

Lewis County Coalition Shoreline Master Program Update

Centralia | Chehalis | Lewis County | Morton | Winlock

Shoreline Visioning Workshops Strategy



FINAL VERSION

September 5, 2013



I. Background

Lewis County and the Cities of Centralia, Chehalis, Winlock, and Morton have joined efforts as the Lewis County Coalition to update their respective Shoreline Master Programs (SMPs) to be consistent with the state Shoreline Management Act (SMA) and related SMP Guidelines (RCW 90.58 and WAC 173-26, respectively). Consistent with state law and guidelines, the SMA requires that members of the Coalition, along with other local governments in the state, periodically update their SMPs, consistent with state law and guidelines.

The Coalition is committed to engaging the larger community in the SMP Update. The Coalition intends to hold four Shoreline Visioning Workshops to do the following:

- Inform and engage residents and other interested parties in the SMP Update Process
- Explain the key principles of the SMA and the requirements of the SMP Update Process
- Present the key findings of the Draft Shoreline Inventory and Characterization Report
- Identify specific shoreline opportunities and constraints
- Receive detailed input that will inform development of the shoreline environment designations and shoreline policies and regulations
- Keep residents informed about the next steps in the SMP update process

The workshops are one of several methods to get broad public involvement in the SMP Update.

II. Shoreline Visioning Workshops

The Coalition will conduct workshops to provide initial public education and solicit input on high-priority issues and concerns regarding the SMP Update. The format for the workshops will be opportunities for the Coalition staff and the consultant team to answer questions and provide information and to receive public input on the development of the SMP.

Identification of key regulatory concerns for residents is a primary purpose of these workshops. Their input will be recorded and used to guide the updated SMPs' policies and regulations. Specific public feedback will be sought on:

- General shoreline problems and opportunities
- Demand for shoreline uses
- Key regulatory issues of concern
- Balancing user needs (property rights, public access, etc.) with shoreline protection (no net loss)
- Public access and improvement opportunities
- Conservation and restoration priorities

As public input is a vital component of the SMP update process, participants will be provided with contact information and suggestions on how best to provide input. Input will be welcomed by contacting Coalition staff and consultants by phone, email, or letter; using the SMP website(s); and communicating with the three Citizen Advisory Committees.

The workshops will be held in four locations targeted to specific communities. Workshops are scheduled for the following times and places:

- September 25, 2013 at 6:00 (West Lewis County and Winlock), Veterans Memorial Building, Chehalis
- September 26, 2013 at 6:00 (City of Centralia), location to be decided
- October 1, 2013 at 6:00 (East Lewis County and Morton), White Pass High School, Randle
- October 8, 2013 at 6:00 (City of Chehalis), Chehalis City Hall

The workshops will be held prior to development of the SMP environment designations and draft policies and regulations. They will offer specific education on the following topics:

- SMA/SMP requirements and the degree of local control
- Property rights and guidance from the Washington State Attorney General
- Shoreline ecology and human impacts
- Findings from the Shoreline Inventory and Characterization Report

The Coalition will ask representatives from the CACs and state agencies, including Ecology and the Attorney General's Office, to attend these events. The Coalition should also consider collaborating with local institutions (public libraries, churches, and granges) and regional organizations to distribute educational materials to local constituents. The role of the CAC members will be to listen and take note of comment and questions from the public, so that public input is reflected in the CAC's subsequent work.

In order to understand to how science is applied in the SMP process, Coalition and consultant staff will discuss the scientific guidance that has been identified as being the most appropriate for informing the SMP and the findings of the draft Shoreline Analysis and Characterization Report.

Coalition staff will use the following outreach to notify residents about the workshops:

- SMP workshop mailer
- Workshop poster distribution by Coalition staff and CAC members
- SMP website updates
- SMP news releases

- SMP email updates

A proposed Meeting Agenda and meeting content is provided below for the workshops.

III. Meeting Content

MEETING OBJECTIVES:

1. Summarize the SMP Update process
2. Answer questions and get public input on key concerns and potential regulatory changes
3. Share knowledge about the shoreline and ideas on appropriate management

FORMAT:

- I. Welcome and Introductions (5 minutes) – Coalition staff**
 - a. General welcome to the open house message on behalf of the County Commissioners or Mayor and City Council members
 - b. Coalition staff introduces CAC members who are present, as well as Coalition, consultant, and other agency staff
 - c. Consultant describes the workshop agenda
- II. The SMP Update Process Presentation (Approximately 20 minutes) – Consultant staff**
 - a. Summary of where we are in the SMP Update process
 - b. Purpose of the workshop and an explanation of how it will work
 - c. Summary of the findings of the Shoreline Inventory and Characterization
- III. Topic Stations/Discussion Groups – Participatory Exercise Using Break-Out Groups (Approximately 75 minutes)**

For the first 15 minutes, attendees can view displays about the SMP planning process, update schedule, and key shoreline planning principles. The open house displays included preliminary “shoreline jurisdiction maps” for the entire jurisdiction, identifying the specific areas of the jurisdiction where shoreline regulations will be considered.

Topic stations will be set up with information boards addressing the key issues being considered as part of the SMP update and potential regulatory changes based on the new Ecology requirements. Participants will split up into groups based on color-coded nametags and circulate through the stations every 15 minutes (time allotted includes time to move from station to station and settle down).

Participants will view information presented on boards, ask questions, brainstorm, and share their comments with a facilitator, who would be from consultant staff. The facilitator will answer questions and CAC members would be record participant comments. The four proposed station topics include:

1. Balancing private property owner rights with **no net loss**
2. **Public access** and recreation plans, improvements, and opportunities
3. Protection, enhancement, and **restoration** opportunities
4. **Shoreline uses**, included water-oriented uses, and potential environment designations

IV. Report Back and Discussion (20 minutes)

The consultant staff will report to the entire audience on the key concerns, the general local vision for the shoreline expressed by the participants, areas of agreements and differing opinions they heard in the discussion groups.

Alternate Option for Agenda Item IV:

Depending on the number of people attending the workshop, for example if there is less than twenty, everyone could participate as one group, rather than in multiple groups. If this were the case, the need to report to the entire group (Agenda Item IV) would no longer be needed.

Possible Citizen Questions and Concerns:

The following questions and comments are some that could be anticipated at the workshops.

- How does the SMP affect my property?
- What does restoration mean? Examples would be good. Who pays for it?
- What is no net loss? Examples would be good.
- What does “public access” mean?
- What is a floodway versus a floodplain?
- What information was used to determine the shoreline jurisdiction for the SMP?
- Will the SMP consider sea level rise and other impacts of climate change?
- Will the SMP address logjams and silt buildup in rivers?
- How does the SMP work with flood hazard regulations and channel mitigation. Can I still protect my property from damage?
- What data was used for the Shoreline Inventory and maps?
- Will SMP regulations be the same along all stretches of waterways? Will there be local flexibility?
- Who determines what types of shoreline improvements are allowed?
- How do you address environmental degradation that happened years ago?
- What is the definition of “ordinary high water mark”?
- What regulations apply within 200 feet of the shoreline and what regulations apply throughout the shoreline jurisdiction?
- Concerns about existing structures located within proposed shoreline setbacks and buffers.
- What if a property is only 200’ wide and a structure exists within that 200’? “We can’t move our houses.”
- What are water-oriented activities?

- What happens if the shoreline jurisdiction is determined and then the river or stream moves?
- How are impacts to property owners from buffers and setbacks addressed? How do property owners benefit?
- Are agricultural lands and uses exempt from the SMP?
- Will the SMP be consistent with other regulations?
- Concern about government inspectors and new requirements.
- Concern about limited funds and informing property owners about what they can and should do.
- Questions about setback rules, current requirements and Ordinary High Water Mark or Line? What is the appropriate setback? Will it be changed?
- How will views be protected? Can I maintain my view?
- Questions about existing parks, public access and plans to replace or restore them.
- Concerns may be expressed about stormwater drainage and ongoing impacts.
- The health of existing habitat has declined, with symptoms such as reduced fish and wildlife, how can their status be improved?
- Discussion about “flexibility” in permitting.
- Questions about how Shoreline Environment Designations relate to zoning categories and how the SMP will work with existing regulations.
- Are there other models of County SMPs that we can look at?

IV. Materials Needed

The following materials will be needed:

- Laptop/projector – PowerPoint – Consultant will work with staff to provide
- Writing pads for easels – Consultants will provide
- Marking pens – Consultants will provide
- Pens/pencils for people to use for the sign in and comment sheets – Consultants will provide
- Small table for sign-up sheets, comment sheets, and handouts. A covered box for people to put their comments in when they are done – Consultants will provide
- Name tags. It would be good to have pre-made tags for electeds, CAC members, and staff with name and position – Consultants will provide
- Presentation Boards and Handouts – Graphic heavy – Consultants will provide
 - a. SMP Update Timeline
 - b. SMP Phases and Documents – Showing the relationship between them
 - c. No Net Loss – Simple graphic
 - d. Restoration – Explaining what it is
 - e. SMP Exemptions – Examples of exempt activities under the SMP
 - f. Shoreline Environment Designations – What they are and how they are determined. Example illustration.

- g. Public Access – What it is, What it is not, and how it is done (parks plans, cooperative action)
 - h. Example of development in the shoreline jurisdiction: existing use, proposed use, buffers, setbacks, height restrictions, accessory uses, measures to achieve no net loss
- Easels – Consultants will provide
 - Maps – Showing full jurisdiction – Consultants will provide

V. Next Steps

Once the workshops have taken place and public input has been received, the Coalition staff and CACs will build and refine the strategy for shoreline uses, public access, resource protection, and restoration. The refined strategies will be incorporated into the draft SMP and will be presented to the public in manner to be determined by staff and the Coalition.