

Wahkiakum County Shoreline Master Program

Periodic Review Public Participation Plan

Introduction

Wahkiakum County is undertaking a periodic review of its Shoreline Master Program (SMP), as required by the Washington State Shoreline Management Act (SMA), RCW 90.58.080(4). The SMA requires each SMP be reviewed and revised, if needed, on an eight-year schedule established by the Legislature. The review ensures the SMP stays current with changes in laws and rules, remains consistent with other Wahkiakum County plans and regulations, and is responsive to changed circumstances, new information and improved data. While the SMP Comprehensive Update is not yet fully state-approved, the County will conduct this periodic review on the 2021 final draft SMP locally approved by Resolution No. 55-22 (April 2022).

A Public Participation Plan is required to describe how Wahkiakum County will encourage early and continuous public participation throughout the process of reviewing the SMP.

This Public Participation Plan describes the steps that Wahkiakum County will take to provide opportunities for public engagement and public comment, as well as Wahkiakum County contact information and web addresses. This plan is in addition to any other minimum requirements for public participation required by Wahkiakum County. This plan is a working document and will be adjusted as needed to provide for the greatest and broadest public participation.

1.0 Public Participation Goals

- Provide interested parties with timely information, an understanding of the process, and multiple opportunities to review and comment on proposed amendments to the SMP.
- Actively solicit information from citizens, property owners and stakeholders about their concerns, questions, and priorities for the Periodic Review process.
- Encourage interested parties to informally review and comment on proposed changes to the SMP throughout the process and provide those comments to decision makers.
- Provide forums for formal public input at project milestones prior to decision-making by local officials.
- Consult and consider recommendations from neighboring jurisdictions, federal and state agencies, and Native American tribes.

2.0 Public Participation Opportunities

Wahkiakum County is committed to providing multiple opportunities for public participation throughout the process. Wahkiakum County will use a variety of communication tools to inform the public and encourage their participation, including the following:

2.1 Website

Wahkiakum County's website will include a Periodic Review webpage where interested parties can access status updates, draft documents, official notices, minutes, and other project information. The webpage will be the primary repository of all information related to the Periodic Review process. The page will include who to contact for more information and an email link for questions and comments.

2.2 Survey

A community survey will be conducted to solicit specific feedback from interested parties and results will be posted on the Periodic Review webpage.

2.3 Open House

Wahkiakum County will initiate the Periodic Review with a community open house. Public comments received during the Open House will be posted on the Periodic Review webpage.

2.4 Notice Mailing List

An email list of stakeholders and other interested parties will be created, advertised, and maintained by Wahkiakum County. The list will be used to notify interested parties regarding Periodic Review progress and participation opportunities. Interested parties may request to be added to the list by contacting the Planning Department.

2.5 Comment

Interested parties will be encouraged to provide comments to Wahkiakum County by letter or email. All comments will be forwarded to the Wahkiakum County Commissioners and Planning Commission. The Periodic Review webpage will be the central repository for information under consideration. Documents will be available for review at the Wahkiakum County Planning Department, and copies will be provided at the established copying cost.

2.6 Planning Commission

The Planning Commission will be the primary forum for detailed review and recommendations to the Wahkiakum County Board of Commissioners. Interested parties are encouraged to attend and provide comments during the Planning Commission meetings and/or Wahkiakum County Board of Commissioners.

Wahkiakum County Shoreline Master Program Periodic Review workshops and public hearing official notices will be published as established in the Wahkiakum County Eagle and county website.

2.7 News Media

The local news media will be kept up to date on the Periodic Review process and receive copies of all official notices.

3.0 List of Stakeholders

- Chinook Indian Nation
- Columbia Land Trust
- Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce (CREST)

- Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation
- Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation
- Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde
- Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
- Cowlitz Indian Tribe
- Diking District 1 of Wahkiakum County
- Diking District 4 of Wahkiakum County
- Diking District 5 of Wahkiakum County
- EPA, Region 10
- FEMA, Region 10
- Governor's Office of Indian Affairs (GOIA)
- Grays River Habitat Enhancement District
- Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board (LCFRB)
- National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe
- US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
- WA Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation (DAHP)
- WA Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW)
- WA Department of Natural Resources (WDNR)
- WA Department of Transportation (WSDOT)
- Wahkiakum County Building & Planning
- Wahkiakum County Public Works Department
- Wahkiakum Eagle (Wahkiakum County official paper of record)
- Wahkiakum Flood Control Advisory Committee
- Wahkiakum Historical Society
- Wahkiakum Noxious Weed District #4
- Wahkiakum Port District #1
- Wahkiakum Port District #2
- Wahkiakum Public Utility District #1
- Wahkiakum Real Property Advisory Board

4.0 Public Participation Timeline

The following is a general timeline including anticipated public participation opportunities. Wahkiakum County will coordinate with the Department of Ecology throughout the process. A detailed timeline will be posted on the Periodic Review webpage.

2022

SEPT

- Project Website online
- Project outreach to Email List - kickoff and pending open house
- Planning Commission Open House – Public Participation Plan; Community Survey

OCT

- Project outreach to Email List – close of Survey and pending scoping meeting
- Planning Commission Project Scoping – Survey Results; Initial Draft Periodic Review Checklist
- Prepare Initial Draft SMP Amendments (if needed)

DEC

- Grant Task 4 deliverables due - Ecology review & feedback

2023

JAN

- Project outreach to Email List – status and pending PC workshop
- Planning Commission Workshop – Release & Deliberate Final Draft Periodic Review Checklist; Final Draft SMP Amendments (if needed); Recommendation to Board of County Commissioners

FEB

- Project outreach to Email List – status and pending BoCC workshop
- Board of County Commissioners Workshop – Status briefing; Receive PC Recommendation; Call for Hearing
- Project outreach to Email List – public comment period and pending public hearing

MAR

- Board of County Commissioners Public Hearing - Comments; Deliberations; Local Approval by Resolution for Ecology Submittal of Periodic Review

5.0 Public Comment Periods and Hearings

The Planning Commission will conduct a public comment period and at least one public hearing to solicit input on the Periodic Review. The Wahkiakum County Board of Commissioners will hold one public hearing before final adoption.

Wahkiakum County will coordinate with the Department of Ecology on this periodic review process and conduct a separate local review under Ecology's standard process (WAC 173-26-100). After the County's submittal, Ecology will conduct a separate state review process to consider the County's proposal. Public notice of all hearings will state who is holding the comment period and/or hearing, the date and time, and the location of any public hearing. Notices will be published per official policy and comply with all other legal requirements such as the Americans with Disabilities Act. A notice will be sent to the email list (2.4, above) and the Department of Ecology.