

Kittitas County Critical Areas Ordinance Update

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING SUMMARY AND SUMMARY OF SUBMITTED COMMENTS

For June 8, 2012 Meeting

Meeting Attendees:

TAC Members: Present: Cathy Reed, Jason Smith, Sean Gross, Mark Teske
Absent: Linda Baker, Liz Ritzenthaler, John Marvin, Anna Lael, Kelly Larimer, Paul James

Chair: Robert "Doc" Hansen

Staff & Consultants: Dan Valoff, Stephanie Mifflin, Kirk Holmes
Anna Nelson, Margaret Clancy

Others: Clynda Case, Kevin Fleming, Chad Bala, Tipton Hudson

Action Items from Meeting:

Agenda Item 2. Preliminary Wetland BAS Review

- TAC members to review and comment on preliminary Wetland BAS review (see email sent to TAC on May 22 regarding level of review).

Agenda Item 3. Consideration for Wetland Code Update

- TAC members to review and comment on considerations for code updates text and Table 4.

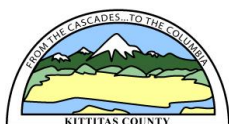
Summary:

Agenda Item 2. Preliminary Wetland BAS Review

Anna N. gave an overview of the Voluntary Stewardship Program references in the BAS review. There was general discussion about funding possibilities for the Program, the outcomes of those, and what the process would entail.

Anna stated that the County anticipates retaining the current CAO regulations for agricultural activities Upper Yakima and Alkali-Squilchuck watersheds until regulations under the Program are adopted. Critical areas located in the Naches watershed will be subject to the updated CAO regulations.

There was general discussion about the draft BAS review paper, when the draft will be updated to reflect comments from the TAC and how the County will use the information in the update process. Anna N. noted that Dan V. will be the County lead for the CAO update process.



Sean G. stated that the exemptions to small wetlands should be expanded to include other examples, not just amphibians (pg. 15).

Margaret C. explained the amphibian use in wetlands.

Cathy R. stated the wetland size is not consistent with BAS. Cathy also suggested that if the County provides for wetland exemptions that there should be something to provide for no net loss. Cathy suggested adding a section about impacts of exemptions and a plan to deal with them.

Margaret C. noted that the State and Federal agencies do not recognize exemptions to wetlands no matter what the size.

There was general discussion regarding wetland mitigation banking

Mark T. asked about storm water facilities in relation to impacts to wetlands.

Cathy R. provided an explanation and referenced the Eastern Washington Stormwater Manual.

There was general discussion on buffers and the location of stormwater treatment facilities.

Sean G. stated the mitigation ratio is too low and reasons why the 1:1 ratio is not enough, but there is no justification to why 2:1 or 3:1 ratios are better.

Cathy R. asked if the Mitigation Success Study was looked at.

Margaret C. stated yes, it was looked at. Margaret stated that part of it went into Ecology's recommendation and referenced Table 3. Margaret explained that other jurisdictions have adopted lower ratios than Ecology. Margaret stated they could expand that section.

Clynda C. asked if the BAS review will be used to justify SMP critical area regulations since the introduction includes a reference to protection of critical areas in shorelines. Clynda stated that the buffers for some of the wetlands are less than what some other jurisdictions have included in their SMP critical area regulations.

Anna N. stated that the BAS review is currently focusing on the CAO update.

Cathy R. discussed page 13 and asked about using qualified professionals.

Dan V. stated that the County does request a biologist for peer review.

There was general discussion of biologist input and fees.

Agenda Item 3. Consideration for Wetland Code Update

Margaret C. gave an overview of the existing code and the potential code changes. There was general discussion regarding the potential code changes outlined in Table 4 of the BAS review paper and suggestions for revisions to the table.

Mark T. asked if a clearing and grading ordinance has been brought in front of the Board.

Kirk H. stated that the ordinance has been drafted and is to be introduced next year.

Anna N. stated that County staff will be discussing future potential code amendments with the Board at the CDS Study Session on Monday, and that this is one of the topics on the list.

Kirk H. gave an update on the Flood Control District and public outreach program, and recommended that the TAC members be engaged in this effort. Kirk stated there is a public hearing on June 20th in Lower County and a public hearing on June 27th in Upper County. Kirk stated August 1st is the deadline for a direction.

Agenda Item 4. Next Meeting and Next Steps

The next meeting is scheduled for July 13th at 9 a.m. Comments from TAC on Preliminary Draft Wetland BAS and Code are due June 15th and comments on the meeting summary are due June 22nd. Materials for the July 13th meeting will be distributed by July 5th.

Meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

(See next page for summary of submitted TAC comments)

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Summary of Submitted Comments and Initial Responses

The following is a summary of written comments submitted related to the meeting agenda items. The comments shown below are excerpts from these items that include the specific comments. Also shown are the initial responses to the comments.

No.	Name	Comment	Response
# x	<i>Name Title/Location Date of Em/Ltr</i>	<i>Comment shown below may be a summary or an excerpt from submitted comments.</i>	<i>Response from Consultant team</i>
1	John Marvin, TAC 6/5 email	Provided additional resource: Knight, K. 2009. Land Use Planning for Salmon, Steelhead and Trout. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. Olympia, Washington. http://wdfw.wa.gov/publications/00033/wdfw00033.pdf	Documents will be evaluated for use in CAO and SMP updates
2	Sean Gross, TAC 6/13 email	Provided comment matrix on draft Wetland BAS review.	Comments will be evaluated for addition to the BAS review document.
3	John Marvin, TAC 6/14 email	Provided additional resource: http://wdfw.wa.gov/publications/01385/wdfw01385.pdf	Documents will be evaluated for use in CAO update
4	Cathy Reed, TAC 6/14 email	Provided comment matrix on draft Wetland BAS review.	Comments will be evaluated for addition to the BAS review document.