

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE
WHATCOM COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
May 27, 2021**

Work Session

1

1 **Call to Order**

2 The virtual meeting was called to order by Whatcom County Planning Commission
3 Chair, Kelvin Barton at 6:30 p.m.

4 **Roll Call**

5 **Present:** Kelvin Barton, Robert Bartel, Atul Deshmane, Stephen Jackson, Kimberley
6 Lund, Dominic Mocerri, Jon Maberry, Natalie McClendon

7 **Absent:** Jim Hansen

8 **Staff Present:** Joshua Fleischmann, Mark Personius, and Tammy Axlund

9 **Department Update**

10 Mark Personius, Director of Planning and Development Services (PDS), reported that
11 the department is working to finalize the Cherry Point amendments and get this item
12 back to County Council in June. He thanked the Planning Commission for their
13 deliberations and unanimous approval of the Shoreline Management Plan update. We
14 are awaiting final comments from the Department of Ecology and hoping to present a
15 complete package to County Council in June.

16 Personius provided a brief overview of the intersectionality of the agricultural, mineral,
17 and forest resource lands we need to protect, and recommended a policy level
18 approach to balance the conflicting demands. He then responded to commissioners'
19 questions.

20 **Open Session Public Comment**

21 There was no public comment.

22 **Commissioner Comments**

23 Commissioner McClendon provided an update on the public participation ad hoc
24 committee. They have finalized a questionnaire which will go to all staff members in
25 early June. This will provide a baseline on what staff know about public participation
26 and what each department does in this area. A number of County departments use
27 Nextdoor and Facebook.

28 Commissioner Deshmane made a humorous comment.

29 Commissioner Barton stated that Tammy will email the hierarchy of motions from the
30 Jurassic Parliament training he took in early May. He indicated that #1 is the lowest
31 ranked and #13 is the highest ranked.

32 **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

33 **Timestamp: 20:04**

34 **Commissioner Deshmane moved** to approve the meeting minutes from May 13,
35 2021.

36 **Commissioner Maberry seconded.**

37 **Roll Call Vote: Ayes-Bartel, Barton, Deshmane, Jackson, Lund, Maberry,**
38 **McClendon, Mocerri; (Ayes-8; Nays-0; Abstain-0). The motion carried.**

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE
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1 **Mineral Resource Land (MRL) Comprehensive Plan and Development**
2 **Regulation Amendments**

3 **Timestamp: 21:30**

4 Joshua Fleischmann, from PDS, gave a PowerPoint presentation which described what
5 MRLs are and why we designate them. He discussed the Surface Mining Advisory
6 Committee (SMAC) recommended proposed MRL amendments, a proposed approach
7 for the process going forward, and several alternative mapping or regulatory
8 approaches. Mr. Fleischmann reviewed the Agriculture Advisory Committee and the
9 Forestry Advisory Committee responses to the SMAC recommendation and responded
10 to Commissioners' questions.

11 Commissioners discussed the alternatives and concluded that they preferred
12 Alternative 2: Localized Expansion if it could be voluntary, and limit new MRL
13 designations to areas within a half mile of existing MRL designations.

14 Commissioner Maberry asked Mr. Fleischmann to draft a proposed motion for adopting
15 Alternative 2 with the above amendments, ensuring the ability for landowners to opt
16 out.

17 Commissioner McClendon urged that before the next meeting, we advertise with a
18 recommendation for those interested to listen to this meeting and get the big picture
19 of what the Planning Commission is trying to accomplish. This is complicated and none
20 of the advisory committees had a single solution. The more we can educate those who
21 are interested, the better.

22 **Adjournment**

23 The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

24 Minutes prepared by Tammy Axlund.

25 WHATCOM COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION ATTEST:

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Kelvin Barton, Chair

Tammy Axlund, Secretary