



# WHITMAN COUNTY SMP STEERING COMMITTEE KICK-OFF AND COMMUNITY VISIONING MEETING SUMMARY, MAY 7<sup>TH</sup> 2014

## OVERVIEW



Whitman County's Planning Division held a kick-off meeting for its Shoreline Master Program Update Steering Committee (SSC) on May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014. The purpose of the meeting was to convene the SSC for a first meeting and conduct a Countywide visioning meeting to engage the community and get feedback as part of the update. There were approximately 25 participants in attendance at the Whitman County Public Works Building in Colfax, WA.

## STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

County Planner Alan Thomson opened the meeting by introducing the consultant team and the Washington State Department of Ecology representative. Assistant County Planner Jerry Basler introduced the Steering Committee members and their role in the SMP update process. The Steering committee members include the Whitman County Planning Commission and selected representatives from the County's cities and towns. The attending members were as follows:

<b>Member</b>	<b>Representing</b>
Rick Wekenman	Palouse
Kynda Browning	Tekoa,
Mary Collins	Whitman County Planning Commission
Ken Duft	Whitman County Planning Commission
Keith Paulson,	Whitman County Planning Commission
Chad Whetzel	Whitman County Planning Commission
Dave Gibney	Whitman County Planning Commission; also representing Pullman

County Staff presented the Steering Committee with a participant agreement that included a charge, expectations and operating principles. The Steering Committee's primary role will be to:

- 1) Serve as a sounding board for the project management team (lead by County and consultant staff) on local conditions and data relevant to the shoreline jurisdiction and inventory and analysis report.
- 2) Provide review comment, feedback and input about the community's vision for the shoreline areas as well as goals, policies, and regulations that should be part of the SMP to achieve that vision. The SSC will review and provide input on the following products:
  - a. Shoreline Inventory and Characterization Report
  - b. Preliminary Draft SMP general goals, policies, and optional regulations
  - c. Preliminary Draft SMP Environment Designations
  - d. Preliminary Draft SMP environment-specific shoreline use & modification policies, regulations and standards
  - e. Preliminary Cumulative Impacts Analysis
  - f. Draft Restoration Plan

The SSC will meet periodically from May 2014 through February 2015. In addition, the SSC may be invited to attend, or help host, Public Forums that will be held in Colfax and Pullman (up to 2 Forums).

Steering Committee members were introduced to the SMP update process and provided an overview of the plan's elements and applicability. The consultant team provided a presentation on why the County is engaged in an SMP update, what the process entails, where the plan applies, and the timeline for next steps.

The meeting was advertised through a direct email to City and Town representatives and stakeholders. The meeting was also advertised through a flyer distributed by County staff. A notice in the Whitman County Gazette was also placed by County staff. Meeting materials as well as the consultant's presentation are available at the project website:

[https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias\\_1777/overview/34788/overview.aspx](https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias_1777/overview/34788/overview.aspx).

The following questions and responses were raised during the Consultant's presentation and recorded by County Staff. These comments will be considered as the County proceeds with its SMP update.

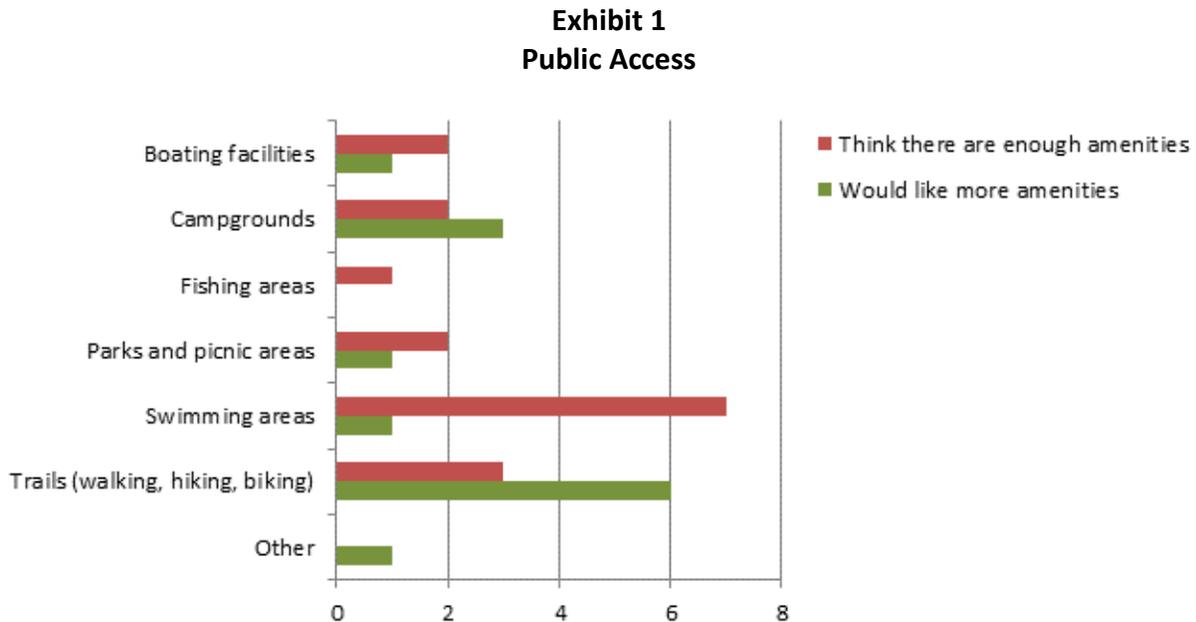
- **Question:** So it is being adopted by the local governments ahead of the DOE, is that right? So, DOE won't be changing things after it is adopted by the local government. Does that sound about right?  
**Response:** There may be some back and forth. The important thing is that it is going to be locally adopted first. The DOE will be involved throughout the process and giving us informal comments on all of the deliverables.
- **Question:** Could you please define reaches?  
**Response:** We divided up the water bodies into reaches, or units. It is just a way to break down the Paulouse River into units by their characteristics. We have agricultural areas, we might have an industrial reach, and then it might transition to residential. We break it where the big land use distinctions occur. It is a way to split up the shoreline. We have that mapped out.
- **Question:** Is the stream minimum stipulated at greater than 2 cfs measured at the minimum or maximum flow?  
**Response:** The standard is 20 cubic feet per second mean annual flow. It is over many years, so it is about ten years of data to figure out what the mean annual is. Ideally that captures both dry years and wet years.
- **Question:** What is the purpose of the restoration plan being in the document since it sounds like it is a separate document?

**Response:** The idea is that although the Shoreline Master Program regulations can only require people to compensate for their own project specific impacts, it would be good to plan for restoration in a separate document. The restoration plan acknowledges that even with the master program that has been crafted and has been implemented; there are unforeseen impacts that happen to the landscape. There are violations, and there may be a variance that has been provided for reasonable use. The restoration plan recognizes that there are other things that are happening on the landscape that are giving functional lift to the shorelines across the country and it offsets those unforeseen impacts that happen along the shoreline. It also can serve as a template for folks that are seeking a project and need some mitigation to offset some impact that they can't avoid on their own property.

## VISIONING EXERCISE

After the SSC meeting, the consultant team facilitated a participatory visioning exercise that was open to all community members. The exercise was conducted to gather input from the community on shoreline use, public access and protection issues. The exercise asked attendees to respond to questions on shoreline use, public access, and environmental concerns. For each question, attendees were asked to place one green dot sticker on the issues they cared most about and one red dot sticker on the issue they cared least about. The results of the exercise are summarized as follows:

Exhibit 1 displays the community's response to the question: what public access amenities should be more/less common?

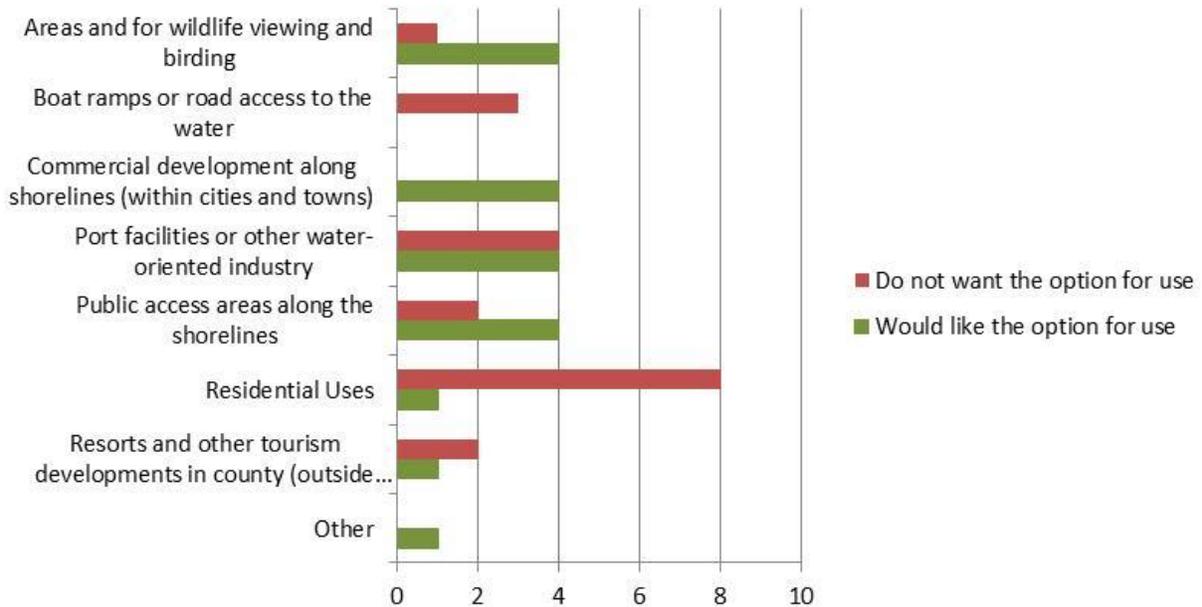


Source: Whitman County SMP Community Visioning, Whitman County, May 2014.

Exhibit 1 shows that trails for walking, hiking, and biking are important to the attendees and were indicated as an amenity needing more attention. Four of the six community members who wanted more trail facilities were from the cities, rather than the County. Respondents did not feel that more swimming areas were a needed amenity.

Exhibit 2 displays the community's response to the question: what future shoreline uses would you like or not like to see more of?

### Exhibit 2 Shoreline Uses

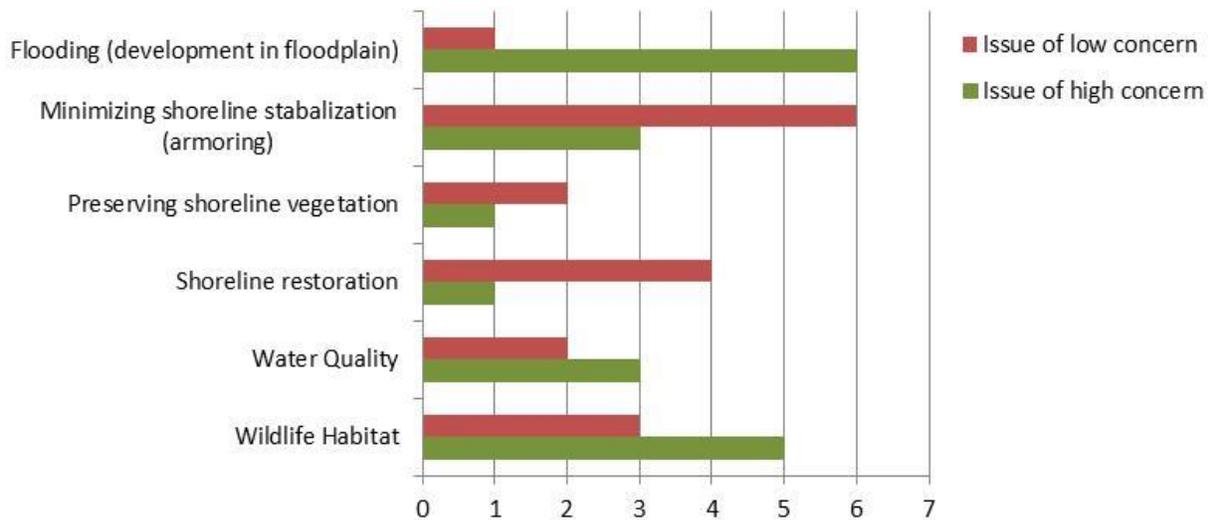


Source: Whitman County SMP Community Visioning, Whitman County, May 2014.

Exhibit 2 shows that public access areas, shoreline commercial development in the cities and towns, and areas for wildlife viewing and birding are the most popular use options among respondents. There is a strong resistance to residential uses in the shoreline zone. Additionally, one respondent indicated “other” with a comment that more farming uses were desired along the shoreline.

Exhibit 3 displays the community’s response to the question: what environmental issues are you most/least concerned about?

### Exhibit 3 Environmental Issues



Source: Whitman County SMP Community Visioning, Whitman County, May 2014.

Exhibit 3 shows that flooding and development in the floodplain and wildlife habitat are the issues of highest concern, while minimizing shoreline stabilization, or armoring, is the lowest environmental priority for respondents.

## SUMMARY OF NEXT STEPS

- Spring 2014
  - Finalize Shoreline Analysis Report
- Summer/Winter 2014
  - Develop Draft SMP, Restoration Plan & Cumulative Impacts Analysis
- Spring/Summer 2015
  - Revise Draft Documents
- Fall/Winter 2015
  - Local Adoption Process
- Spring 2016
  - Formal Ecology Review