorelines. I have been told that geoduck operators do not need a permit to bulldoze and pressure wash tidelands. If this is really the

case it is UNBELIEVABLE. Most geoducks are sold abroad so you are allowing commercial entities to destroy OUR environment for money. Is someone in your office getting kickbacks for this? All fishing and shellfishing must be strongly regulated to protect what we have left of a once thriving aquaculture and to try and bring some of this back.

Development along shorelines must also be strictly regulated with no relaxation on setbacks, bulkheads or docks. These regulations actually need to be made stricter and enforced whenever shoreline property is sold.

Without these and other efforts at regulation, the county's environment will deteriorate, traffic will become a nightmare, our waterways will become more polluted, air pollution will increase and our quality of living will go down while of cost of living increases. Please help the county avoid these problems.

Sincerely

Annabel Kirschner

1008 Loete Ct. SE

Tumwater, WA 98501