

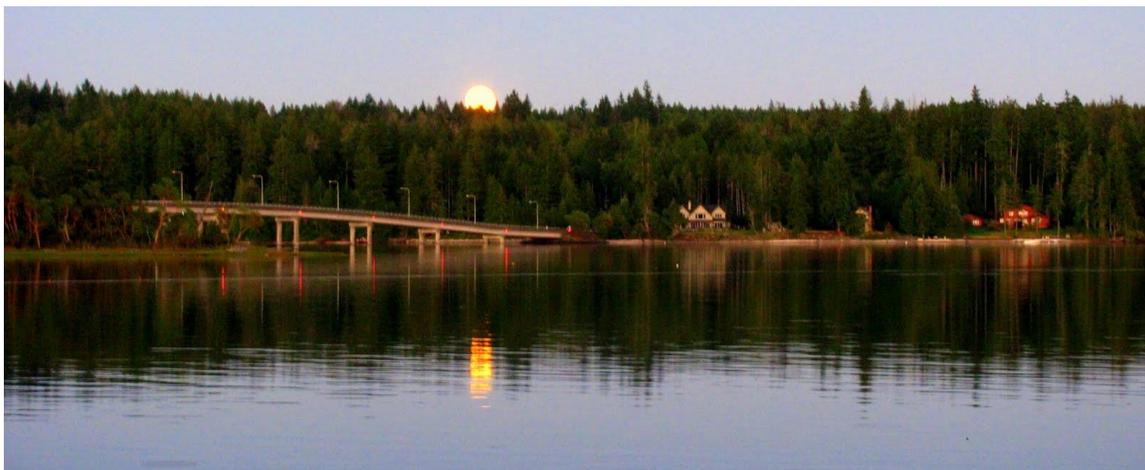
SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM PERIODIC REVIEW

Public Participation Plan



October 2020

Mason County
615 W. Alder St.
Shelton, WA 98584



Introduction

Mason County is conducting a periodic review of its Shoreline Master Program (SMP), consistent with the state Shoreline Management Act (SMA; RCW 90.58) and Ecology’s Periodic Review Rule set forth in WAC 173-26-90. Mason County last updated its SMP in 2017. The SMP is both a planning document that sets policy, and development regulations for the County’s shoreline areas, which include adjacent upland areas within 200 feet of designated shorelines. The primary policy objectives of the SMA are to: encourage water-dependent and water-oriented uses; protect the shoreline ecology and natural resources; and promote public access. Since public use and enjoyment of the shorelines is a principal policy of the SMA, it is imperative that the public has opportunities to participate in the process. This Public Participation Plan identifies goals and strategies to ensure such participation occurs.

Goals of the Public Participation Plan

The SMA and SMP guidelines (RCW 90.58.130 and WAC 173-26-090) require that local governments inform the people of the state about the planning process and invite and encourage participation by all who have any interest or responsibility related to shorelines. The goal of the Public Participation Plan is to provide a guide to proactively encourage public participation throughout the SMP periodic review process. Mason County is committed to encouraging coordinated and effective public involvement.

Overview of the County and Shorelines

Mason County is situated along the southwestern portion of Puget Sound and encompasses roughly 968 square miles. It borders on Jefferson County to the north, Grays Harbor County to the west and southwest, Pierce County to the east, Kitsap County to the northeast and Thurston County to the southeast. Mason County remains predominantly rural with the City of Shelton as the only incorporated area in the County taking up less than one percent of the County’s total land area. Two native American tribes, the Skokomish Indian Tribe and the Squaxin Island Tribe, have reservations within the boundaries of Mason County.

Mason County includes 217 miles of marine shoreline, 330 miles of river (greater than 20 cfs) shoreline, and 150 miles of lakeshore (greater than 20 acres). As required by 90.58 RCW, the Mason County Shoreline Master Program regulates the use and development of these waters as well as the associated “shorelands”, which are lands within two hundred (200) feet of the Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM) and associated wetlands.

Roles and Responsibilities

Mason County is responsible for all aspects of the SMP periodic review. The County will be the primary regulator, with Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) acting in a support and review capacity. Ecology must approve new or amended shoreline master programs. Following local adoption of the County’s amended SMP, Ecology will conduct its own public review as part of its formal approval process.

The primary contacts for Mason County’s SMP update are:

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Key Parties

Local governments must consult with interested parties throughout the process of amending a SMP. To date, Mason County has identified the following interested parties, technical resources, or other stakeholders that may participate in the SMP periodic review process:

Members of the Public

- Residents County-wide
- Property/business owners in the shoreline jurisdiction
- Other citizens of the state

County Officials

- Mason County Board of County Commissioners
- Mason County Planning Commission

Business Community

- Chamber of Commerce
- Economic Development Council
- Master Builders

Tribes

- Skokomish Tribe
- Squaxin Island Tribe
- Confederated Tribe of the Chehalis

Environmental Stakeholders

- Audubon Society
- Hood Canal Coordinating Council

Other Local Government

- City of Shelton
- Ports of Allyn, Dewatto, Grapeview, Hoodspport & Shelton

County Departments

- Public Works
- Parks and Recreation
- Historic Preservation staff

State Government

- Dept. of Ecology
- Dept. of Natural Resources, Aquatic Lands
- Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
- Dept. of Commerce
- Dept. of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
- Dept. of Transportation

HOAs

- Lake Limerick
- Lakeland Village
- Lake Cushman Maintenance Company
- Trails End
- Harstene Pointe Maintenance Assoc.
- Timberlakes

Notification to these stakeholders may be accomplished via email or other means as the shoreline management planning process proceeds.

Public Participation Strategy

Public Outreach Program

In addition to the stakeholder committee forum, the County will also set up a public outreach program to ensure that the broader population is also informed and has opportunity to participate. Some key elements of this program include:

- Website: Adding a page to the County's current website where community members can access draft documents and maps, view the schedule, check for meeting notices, obtain contact information and submit comments. This will create one central location where the latest information can be obtained.

- **Public meetings:** Providing opportunity through the local review and adoption process with the Planning Commission and Board of County Commissioners.
- **Public hearing:** Public hearings for the draft proposal before the Planning Commission and Board of County Commissioners will provide the community with the forum to include their comments into the public record.
- **Email list:** Maintaining a list of interested parties would provide the County with another avenue to keep the public informed throughout the update process. Notices of comment periods and public hearings will be sent to parties on the email list.
- **Comments:** Establishing multiple means for submitting comments will allow for interested people to choose their preferred way to provide input. Methods can include on-line comment forms, public hearing testimony, and a direct email address for comments. The County will consider all comments received and will respond in aggregate or individually.
- **Public notices:** Notice of the public hearings will be placed on the County’s website, posted at County Building #1, the Shelton and Belfair libraries, and published in one local newspaper (The Shelton-Mason Journal).

Updates to Board of County Commissioners and Planning Commission

It is important to keep interested parties at all levels adequately informed from the beginning of the process. Through periodic meetings with the Planning Commission and Board of County Commissioners, concerns can be addressed as they surface. These meetings also provide another opportunity for other interested parties to obtain information on the process.

Target Schedule

Mason County’s Public Participation Schedule	
October 2020 - April 2021	Planning Commission public meetings
April 2021	Planning Commission public hearing
April 2021	Planning Commission meeting – recommendation
April - May 2021	GMA 60-day review to Commerce and Ecology
April 2021	Local SEPA review and approval
May 2021	Board of County Commissioners Action Agenda
June 2021	Board of County Commissioners Public Hearing
July 2021	SMP Submittal to Ecology