

WASCO COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

February 3, 2015

Hearing begins at 3:00 p.m.
Columbia Gorge Discovery Center
Lower Level Classroom
5000 Discovery Drive
The Dalles, OR 97058

WORK SESSION MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

I. ROLL CALL

WASCO COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Russell Hargrave
Vicki Ashley
Taner Elliott
Mike Davis
Brad DeHart
Kenneth McBain
Andrew Myers

WASCO COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

Jeff Handley

WASCO COUNTY PLANNING OFFICE STAFF PRESENT

Angie Brewer, Interim Planning Director
Brenda Jenkins, Planning Coordinator

II. PUBLIC COMMENT: Maximum 15 minutes, *limited to items not being heard or discussed elsewhere on the agenda.*

No public comment was received.

III. PLANNING COMMISSION WORKSESSION:

Interim Planning Director Angie Brewer gave a brief history on why the Commission is meeting to discuss the needs goals and process options for updating the Wasco County Comprehensive Plan. She stated that following the last Planning Commission hearing Commissioner Davis made a presentation to the Wasco County Board of Commissioners (BOC). Director Brewer then outlined in what direction the BOC would like the Commission to go. The BOC issued consent for the Planning Commission to brainstorm on what the process might be in updating the Comprehensive Plan. Commissioner Davis explained that he had asked the BOC to allow the Planning Commission to work on the Wasco County Strategic Plan, he was asked by the BOC to not undertake the Strategic Plan, but to focus on Planning, specifically the Comprehensive Plan and the Wasco County Land Use Ordinance. He explained that the Planning Commission is tasked with developing the process for making updates. There is no authorization to do the updates as yet; simply to determine what the process might be, including timelines, budget, staff requirements. He stated that he envisions a two page outcome to show the process.

The Commission then discussed Department of Land Conservation & Development (DLCD) requirements and Public Participation. It was suggested that the Planning Commission could be the Citizen Involvement Group. It was also suggested that the South Wasco Alliance could also fill in as the Citizen Involvement Group. Some concern was expressed about utilizing an existing group rather than opening it up for the public involvement. Options were discussed on whether to use planning staff or consultants for the updates.

The Commission identified process phases based on the DLCD summary flowchart submitted by Director Brewer. Those phases are:

- 1 definition of needs
- 2 citizen involvement strategy
- 3 plan evaluation process
- 4 definition of work program including work tasks

The Commission then discussed a preliminary approach and an estimated effort and time required for Phases 1 and 2.

Phase 1: Define Needs

- Identify the need to update and the benefits of an update
- Initial, in-house staff assessment of issues
 - Comprehensive list of all Goals – what's broken?
 - Identify how we compare statewide
 - Assign value and prioritize issues
 - +/- deep dive on short list
- Meet with elected County Commissioners (one-on-one) to discuss goals and needs
- Reach out in all directions to find synergy/overlap other groups (leverage opportunities)
- Write a compelling document to DLCD
- Apply for grant* (Angie will find out if we can apply at this point)

Effort/Resources/Time Needed for Phase 1:

- 1/3 fte Planning staff time (for approximately 3-4 months)
- Some time for coordination with County Commissioners
- 1/2 fte from Planning Commissioners
- DLCD Staff time

Phase 2: Define Citizen Involvement Strategy (after DLCD/LCDC approval)

- PC is citizen involvement forum
 - No need for additional Community Advisory Team
- Initial outreach (county wide)
 - PC meeting travels to improve outreach
- Focused citizen outreach phase
- Includes topic specific meetings
- Forum for feedback on staff recommendations

Effort/Resources/Time (first 6 months) Needed for Phase 2:

- 1/3 fte Planning staff (3 months)
- 1/2 fte Planning Commissioner
- Minimal BOC time for ongoing coordination

The Planning Commission then directed staff to get an example of a plan for a work plan, and to collect examples of other efforts that we coupled possibly line up with to share efforts. Director Brewer noted that she would be meeting with the regional DLCD rep. soon and would request examples to share.

The Planning Commission's next work session was set for 3:00pm, March 3, 2015.

Commissioner Davis stated he would draft out the remaining steps prior to the next work session for the Commission to have a starting point.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS:

2015 Training Needs Identified by Planning Commissioners:

- National Scenic Area Training
- Aggregate Training
- American Planning Association memberships and trainings

The Commission directed staff to register the Commissioners and Alternative Commissioners as members of the American Planning Association (APA). Director Brewer suggested they begin viewing the APA website and online tools now, as many are available without membership.

V. PLANNING DIRECTOR COMMENTS:

Director Brewer noted that the Commission would likely be hearing a case this spring that has to do with Oregon Revised Statute 215.130 (5) & (11) and that they should let her know if they would like to discuss the ORS before the hearing.

Work session adjourned at 5:31 pm.

Russell Hargrave, Chair
Wasco County Planning Commission

Angie Brewer, Interim Planning Director
Wasco County Planning & Development