

Re: Invitation to Apply for the Shoreline Advisory Committee

Dear Interested Parties:

Skagit County is seeking letters of interest from individuals to serve on an advisory committee to guide development of the Skagit County Shoreline Master Program. Skagit County, in partnership with the Towns of Lyman and Hamilton, is updating its Shoreline Master Program (SMP) in accordance with the State Shoreline Management Act.

The SMP provides environmental protection for shorelines, preserves and enhances public access, and encourages appropriate development that supports water-oriented uses. The update process will include an inventory; environmental and land use analysis; shoreline policies, environment designations and use regulations; cumulative impacts and uses analysis; a shoreline restoration plan; and a formal adoption process that includes Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) approval.

The SMP will apply to Shorelines of the State, generally including marine waters, lakes greater than 20 acres, and streams/rivers with a flow greater than 20 cubic feet per second (cfs), together with shorelands within 200 feet of the ordinary high water mark and associated wetlands. More information about the County's SMP Update process is available on the County's website at www.skagitcounty.net/SMP.

The County seeks a range of backgrounds, interests, and perspectives of groups affected or impacted by shoreline issues. This will likely include agriculture, business, timber, recreation, private landowners, and others. Interested applicants should:

- Represent a group or organization affected or impacted by shoreline management issues
- Commit to providing two-way communication from the advisory committee to these organizations
- Have an interest and commitment to working collaboratively, especially in regards to land use or other property issues
- Be able to meet on a monthly basis for 18 to 24 months. The first advisory committee meeting will likely be held in May 2011. Subsequent monthly meetings will start in fall of 2011



Citizens interested in serving on the advisory committee are encouraged to apply by submitting a letter of interest describing their background, interests, and reasons for wanting to serve on the committee.

Letters of interest are due by 4:30 p.m. on March 31, 2011, and should be submitted to Linda Hammons, Clerk of the Board, 1800 Continental Place, Mount Vernon, WA 98273 or lindah@co.skagit.wa.us. Application material and other information related to the County's SMP Update process is available on the County's web site at www.skagitcounty.net/SMP.

The County expects to seat 11 to 15 individuals on the advisory committee. The Board of County Commissioners will select the Committee members. A schedule of advisory committee meeting dates, times and locations has not been finalized; however, it is anticipated that the committee will meet for approximately two hours at a time at the County offices in Mount Vernon. In addition, the County will host the first advisory committee orientation meeting in May, prior to three shoreline visioning public workshops to be held in June 2011.

Questions about the SMP Update, advisory committee, or application process should be directed to Betsy Stevenson, Skagit County Planning and Development Services, at (360) 336-9410 ext 5879 or betsyds@co.skagit.wa.us.

Thank you for interest in the future of Skagit County. Even if you are unable to consider application for the Advisory Committee, we hope that you will get involved with the update process,

Sincerely,



Ron Wesen



Sharon D. Dillon



Kenneth A. Dahlstedt