

<p><b><u>AGENDA ITEM</u></b>  <b>MEETING DATE: June 3, 2014</b>  <b>SUBJECT: Shoreline Master Program (SMP) Update Hearing</b>  <b>MEMO DATE: May 27, 2014</b>  <b>Prepared By: Susan M. Walker, Senior Planner, SMP Project Manager</b>  <b>Reviewed By: Mike Shuttleworth, Planning Manager</b></p>	<p><b><u>TYPE OF ACTION NEEDED</u></b>  <b>Execute Contract</b>  <b>Pass Resolution X</b>  <b>Pass Ordinance</b>  <b>Pass Motion X</b>  <b>Other</b></p>	<p><b>Consent Agenda</b>  <b>Public Hearing X</b>  <b>1st Discussion</b>  <b>2nd Discussion</b>  <b>Other</b></p>
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**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Benton County is required by RCW 90.58.080 (2)(a)(v) to review, update, and adopt its Shoreline Master Program (SMP) in accordance with the provisions of the Shoreline Management Act (SMA) and the SMP Guidelines (WAC 173-26), on or before December, 2013. The County duly entered into a grant contract with the Department of Ecology (ECY) to help fund the update program, which allows completion by June 2014. The County's initial SMP was adopted by the Department of Ecology on April 25, 1974 and has not been updated since that time, nor was it formally incorporated into Benton County Code. The County has now updated its SMP in accordance with state law and the guidelines revised in 2003 to reflect current knowledge and science regarding shoreline management. The County utilized its Public Participation Program (PPP) to actively engage and encourage citizen participation in decisions regarding the SMP update process.

**SUMMARY**

This update action would replace in its entirety the Benton County Shoreline Master Program adopted April 25<sup>th</sup>, 1974, by Benton County, and establish a new code section in Title 15, and amended as a sub area plan to the Benton County Comprehensive Plan with inclusions in Chapter 3 of the SMP goals and policies as adopted in the Shoreline Master Program. The Benton County Planning Commission held its hearing regarding the Benton County SMP on April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014, and after review of the SMP exhibits and public testimony received, made its motion to forward its findings (attached) and a recommendation of approval of the SMP, as amended, to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC). The BOCC held a SMP workshop on April 29<sup>th</sup>, on the various documents prepared for the SMP which will be considered at the scheduled hearing on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2014. Since the BOCC Workshop, comments were received from the initial review by the Department of Ecology. An Ecology Comment Matrix is attached that documents and addresses those comments.

**STATE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT**

The Shoreline Master Program document has been reviewed under the requirements of the State Environmental Policy Act, and a Determination of Non-Significance (DNS) was issued on March 21, 2014.

**STAFF REVIEW AND ANALYSIS**

The County has updated its SMP in accordance with state law and the guidelines revised in 2003, to reflect current knowledge and science regarding shoreline management. The County utilized its Public Participation Program (PPP) to actively engage and encourage

participation by the community in decisions regarding the SMP update process as required. Planning Staff believes the SMP created for the Update meets the requirements of the Shoreline Management Act and upon its adoption will establish a new section in Benton County Code Title 15, and become a sub area plan to the Benton County Comprehensive Plan, with the goals and policies as adopted in the Shoreline Master Program, included in Chapter 3.

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is the recommendation of the Benton County Planning Commission and Planning Staff, that the Board of County Commissioners approves and adopt the proposed Benton County Shoreline Master Program Update.

**MOTION**

After consideration of the testimony received at the public hearing held June 3, 2014, the Board shall make a motion to adopt, modify, or deny the proposed SMP and either adopt the Planning Commission's Recommendation and Findings of Fact or develop their own findings of fact with reference to this matter and direct Planning staff to prepare a Resolution that reflects the Board's decision and findings for the Boards signature.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

No fiscal impact is determined at this time, this is a non-project proposal.