

OCTOBER 2006
OKANOGAN REGIONAL SHORELINE
MASTER PROGRAM
NEWSLETTER

Okanogan County is leading development of a regional Shoreline Master Program (SMP) for shorelines both within and outside cities and towns. The County, cities and towns all have Shoreline Master Programs in place. The regional SMP will update the existing ones. It will address shorelines in the context of the watershed as a whole as well as the unique needs and interests of each community.

Where are we in the process?

Stakeholder Advisory Group: Okanogan County held a Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG) formation meeting on August 23rd. County staff and consultants proposed forming four caucuses to represent the interests of stakeholders in the county: agriculture and natural resources; business; conservation and the environment; and recreation. The stakeholders decided that they would prefer to organize the caucuses differently, since the interests of agriculture and natural resources are different from each other, and there is a great deal of overlap between business and recreation. There were also a number of property owners who did not think that any of the proposed caucuses adequately addressed their interests.

Stakeholders agreed on the following five caucuses:

- Agriculture
- Conservation and the environment
- Natural resources
- Business and recreation
- Homeowners/property owners

Leaders of the proposed new caucuses must present requests to County staff for approval by the Board of Okanogan County Commissioners.

The first regular SAG meeting was on September 27th; the focus was on getting the SAG up and running. Discussion centered on the organizational needs of the caucuses, informational material for SAG members, ground rules and the conduct of meetings, and material to be covered during the next few meetings. Those meetings will be primarily educational, to ensure that all SAG members are well grounded in the requirements of the Shoreline Management Act, opportunities to tailor the regional SMP to serve local interests, and related planning efforts that are underway in the county.



Inventory and analysis: Okanogan County GIS staff are working on a shoreline inventory and analysis. Formation of a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) is underway. Okanogan County plans to retain a science consultant to assist in developing a shoreline characterization and SMP provisions based on the findings of the inventory and analysis. The consultant will work with the TAG to ensure that the SMP reflects the Best Available Science.

How can I participate?

All stakeholders are welcome to attend SAG meetings. Public comment may be permitted at the beginning or end of each meeting, at the chair's discretion. The SAG is scheduled to meet about 15 times during the 2-year SMP development process. Generally, meetings will be held on the 4th Wednesday of the month; however, it's important to know that:

- The SAG will not meet every month
- Meetings may be re-scheduled if they conflict with holidays

The schedule for the rest of 2006 is as follows:

Wednesday, October 25th (fourth Wednesday of October) • 6:00-8:00 PM
Okanogan County Commissioners' Hearing Room, 123 North 5th Avenue, Okanogan

Wednesday, November 29th (fifth Wednesday of November) • 6:00-8:00 PM
Okanogan County Commissioners' Hearing Room, 123 North 5th Avenue, Okanogan

No meeting in December

Stakeholders may also participate in caucuses. For more information about the caucuses, please contact Char Beam at 509/422-7113 or cbeam@co.okanogan.wa.us.

Three public comment periods are planned in 2007 and 2008.

For more information about Shoreline Management planning in Okanogan County

- Visit the Okanogan County Office of Planning and Development's web site at <http://okanogancounty.org/planning/index.html>. At the left hand side of the screen, click "Current Projects"; on the screen that comes up, headed "Current Major Projects", click "Regional Shoreline Master Program Update"
- Visit the Department of Ecology's Shoreline Management web site at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/SMA/index.html>.
- Call Nick Christoph at 422-7370 or Char Beam at 509/422-7113



Okanogan County will publish this newsletter from Fall, 2006 until Spring, 2008. To add your name to or remove your name from the mailing list, please contact Okanogan County Natural Resources: by phone at 509/422-7113; or by email at cbeam@co.okanogan.wa.us.

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