

Kellie Conn

JUN 17 2014

From: Perry Huston
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 4:43 PM
To: * County Commissioners; Lalena Johns; Tanya Craig
Cc: Kellie Conn; Anna Randall
Subject: FW: written comments needed by June 16 on Probable impacts of Comp Plan and Zoning Revisions

OKANOGAN COUNTY
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

-----Original Message-----

From: james donaldson [<mailto:jamesd@glorietaschool.org>]
Sent: Sunday, June 15, 2014 6:28 PM
To: Perry Huston
Subject: written comments needed by June 16 on Probable impacts of Comp Plan and Zoning Revisions

Perry Huston, Planning Director
123 5th Ave. North, Suite 130
Okanogan, WA 98840

Dear Perry,

I wish to enter comments on The Okanogan County Comprehensive Plan, Interim Zoning, and Determination of Non Significance.

The implementation of this Comprehensive Plan will have a probable and significant adverse impact upon the environment.

I believe the Comprehensive Plan should clearly specify what measures will be taken to ensure adequate water supply for the density it envisions. I strongly believe the overallocation of water in the Methow Valley and other drainages in the County is a pressing issue and must be addressed in the Comprehensive Plan. Many of us know from past experience that overallocation of water in the Methow Valley and other drainages in the County is a pressing issue and must be addressed in the Comprehensive Plan.

The plan should enumerate specific protections for groundwater resources. Uses incompatible with groundwater protection should be eliminated from the District use chart. I believe that the Plan now fails to meet its state-mandated obligation to "protect the quality and quantity of groundwater used for public water supplies.

It is a step in the right direction that the county has kept the existing zoning for the Upper and Middle Methow Valley intact for now.

The Methow CPA's should be included as part of this Comprehensive Plan and should be legally defensible, up to date, and consistent with the vision of the Methow Review District zoning . The fate of the Methow's "More Completely Planned Areas (CPA's) remains uncertain.

The Plan should provide a concrete schedule for creation of a "More Completely Planned Area (CPA) for the lower Methow Valley (south of Gold Creek). The lower Methow Valley is in need of careful and sensitive land use and water resource planning in order to avoid future hardship, should subdivision continue as recommended in these plans. For example, this is the Methow's most productive agricultural land and yet I can't tell by the Plan's language if "agriculture"

is an allowable' designation. Our soul defense of this precious river valley should include, I think, "Rural" designation. It will keep our valley as a whole river valley, one that supports fish, wildlife habitat and holds to rural community values with regard to water issues.

Contradictory elements of the Comprehensive Plan, Zoning ordinance and supporting documents need reconciliation, and definitions provided before adoptions of these plans. Is it possible that the current draft of the Comp Plan and Zoning cannot be analyzed nor implemented as written, due to ambiguities, contradictions, and inaccuracies that require clarification. Once again I wonder if agriculture is really going to be abolished in the Rural 1 (one acre) Zone, which includes most of the Lower Methow Valley.

The past, present and future role of individual citizens, advisory groups and communities in shaping the Comprehensive Plan should be recognized and respected by County officials. It has been my experience that the 7 year history of this Comprehensive Plan Update reveals increasing limitations on citizen involvement in each successive draft. Don't you think that involvement of citizens, towns and cities in land use decisions in our county are valuable for effective planning?

Thank you for your consideration of these comments and including citizens in the public process.

Sincerely yours,

James W. Donaldson
P. O. Box 1249
Twisp, WA 98856