

Jefferson County

Shoreline Master Program - Periodic Review

Public Participation Plan (P3) – Task 3

Introduction

Jefferson 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 Jefferson County plans and regulations, and is responsive to changed circumstances, new information and improved data.

A Public Participation Plan (P3) is required to describe how Jefferson County will encourage early and continuous public participation throughout the process of reviewing the SMP.

This Public Participation Plan describes the steps that Jefferson County will take to provide opportunities for public engagement and public comment, as well as County contact information and web addresses. This plan is in addition to any other minimum requirements for public participation required by Jefferson County Code Section Chapter 18.40. This plan is a working document and will be adjusted as needed to provide for the greatest and broadest public participation.

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.

Public Participation Opportunities

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

Website

Jefferson County's website will include a Periodic Review webpage: (<https://www.co.jefferson.wa.us/1481/Shoreline-Master-Program-Periodic-Review>) 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: Project Manager David Wayne Johnson, djohnson@co.jefferson.wa.us.

Survey

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

Notice mailing list

An email list of interested parties will be created, advertised and maintained by the Jefferson 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 Department of Community Development at dcd@co.jefferson.wa.us or 360/379-4450.

Comment

Interested parties will be encouraged to provide comments to Jefferson 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 the Department of Community Development, and copies will be provided at the established copying cost.

Task Force

The Task Force will serve as a sounding board to consider possible revisions to the current SMP through the lens of regulatory reform (Resolution 17-19). Members will be appointed by the Board of Commissioners to advise DCD on the SMP Periodic Review. Task Force meetings will be open to the public to observe, with limited opportunities for audience input. The group's process will combine elements of "visioning" in the broad context, and learning about limitations that may reveal some ideas as infeasible. The group will identify critically important aspects, areas, and issues related to the marine environment and shoreline development and regulations (think of aquaculture as an example) that should be considered in the SMP review. The group will also consider various constraints such as the requirements of State Law, staffing capacity, and resource allocation. The group will follow-up on issues and refinement of the Periodic Review scope through the iterative process of subsequent meetings. The final outcome of the Task Force will be a Scoping Document produced by staff and consultant that lays out the parameters of the review and revision, to clearly identify what is to be included, both mandatory and citizen supported. The Task Force Scoping Document will inform what issues are included in the required Periodic Review Checklist and what SMP amendments are proposed for consideration by the Planning Commission and Board of County Commissioners.

Planning Commission

The Planning Commission will be the primary forum for detailed review and recommendations to the Jefferson County and 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. Official notices will be published as established in Jefferson County Code Chapter 18.40 & 18.45. Regularly schedule Planning Commission meetings are the first (1st) and third (3rd) Wednesday of each month.

News media

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

Staff Preparation Activities

In support of these public participation opportunities, DCD staff will be collecting information, preparing materials, and facilitating outreach & involvement, such as:

- Key messaging language
- Graphic & photo displays
- Informational handouts for print/digital distribution
- SMP Periodic Review webpage content & maintenance
- List of community noticing/news outlets (e.g. public bulletin boards, homeowner associations, newsletters)
- Presentations at local industry/civic group meetings
- Tally & evaluate survey input
- Task Force volunteer management

Stakeholders

Jefferson County will engage the following stakeholders:

- U.S. Navy
- U.S Army Corps of Engineers
- State Department of Ecology
- State Department of Fish & Wildlife
- State Department of Natural Resources
- Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
- Washington State Parks
- Clallam County
- Kitsap County
- Local Tribes (Jamestown & Port Gamble S’Klallam, Skokomish, Suquamish, Hoh, Quinault, Quileute)
- Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners
- Jefferson County Planning Commission
- Jefferson County Environmental Health Department
- Jefferson County Parks and Recreation
- North Olympic Salmon Coalition
- Jefferson County Marine Resource Committee
- City of Port Townsend
- Port of Port Townsend
- Hood Canal Coordinating Council
- Climate Action Committee – Local 2020
- Jefferson Land Trust
- Maritime Industry
- Aquaculture & Fishing – Commercial Interests
- Boating and Recreational Users
- Shoreline Real Estate Interests
- Shoreline Residential and Commercial Construction
- Citizens at large

Public Participation Timeline

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

2020

- July – August: Staff preparation activities; Webpage goes live online; Project Kick-off message to Interested Parties Email List
- August – September: Community Survey; Task Force meetings;
- September – October: Task Force Scoping Document; Project Status Email List message;
- October – December: News media, Community noticing, Presentations

2021

- January – February: Project Status Email List message; Review documents posted on webpage; Planning Commission & Ecology Joint Review 30-day public comment period & public hearing;
- February – June: Planning Commission meetings for deliberation & recommendation to Board of County Commissioners (BoCC); Project Status Email List message; BoCC review of PC Recommendation & legislative action for local approval.

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, and before they provide a recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners on amendments to the SMP. The Jefferson County Board of Commissioners will hold one public hearing before final adoption, only if after review of the Planning Commission recommendation, the Board determines that a change shall be made to the proposed amendment.

Jefferson County will coordinate with the Department of Ecology on public notification of comment periods and hearings to take advantage of Ecology's optional SMP amendment process that allows for a combined state-local comment period (WAC 173-26-104).

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 and the Department of Ecology.

- Planning Commission regularly scheduled meetings are the first (1st) and third (3rd) Wednesday of each month. These meeting dates will serve as both opportunities to update and inform the Planning Commission and the general public, and also for conducting the required public hearing on the draft amendments to the SMP – to be determined.
- Board of County Commissioners public hearings dates to be determined.

Contact Information

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