

**CITY OF EAST WENATCHEE, WASHINGTON
SPECIAL SESSION OF THE CITY COUNCIL CONVENE
MAYOR PRO TEMPORE CHUCK JOHNSON, PRESIDING
MARCH 31, 2009
6:30 P.M.**

ROLL CALL

Councilmember’s Present: Councilmember Buckner, Councilmember Raab, Councilmember Bremmer, Councilmember McCourt, Councilmember Hendricks, and Mayor Pro Tempore Johnson.

Council Action: A motion was made by Councilmember Bremmer, second by Councilmember Raab, to excuse Councilmember Barnhart from this meeting. The motion carried, 6-0.

Staff Present: Dana Barnard, Lori Barnett and Nick Gerde.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ACTION ITEMS

09-03-13 Review of recommended changes to the Regional Shoreline Master Program based on results of the Department of Ecology Review.

Community Development Director, Lori Barnett, provided a complete copy of the Department of Ecology (DOE) comments, letters and attachments regarding the review to the Regional Shoreline Master Program to City Councilmembers. She presented Council with a draft letter of response prepared by her in response to some of the conditions recommended by the DOE. She said once the DOE receives our answer to those recommendations the DOE has the authority to adopt what they believe it should say, regardless of the recommendations by the City or the County.

Ms. Barnett reviewed each section of the document in her letter of response to the DOE. She said in Section IB.050(B) the DOE is asking us to increase our buffers and to also change the way we are doing the buffers. She explained that the DOE has three different types of doing buffers: Alternative 1 is a width based standard buffer based upon the category of wetland; Alternative 2 is a width based on the wetland category and the intensity of impacts from the proposed land use; and Alternative 3 is width based upon the wetland category, the intensity of the proposed land use, and the value or function of the wetland. The proposed text change is not consistent with any of those three alternatives since it mixes “low” and “moderate” intensity development into one category.

Ms. Barnett said the Committee selected buffer Alternative 1. Therefore that would be her recommendation. She noted that the buffer widths for other jurisdictions do not appear to be a concern to DOE even though they are similar to East Wenatchee’s buffer widths. Ms. Barnett said the DOE recommended increasing the buffer widths as follows:

| DOE Recommendation | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Wetland Type | Low - Moderate Intensity Development | High Intensity Development |
| Wetland Type 1 | 150 Feet | 250 Feet |
| Wetland Type 2 | 100 Feet | 200 Feet |
| Wetland Type 3 | 75 Feet | 150 Feet |
| Wetland Type 4 | 50 Feet | 50 Feet |

Committee Recommendation

| | |
|------------------|----------|
| Wetland Type I | 150 feet |
| Wetland Type II | 100 Feet |
| Wetland Type III | 75 Feet |
| Wetland Type IV | 50 Feet |

She said the recommendation of the committee was a slight decrease in what the previous buffer widths were for the City. She said the buffer widths actually went down about 50 feet for Type I wetlands as it was previously at 200 feet.

She asked Council if they would like her to propose alternative buffer widths lower than the DOE recommendation. She asked for direction with regards to the buffer widths.

Mayor Pro Tempore Johnson said he would not be voting this evening unless there was a tie or unless his vote makes a difference.

Council Action: A motion was made by Councilmember Hendricks, second by Councilmember Bremmer, to approve the original committee recommendation.

Ms. Barnett explained that the buffer widths that the Committee adopted for use in the shoreline are inconsistent with the guideline that DOE considers to be the Best Available Science. The Wetlands in Washington State Manual by the DOE recommends 250, 200, 150, and 50 when using Alternative 1. Alternative 1 would be supported by the Best Available Science, which is a width based standard buffer based upon the category of wetland if the buffer widths were expanded. She explained that the buffer widths for wetlands in this document only apply to “shoreline areas”. She added this would allow the opportunity to average the buffer widths, reduce the buffer widths and to increase the buffer width if it is determined that the existing buffer would not protect the shoreline.

The motion failed, 0-5. (Johnson abstained)

Council Action: A motion was made by Councilmember Bremmer, second by Councilmember Raab, to adopt buffer Alternative 1 of the Wetlands Washington State Manual. The motion carried, 5-0. (Johnson abstained)

Ms. Barnett reviewed the remainder of the letter of response on the remaining sections of the documents. She stated that on some of these items she would like to work with Douglas County on a response to be consistent between the regional approach to the Shoreline Master Program. Council agreed with the remaining recommendations made in the letter of response to the DOE.

Council Action: A motion was made by Councilmember Buckner, second by Councilmember McCourt, to approve the letter of response to the Department of Ecology’s recommended changes as discussed with regards to the Regional Shoreline Master Program. The motion carried, 5-0. (Johnson abstained)

ADJOURNMENT – 7:20 p.m.

Dana Barnard
City Clerk