

From: [Gary Davis](#)
To: [Gary Davis](#)
Subject: Whatcom County Rural Element -- Tuesday January 28 County Council meeting
Date: Monday, January 27, 2014 9:15:09 AM

Good morning –

As several alert email recipients have reminded me, January 28 falls on a Tuesday, not a Thursday. I apologize for any confusion this may have caused.

Thank you for your participation in this process and, as always, please let me know whenever you have comments or questions (or more corrections!)

Gary Davis, AICP
Senior Planner
Whatcom County Planning and Development Services
360-676-6707 ext. 50246

From: Gary Davis
Sent: Friday, January 24, 2014 1:52 PM
To: Gary Davis
Subject: Whatcom County Rural Element -- January 28 County Council meeting

Good afternoon,

Next ~~Thursday~~ Tuesday the County Council will consider the proposed Comprehensive Plan amendments related to rural water resources that were recommended for approval by the Planning Commission (see message below). The ordinance to adopt the amendments was introduced on January 14 and the Council will consider adoption of the ordinance at their meeting on January 28, 2014, 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 311 Grand, Bellingham. The Planning Commission held a public hearing on the amendments on December 12; no additional public hearing by the County Council is scheduled. A public hearing by the County Council would be required at a later date only if the Council wishes to make changes to the Planning Commission's recommendations. Information on this issue is available at <http://www.whatcomcounty.us/pds/plan/lr/projects/lamirds/lamirds.jsp> or <http://www.whatcomcounty.us/council/agenda.jsp> (Item No. 7 under "Other Items" on the Regular Council Meeting agenda).

On a related note, the Growth Management Hearings Board recently rescheduled the compliance date for the water resources issues to February 14 and scheduled a compliance hearing for April 1, 2014. The Board found the County continues to be out of compliance on these issues, but denied a request to find invalidity. The January 10 order is available at <http://www.whatcomcounty.us/pds/plan/lr/projects/lamirds/lamirds.jsp>.

Please let me know if you have questions or comments.

Gary Davis, AICP
Senior Planner

From: [Gary Davis](#)
To: [Gary Davis](#)
Subject: FW: Whatcom County Rural Element -- December 12 Planning Commission hearing
Date: Friday, December 13, 2013 5:00:38 PM

Good afternoon,

Following a public hearing last night, the Planning Commission recommended approval of the proposed Comprehensive Plan amendments related to rural water resources. These amendments next go to the County Council for their consideration in early 2014. Information on these amendments is available at

<http://www.whatcomcounty.us/pds/plan/lr/projects/lamirds/lamirds.jsp> These Comprehensive Plan amendments add references to existing code provisions. No changes to current regulations are being proposed.

Also at last night's meeting, the Commission held a public hearing on UGA population and employment allocation. They made no recommendation last night and decided to continue to hold the public hearing at their January 9, 2014 meeting, and to hold the record open for written comments until that date. Information on this issue, including the presentations made by the cities and the County, is available at

<http://www.whatcomcounty.us/pds/plan/lr/compplan/updates.jsp>

Gary Davis, AICP
Senior Planner
Whatcom County Planning and Development Services
360-676-6707 ext. 50246

From: Gary Davis
Sent: Tuesday, December 03, 2013 1:15 PM
To: Gary Davis
Subject: Whatcom County Rural Element -- December 12 Planning Commission hearing reminder

Good afternoon,

This is a reminder of the Planning Commission meeting Thursday, December 12 in the County Council Chambers, 311 Grand, Bellingham. An executive session is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. and the public hearing for the water resources amendments should begin at 6:00. (An additional public hearing regarding UGA population allocations and projections will take place after the first hearing.)

The staff report addendum is now available on the County web site at <http://www.whatcomcounty.us/pds/plan/lr/projects/lamirds/lamirds.jsp> It includes the draft Comprehensive Plan amendments, which are revisions of proposed amendments posted on September 30 and October 15.

The public is invited to submit written comments and/or provide oral comments at the hearing.
Written comments can be submitted to:

Whatcom County Planning Commission
ATTN: Becky Boxx
5280 Northwest Drive
Bellingham, WA 98226
Email: PDS_Planning_Commission@co.whatcom.wa.us

Please let me know if you have questions regarding the proposed amendments.

Gary Davis, AICP
Senior Planner
Whatcom County Planning and Development Services
360-676-6707 ext. 50246

From: [Gary Davis](#)
To: [Gary Davis](#)
Subject: Whatcom County Rural Element - December 12 Planning Commission Hearing
Date: Wednesday, November 27, 2013 1:23:26 PM

Good afternoon,

On Thursday, December 12, 2013, in the County Council Chambers, 311 Grand Avenue, Bellingham, the Whatcom County Planning Commission will hold public hearings on two separate issues, water resources related amendments to the rural element of the Comprehensive Plan, and population and employment growth projections and allocations for the urban growth areas (UGAs) and the area outside the UGAs.

This notice has already been sent to the email list for the UGA review issue – if you have received this notice twice, you are on both the UGA and Rural Element list.

The schedule for the December 12 meeting is:

5:30-6:00 p.m. Executive session relating to Growth Management Hearings Board Case No. 12-2-0013

6:00-6:30 p.m. Presentation and public hearing on water resources issues

6:30 p.m. Presentation and public hearing on population and employment growth projections and allocations

1. Water Resources Issues

The intent of the proposed comprehensive plan amendments is to add references to some existing County code provisions related to water resources. The Growth Management Act requires measures to protect water resources to be included in a County comprehensive plan's rural element. These amendments are needed to develop the record for future court review of the County's appeal of the Growth Management Hearings Board's June 7, 2013 order in Case No. 12-2-0013.

No new regulations or changes to existing regulations are being proposed.

The staff report for this topic will be available on the County website by December 4. The rural element information will be at <http://www.whatcomcounty.us/pds/plan/lr/projects/lamirds/lamirds.jsp>. The public is invited to submit written comments and/or provide oral comments at the hearing. Written comments can be submitted to:

Whatcom County Planning Commission
ATTN: Becky Boxx
5280 Northwest Drive
Bellingham, WA 98226
Email: PDS_Planning_Commission@co.whatcom.wa.us

If you have questions about this item, please contact:

Gary Davis, AICP
Senior Planner
Whatcom County Planning and Development Services
360-676-6707 ext. 50246

2. Population and Employment Growth Projections and Allocations

Population and employment projections and allocations associated with the periodic

update of the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan and the urban growth area (UGA) review, which are both required by the Growth Management Act under RCW 36.70A.130. The update must be completed by June 2016. This public hearing relates to preliminary population and employment allocations for the following areas:

- Bellingham UGA
- Blaine UGA
- Ferndale UGA
- Lynden UGA
- Cherry Point UGA
- Non-UGA area (the area outside of UGAs).

The hearing will be held Thursday, December 12, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. at the Whatcom County Council Chambers, 311 Grand Avenue, Bellingham. The Planning Commission will issue preliminary population and employment recommendations for all UGAs and the area outside of UGAs after the close of the public hearing.

The public is invited to submit written comments and/or attend the hearing to provide oral comments. Written comments may be submitted to:

Whatcom County Planning Commission
ATTN: Becky Boxx
5280 Northwest Drive
Bellingham, WA 98226
Email: PDS_Planning_Commission@co.whatcom.wa.us

Additional information can be found on the County website at <http://www.whatcomcounty.us/pds/plan/lr/compplan/updates.jsp> . If you have any questions, you may contact Matt Aamot at (360) 676-6907 or maamot@co.whatcom.wa.us .

Note: The Planning Commission held a public hearing relating to preliminary population and employment allocations for the following areas on November 14, 2013:

- *Birch Bay UGA*
- *Columbia Valley UGA*
- *Everson UGA*
- *Nooksack UGA*
- *Sumas UGA*

The record was held open to receive written comments on these UGAs until Dec. 12.

From: Gary Davis
Sent: Friday, November 22, 2013 4:46 PM
To: Rural_Element
Subject: Whatcom County Rural Element - Hearings Board Decision Issued

Good afternoon,

The Growth Management Hearings Board has issued an order finding Whatcom County in compliance with GMA regarding variety of rural densities issue and lot clustering. The order also finds compliance on the other issues which the petitioners had concurred had been resolved by the County, including the Rural Neighborhoods issue, where the finding of invalidity is now lifted.

The County remains out of compliance on the water resources issue (subject of the Board's June 7, 2013 order), LAMIRD development regulations, and the boundaries of the Smith/Guide and Birch Bay-Lynden/Valley View LAMIRDs (discussed in the January 4, 2013 order). The first two of those remaining issues will be heard by the Court of Appeals, and the two LAMIRD boundary issues have been appealed by private parties to Superior Court.

These decisions are available on the County web site at <http://www.whatcomcounty.us/pds/plan/lr/projects/lamirds/lamirds.jsp> under the Documents heading.

Please let me know if you have questions about this.

Gary Davis, AICP
Senior Planner
Whatcom County Planning and Development Services
360-676-6707 ext. 50246

From: [Gary Davis](#)
To: [Gary Davis](#)
Subject: Whatcom County Rural Element - October 24 Public Hearing on Water Resources amendments
Date: Tuesday, October 15, 2013 4:47:37 PM

Good afternoon,

Just a reminder -- the Planning Commission's public hearing on rural element water resources issues will be held Thursday, October 24, at 6:30 p.m. in the Northwest Annex Conference Room, 5280 Northwest Drive, Bellingham. The compliance deadline on water resources issues is December 4, 2013. With the cancellation of last week's meeting, there is less time for discussion of the proposed impervious surface limits, so staff has prepared an addendum to the staff report which includes revised findings and conclusions, and revised Comprehensive Plan amendments, in case the Planning Commission wishes to consider forwarding the Comprehensive Plan changes separately from the zoning code changes concerning impervious surface limits. These materials are available on the County web site at <http://www.whatcomcounty.us/pds/plan/lr/projects/lamirds/lamirds.jsp>

Please let me know if you have questions about the new materials.

Gary Davis, AICP
Senior Planner
Whatcom County Planning and Development Services
360-676-6707 ext. 50246

-----Original Message-----

From: Gary Davis
Sent: Wednesday, October 09, 2013 1:42 PM
To: Gary Davis
Subject: Whatcom County Rural Element - Postponement of Public Hearing on Water Resources amendments

Good afternoon -- We have just learned there will not be a quorum of Planning Commission members present for tomorrow night's hearing on water resources amendments (see original email message below) so that meeting has been canceled and the public hearing has been rescheduled for Thursday, October 24, at 6:30 p.m. in the Northwest Annex Conference Room, 5280 Northwest Drive, Bellingham.

Again the staff report with draft amendments attached is available on the County's web site, at <http://www.whatcomcounty.us/pds/plan/lr/projects/lamirds/lamirds.jsp>. Any written comments we receive will be posted on that site. Please let me know if you have any questions concerning this issue.

Gary Davis, AICP
Senior Planner
Whatcom County Planning and Development Services
360-676-6707 ext. 50246

-----Original Message-----

From: Gary Davis
Sent: Monday, September 30, 2013 5:23 PM
To: Gary Davis
Subject: Whatcom County Rural Element - Public Hearing on Water Resources amendments October 10

Good afternoon,

On October 10 the Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on proposed water resources amendments to the Comprehensive Plan and the Zoning Code, in response to the GMHB's June 7, 2013

decision. The Planning Commission meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. in the Northwest Annex Conference Room, 5280 Northwest Drive, Bellingham. The staff report with draft amendments attached is available on the County's web site, at <http://www.whatcomcounty.us/pds/plan/lr/projects/lamirds/lamirds.jsp>

In other news, an ordinance to adopt the general amendments to Title 20 (fixing errors and making clarifications) is scheduled for introduction by the County Council on October 8, and may be considered for adoption on October 22. The Planning Commission forwarded a recommendation of approval on September 12. Information on that item is also available on the County's web site, at <http://www.whatcomcounty.us/pds/plan/lr/docketed/title-20-amendments.jsp>

I will be out of the office until October 10. If you have questions on these items, please contact Mark Personius or Becky Boxx at 360-676-6907.

Gary Davis, AICP
Senior Planner
Whatcom County Planning and Development Services
360-676-6707 ext. 50246