



Whatcom County Critical Areas Update 2016 Citizens' Advisory Committee

MEETING NOTES February 18, 2015 3:30 – 5:30 PM

Northwest Annex Conference Room, 5280 Northwest Drive, Bellingham

1. Call to Order

a. Sign In

CACAC Members:

- Wes Kentch
- Roger Almskaar
- Virginia Watson
- Audrey Borders
- Kate Blystone
- Wendy Harris
- David Haggith

TAC Members:

- Susan Meyer

Staff:

- Cliff Strong
- Amy Dearborn

b. Approval or modification of meeting summary: January 21, 2015

c. Public Comments (5 min)

- John Campbell – Asked that allowances for recreational hunting and fishing be made.
- Ann Hagen – Feels strongly about wetland protection. It seems that no one in her subdivision, which preserved some wetlands, understands their importance. Wishes that environmental info prepared for a subdivision were given to the homeowners. Tried to get the EIS prepared for her subdivision, but was told it would cost \$100. (Cliff has since checked into this and finds it hard to believe, given that we only charge \$0.15 per page photocopied, and no EIS is that long, and frankly, one wouldn't have been prepared for a subdivision.)
- Carol Perry – Said that she was at a meeting of a committee (whom she wouldn't name), and that even they were flabbergasted by the amount of regulations.
- (Roger Almskaar chimed in that over-regulation is a national problem.)

d. Staff Comments (10 min)

- Cliff reminded the CAC to do the Open Public Meetings Act training if they haven't already.

e. Committee Member Comments (5 min)

2. New Business

a. Review of Article 6, Wetlands section of the code

The CACAC reviewed the TAC recommendations for amendments to Article 6, Wetlands (though we didn't finish). Notes attached.

- Wes Kentch – Concerned that the wetlands section is geared toward and relies on the biology of wetlands and not hydrology and soil types. Susan Meyers explained that this is because were the buffers necessary to protect all functions overlain, habitat buffers are necessarily the largest, and thus are inclusive of protective measures for the other.

- Wes Kentch then made the point that shading doesn't affect water temperature, and that planting buffers along streams just attracts more wildlife, which affects water quality. Some areas perhaps need to be treated differently.
 - Wendy Harris – Mentioned that landscape planning accounts for such tradeoffs. Also concerned that habitat conservation reports aren't usually done for wetlands. Amy Dearborn stated that such considerations are usually incorporated into the wetlands reports.
- b. Meetings – The committee decided to start meeting twice a month, on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month, 3:30 – 5:30. However, due to conflicts on March 4, in March they will meet on 3/11 and 3/18, then start on their new schedule in April.

3. Old Business

4. Announcements

5. Next meeting: March 18, 2015, 3:30 PM

6. Adjourn

There are eight members on the Critical Areas Citizens' Advisory Committee. If you will be giving written information to the members, please give a copy to the Staff for our office files as well.

*For more information please contact Cliff Strong at (360)676-6907 or cstrong@co.whatcom.wa.us
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