



**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE
WHATCOM COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
April 13, 2023**

Public Hearing and Work Session

1

1 **Call to Order**

2 The meeting was called to order by Whatcom County Planning Commission Chair,
3 Kelvin Barton at 6:36 p.m.

4 **Roll Call**

5 **Present:** Kelvin Barton, Atul Deshmane, Jim Hansen, Stephen Jackson, Julie Jefferson,
6 Dominic Mocerì

7 **Absent:** Daniel Dahlquist, Kimberley Lund, Scott Van Dalen

8 **Staff Present:** Matt Aamot, Steve Roberge, and Tammy Axlund

9 **Department Update**

10 Steve Roberge, Assistant Director of Planning and Development Services (PDS),
11 thanked attendees for coming and explained that the Ranch Quarry mine application
12 would not come before the Planning Commission. Mr. Roberge informed the
13 Commissioners that PDS is in various stages of filling eight open positions - six where
14 staff have moved on or advanced, and two new positions which were approved in the
15 most recent budget. He noted that the Commission would not meet on April 27th, but
16 Home Based Businesses and events will be on the agenda in May.

17 **Open Session Public Comment**

18 The following individuals provided public comment: Andrew Clark, John Biddulph, Mark
19 Hall, Jim Cline, Marjolein Schermerhorn, and Bo Bouford

20 **Commissioner Comments**

21 Commissioner Mocerì disclosed that upon invitation, he walked a couple of neighboring
22 properties to the proposed quarry.

23 Commissioner Deshmane disclosed he had phone calls with a resident adjacent to the
24 proposed quarry.

25 **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

26 **Timestamp: 32:21**

27 **Commissioner Deshmane moved** to approve the meeting minutes from March 23,
28 2023.

29 **Commissioner Jackson seconded.**

30 **Roll Call Vote: Ayes-Barton, Deshmane, Hansen, Jackson, Mocerì; Abstain:**
31 **Jefferson; (Ayes-5; Nays-0; Abstain-1). The motion carried.**

32 **Proposed Public Participation Plan for Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan**
33 **and Development Regulation Amendments**

34 **Timestamp: 33:26**

35 Matt Aamot, PDS Senior Planner, provided a presentation on the proposed Public
36 Participation Plan - Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan and Development Regulation
37 Amendments, then responded to Commissioner's questions and comments.



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1 Commissioner Hansen asked if staff had created a response to his emailed request for
2 the public participation process be expanded to better educate the public on how the
3 process works and how to most effectively be involved. Upon receipt, this request was
4 sent to Commissioners and added to the agenda packet and posted on the County
5 website for public review.

6 **a) Public Hearing and Regarding Proposed Public Participation Plan (PPP)**

7 **Timestamp: 43:28**

8 No one provided public comment.

9 **Proposed Public Participation Plan Work Session**

10 Commissioner Deshmane requested staff come back to the Commission with ideas on
11 how to improve public engagement and outreach. Staff responded that a PPP will be
12 developed specifically for the 2025 Comp Plan Update. This would be a good place to
13 start some new processes to enhance what we are doing now.

14 Commissioners continued discussion.

15 **Timestamp: 1:01:16**

16 **Commissioner Deshmane moved** to approve the proposed Public Participation Plan
17 as stated.

18 **Commissioner Jackson seconded.**

19 **Timestamp: 1:02:32**

20 **Commissioner Hansen moved** to amend section 4.2 to move D-12 Vacation Rentals
21 and D-16 Mineral Resource Lands (MRL) from level 1 to section 4.3 Level 2

22 **Commissioner Deshmane seconded.**

23 Mr. Aamot provided an explanation regarding D-12 Vacation Rentals and noted that
24 staff has no issues with moving D-16 MRL. He pointed out that there is another MRL
25 item listed at D-8.

26 Commissioners discussed the motion to amend.

27 **Timestamp: 1:06:09**

28 **Commissioner Hansen changed his amendment** to withdraw the request to move
29 D-12 Vacation Rentals and to add a request to move D-8 MRL.

30 **As the second, Commissioner Deshmane agreed to these changes.**

31 **The amended motion** is to move D-8 and D-16 Mineral Resource Lands in Section 4
32 from Level 1 to Level 2

33 **Roll Call Vote: Ayes-Barton, Deshmane, Hansen, Jackson, Jefferson, Mocerri;**
34 **(Ayes-6; Nays-0; Abstain-0). The motion carried.**

35 **The main motion was voted on with the amendment:** to approve the proposed
36 Public Participation Plan as amended.

37 **Roll Call Vote: Ayes-Barton, Deshmane, Hansen, Jackson, Jefferson, Mocerri;**
38 **(Ayes-6; Nays-0; Abstain-0). The motion carried.**



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1 **Next steps in the Comprehensive Plan Process**

2 **Timestamp 1:10:04**

3 Matt Aamot, PDS Senior Planner, provided an overview of the draft 5-year work
4 program for the Comprehensive Plan.

5 Commissioner Mocerri requested the Draft 5-Year Work Program Chart be sent to
6 Commissioners. Matt agreed and noted that, since it is a work in progress and
7 continually being updated, Tammy will date stamp it and ensure that it clearly shows it
8 is a draft.

9 **Adjournment**

10 The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

11 Minutes prepared by Tammy Axlund.

12 WHATCOM COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION ATTEST:

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Kelvin Barton, Chair



Tammy Axlund, Secretary