



**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE
WHATCOM COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
June 10, 2021**

Public Hearing and Work Session

1

1 **Call to Order**

2 The virtual meeting was called to order by Whatcom County Planning Commission
3 Chair, Kelvin Barton at 6:31 p.m.

4 **Roll Call**

5 **Present:** Robert Bartel, Kelvin Barton, Atul Deshmane, Jim Hansen, Stephen Jackson,
6 Kimberley Lund, Dominic Mocerri, Natalie McClendon

7 **Absent:** Jon Maberry

8 **Staff Present:** Josh Fleischmann, Mark Personius, and Tammy Axlund

9 **Department Update**

10 Mark Personius, Director of Planning and Development Services (PDS), gave an
11 overview of the schedule of agenda items for the next few meetings, and detailed
12 potential plans for re-opening as the Governor lifts restrictions from the COVID-19
13 pandemic. PDS plans to re-open for appointments only, on July 1st. The Director noted
14 that the Planning Commission will continue to hold remote meetings at least until fall.

15 **Open Session Public Comment**

16 Kyler Danielson and Mark Ambler provided public comment.

17 **Commissioner Comments**

18 Commissioner McClendon provided an update on the Public Participation Ad Hoc
19 Committee questionnaire that was distributed to County staff. The deadline for staff to
20 respond is Friday, June 11th.

21 **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

22 **Timestamp: 12:22**

23 **Commissioner Bartel moved** to approve the meeting minutes from May 27, 2021.

24 **Commissioner Lund seconded.**

25 **Roll Call Vote: Ayes-Bartel, Barton, Deshmane, Jackson, Lund, McClendon,**
26 **Mocerri; Abstain-Hansen; (Ayes-7; Nays-0; Abstain-1). The motion carried.**

27 **PLN2019-00010 - Surface Mining and Pipeline Buffer**

28 Josh Fleischmann, of Planning and Development Services (PDS), shared a brief
29 PowerPoint to provide an overview of PLN2019-00010 - Surface Mining and Pipeline
30 Buffer, and responded to Commissioners' questions.

31 **Timestamp: 20:10**

32 **a) Public Hearing Regarding Surface Mining and Pipeline Buffer**

33 Carl Weimer and Wendy Harris provided public comment. Carl Weimer and staff
34 responded to Commissioners' questions.



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1 **b) Work Session**

2 In addition to the language proposed by the Surface Mining Advisory Committee, and
3 contained in the staff memo for WCC20.73.153(9), commissioners reviewed and
4 discussed a recommendation brought forth during the public hearing with regards to
5 adding "surface mining" to WCC 20.81.030.A.2 Development notice when adjacent to
6 transmission pipeline.

7 **Timestamp: 1:11:06**

8 **Commissioner Mocerì moved** to approve the language provided by staff for WCC
9 20.73.150, and add "Surface Mining" to WCC 20.81.130A to read: "Land Divisions,
10 High-Consequence Land Uses, Essential Public Facilities and Surface Mining"

11 **Commissioner McClendon seconded.**

12 **Roll Call Vote: Ayes-Bartel, Barton, Deshmane, Hansen, Jackson, Lund,
13 McClendon, Mocerì; (Ayes-8; Nays-0; Abstain-0). The motion carried.**

14 *By consensus, the Commission decided to include and approve the findings of fact
15 proposed in the staff report.*

16 **Timestamp: 1:14:17**

17 **PLN2019-00011 - Surface Mining of Dry Meander Zones**

18 Josh Fleischmann, presented this agenda item and responded to commissioners'
19 questions.

20 **Timestamp: 1:17:18**

21 **a) Public Hearing Regarding Surface Mining of Dry Meander Zones**

22 Wendy Harris provided public comment.

23 **b) Work Session**

24 Staff indicated that no action is needed because this was considered and adopted as
25 part of the recent Shoreline Management Program update. There will be a finding in
26 the record that a separate hearing was held as part of the Mineral Resource Land
27 Amendment discussions, and no further action was taken.

28 **Timestamp: 1:23:49**

29 **PLN2017-00004 - Countywide review of Designated Mineral Resource Lands
30 (MRL)**

31 Josh Fleischmann provided background on this item and read the draft motion which
32 was prepared in response to the Commission's request during the May 27th meeting.
33 Staff then responded to commissioners' questions.

34 **Timestamp: 1:35:28**

35 **Commissioner McClendon moved** to add the word "considering" after
36 "recommends" in the last sentence of the motion proposed by staff.

37 **Commissioner Hansen seconded.**

38 Commissioners discussed the motion.



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1 **Roll Call Vote: Ayes-Bartel, Deshmane, Hansen, Jackson, Lund, McClendon,**
2 **Moceri; Nays- Barton (Ayes-7; Nays-1; Abstain-0). The motion carried.**

3 **Timestamp: 1:45:39**

4 **Commissioner McClendon moved** to approve the motion recommended by staff, as
5 amended.

6 **Commissioner Lund seconded.**

7 The amended motion reads: "After holding 2 work sessions and accepting public
8 comment as part of the work sessions on the countywide review of Designated Mineral
9 Resource Lands, the Planning Commission recommends the County Council request
10 Planning and Development Services to continue processing PLN2017-00004, limiting
11 the scope of review to the Surface Mining Advisory Committee recommendation within
12 1/2 mile of existing Designated MRLs. Further, the Planning Commission recommends
13 considering allowing for landowners to opt out of MRL Designation process proposed
14 through PLN2017-00004."

15 **Roll Call Vote: Ayes-Bartel, Barton, Deshmane, Hansen, Jackson, Lund,**
16 **McClendon, Moceri; (Ayes-8; Nays-0; Abstain-0). The motion carried.**

17 **Adjournment**

18 The meeting was adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

19 Minutes prepared by Tammy Axlund.

20 WHATCOM COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION ATTEST:

21 
22 _____
Kelvin Barton, Chair



Tammy Axlund, Secretary