

**Surface Mining Advisory Committee (SMAC)  
Meeting Summary  
July 24, 2019**

Start Time:	3:08 p.m.
Location:	Northwest Annex Conference Room

<b>Meeting Highlights</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There were 8 people in attendance (5 voting members, 2 staff member, 1 citizen).</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Next meeting Date/Time/Location: August 28 at 3:00 p.m. NW Annex</li> </ul>

<b>Attendees – Members</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Present</b>
Tony Freeland	Civil/Geo-tech engineer	X
Brad Davis	Surface mining material user	
Christopher Secrist	Geologist	X
Leslie Dempsey	Citizen in close proximity to mine	X
Ryan Devries	Member of surface mining industry	
Brent Cowden	Member of surface mining industry	X
Aubrey Stargell	Forestry	X
Leaf Schumann	Potable domestic groundwater supply	
Dustin Gleaves	Ecologist	
Shannon Logan	Environmental consultant	
Vacant	Conservation District representative	

<b>Quorum Present</b>	<b>YES</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>NO</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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<b>Attendees - Staff</b>	<b>Present</b>
Fleischmann, Josh	X
Ericson, Ryan	X

<b>Others Present</b>
Rollin Harper

Meeting Notes

**Approval or modification of June 26, 2019 meeting summary**

A quorum was not present to approve/modify the meeting summary.

**Open Session**

Rollin Harper spoke. He appreciates the work the committee has done. He stated that cities have an interested in both protecting the resource and avoiding conflicts. He noted the purpose of the countywide review is the perception that the current process does not work. He stated that the City of Nooksack is in favor of the proposed Miles Sand and Gravel docketed application for a comprehensive plan map/zoning map amendment (PLN2019-00002), whereas when a similar amendment was proposed ~15 years ago, the City of Nooksack was opposed. With minor modifications to the proposal, the city's disposition towards the proposed amendments changed, indicating that the process is not necessarily broken.

**Docketed Item PLN2019-00011 - Surface Mining of Dry Meander Zones**

Ryan Ericson of PDS attended to discuss how the intent of the proposed amendment could be incorporated into the Shoreline Management Program (SMP) update process. Ryan noted that the 2003 guidelines within the Washington Administrative Code were used for the 2007 SMP update. As part of the 2020 SMP update, Whatcom County will review relevant legislative updates since the 2007 update and incorporate applicable amendments to ensure consistency with critical area and flood hazard area regulations. The review will ensure the SMP is consistent with state laws and rules, as well as provide internal consistency with Whatcom County plans and regulations.

On July 25, 2019 the Planning Commission was meeting to review the scoping document for the SMP 2020 update.

### **Open Government Training**

Open government training did not take place, as all present members, except for 1, were still covered by a previous training.

### **Docketed Item PLN2017-00004 - MRL Countywide Designation**

A quorum was not present to make decisions in regards to the previous SMAC recommendations. Staff suggested the committee could discuss potential opportunities to modify the existing designation criteria. Because there was not a quorum, these recommended changes were only discussed and not voted upon.

The committee discussed designation criterion #6. One recommendation was that the 80% net to gross ratio is too high. Because most materials are completely marketable 50% would be a better number. Even 50% overburden would be marketable material.

The committee discussed designation criterion #7. The committee asked staff how they came up with their previous recommendation for defining "urban densities" (solely for the purpose of applying this designation criterion) a 3 dwelling units/acre. Staff noted that the *densest rural* residential lots that can be created through subdivision is 3 du/acre, while the *sparsest urban* residential lots that can be created through subdivision is 3 du/acre. Staff feels that where the density at which *urban* residential zoning meets *rural* residential zoning is an appropriate demarcation of what "urban densities" are (solely for the purpose of applying this designation criterion). It was further suggested by a committee member that, when applied to a landowner initiated site specific amendment, the criterion could be amended to read "MRL Designations ~~must~~ should not be within ~~nor about~~ developed residential zones or subdivisions platted at urban densities. MRL Designations abutting residential zones or subdivisions platted at urban densities shall..." have some sort of site specific mitigating conditions. It was further suggested by a member of the public that the committee may want to consider amending the criterion to include urban growth areas and urban growth area reserves.

### **New Business**

There was no new business.

### **Dismissal**

<b>Closing:</b> 5:03 p.m.	
Next Meeting Date/Time/Location	August 28, 2019 at 3:00 p.m. NW Annex