

Gig Harbor – February 15, 2006 Meeting Minute Notes

8 people in attendance

Pierce County Councilman Terry Lee

- Gave input on the 1000 acres. Reports owner would like to build upscale community of 190 homes on 2-4 acre lots. Owner would like to do something nice for community but also wants to maximize profit. Price sought is \$65 million. Would be best if group came up with vision ahead of time and put vision into plan. Mr. Lee suggested that group coordinate with Metro Parks on a plan.
- In 2005, County bonded \$12 million for park purchases. There was a lot of public interest, up from previous years. Devil's Head and Scofield (\$1.6 million will be transferred to city) properties were purchased.
- Critical Areas Ordinance update, county enlarged wetland buffers and protected shorelines after appeal by environmental groups.
- Transportation issues discussed. Road through Crescent Valley, on county's 20 year plan. Mr. Lee believes this is better left alone.
- Reported that \$20 million is available from surface water funds (Capital Improvement Program). Requested that group identify high priority habitats and ask County to acquire the properties in the fall. Provide a list to him.
- Suggested that group bring Gig Harbor City Council into loop before any future Comprehensive Plan amendments come before them and Pierce County. Express to them how important this area is to biodiversity.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Michelle Tirhi's update:

- Significance of 1000 acre property to the connectivity of wildlife habitats.
- Strategies for shoreline conversions were discussed. Create educational materials for neighbors (existing and future), a homeowners guide for good stewardship. It was suggested that local realtors be involved and help distribute information. Perhaps use "I am Crescent Creek" as means to distribute information.

University of Washington and *NatureMapping*, Karen Dvornich's update:

- The *NatureMapping* workshop will be held 2/18 at The Nature Center and 2/25 at the Masonic Hall. A group of birders (local, University of Puget Sound professor and students, Tahoma Audubon, and WDFW (Michelle Tirhi) will conduct a winter bird survey (8-4) on lands previously ok'd for the bioblitz but never accessed. The *NatureMapping* participants will meet with them and inventory a landowner's property as a large team.
- Still collecting GIS (Geographic Information Systems) maps to show the group.
- Will print a color aerial photo of landowners properties if they are interested (all wanted a map)
- Will list all the repeating stressors for each of the ecological attributes we are working on and will print a working copy for the next meeting

Next meeting action items, finish strategies, GIS mapping and GIS coverage.

Will send reminders for the next meeting in the mail because the participants noted they needed a reminder which is why the turnout was smaller this night.