

COWLITZ COUNTY Shoreline Master Program Periodic Review Public Participation Plan

Introduction

Cowlitz County is undertaking a periodic review of its Shoreline Master Program (SMP), as required by the Washington State Shoreline Management Act (SMA), RCW 90.58.080(4). The SMA requires each SMP be reviewed and revised, if needed, on an eight-year schedule established by the Legislature. The review ensures the SMP stays current with changes in laws and rules, remains consistent with other County plans and regulations, and is responsive to changed circumstances, new information and improved data.

A Public Participation Plan is required to describe how Cowlitz County will encourage early and continuous public participation throughout the process of reviewing the SMP. This Public Participation Plan describes the steps that Cowlitz County will take to provide opportunities for public engagement and public comment, as well as Cowlitz County contact information and web addresses. This plan is a working document and will be adjusted as needed to provide for the greatest and broadest public participation.

1.0 Public Participation Goals

- Provide interested parties with timely information, an understanding of the process, and multiple opportunities to review and comment on proposed amendments to the SMP.
- Actively solicit information from citizens, property owners and stakeholders about their concerns, questions and priorities for the Periodic Review process.
- Encourage interested parties to informally review and comment on proposed changes to the SMP throughout the process and provide those comments to decision makers.
- Provide forums for formal public input at project milestones prior to decision-making by local officials.
- Consult and consider recommendations from neighboring jurisdictions, federal and state agencies, and Native American tribes.

2.0 Public Participation Opportunities

Cowlitz County is committed to providing multiple opportunities for public participation throughout the process. Cowlitz County will use a variety of communication tools to inform the public and encourage their participation, including the following:

2.1 Website

Cowlitz County's website will include a Periodic Review webpage where interested parties can access status updates, draft documents, official notices, minutes and other project information. The webpage will be the primary repository of all information related to the Periodic Review process. The page will include who to contact for more information and an email link for questions and comments.

<https://www.co.cowlitz.wa.us/2226/Long-Range-Planning>

2.2 Survey

A community survey will be conducted to solicit specific feedback from interested parties and results will be posted on the Periodic Review webpage.

2.3 Notice mailing list

An email list of interested parties will be created, advertised and maintained by Cowlitz County. The list will be used to notify interested parties regarding Periodic Review progress and participation opportunities. Interested parties will be added to the list by contacting the Building and Planning Department.

2.4 Comment

Interested parties will be encouraged to provide comments to Cowlitz County by letter or email. All comments will be forwarded to the Board of County Commissioners and Planning Commission. The Periodic Review webpage will be the central repository for information under consideration. Documents will be available for review at Cowlitz County Department of Building and Planning, and copies will be provided at the established copying cost.

The primary contact for Cowlitz County will be:

Greta Holmstrom, Senior Policy & Outreach Planner

Cowlitz County Department of Building & Planning

207 Fourth Avenue North

Kelso, WA 98626

360-577-3052 x1-6676

holmstromg@co.cowlitz.wa.us

2.5 Planning Commission

The Planning Commission will be the primary forum for detailed review and recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners. Interested parties are encouraged to attend and provide comments during the Planning Commission deliberations and/or Board of County Commissioners workshops and public hearings.

2.6 News media

The local news media will be kept up-to-date on the Periodic Review process and receive copies of all official notices.

3.0 List of stakeholders

To date, Cowlitz County has identified the following interested parties. Cowlitz County will engage these interested parties throughout the periodic review process:

Members of the public, including residents, property owners, business owners, etc.

Cowlitz Tribe, Yakama Nation

State Agencies including Department of Ecology, Department of Natural Resources, Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation, Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Department of Transportation

County Departments and Staff

Utility Purveyors including Beacon Hill Water & Sewer District, Cowlitz PUD, Northwest Natural, Bonneville Power Administration, PacifiCorp,

Port of Longview, Kalama and Woodland

Cities of Castle Rock, Kelso, Longview, Kalama, Woodland

4.0 Public Participation Timeline

The following is a general timeline including anticipated public participation opportunities. Cowlitz County will coordinate with the Department of Ecology throughout the process. A detailed timeline will be posted on the Periodic Review webpage.

Workshop with Planning Commission – March – April 2021

Public Hearing with Planning Commission – May 2021

Public Hearing with Board of County Commissioners – June 2021

5.0 Public Comment Periods and Hearings

The Planning Commission will conduct a public comment period and at least one public hearing to solicit input on the Periodic Review. The Board of County Commissioners will hold one public hearing before final adoption.

Public notice of all hearings will state who is holding the comment period and/or hearing, the date and time, and the location of any public hearing. Notices will be published per official policy and comply with all other legal requirements such as the Americans with Disabilities Act. A notice will be sent to the email list (2.4, above) and the Department of Ecology