

Leo Bowman
District 1
Shon Small
District 2
James Beaver
District 3

Board of County Commissioners BENTON COUNTY

David Sparks
County Administrator

Loretta Smith Kelty
Deputy County Administrator



Date: July 31, 2012

Subject: Invitation to Apply for the Shoreline Advisory Committee

Benton County is seeking letters of interest from individuals to serve on a shoreline advisory committee (SAC) to guide development of the Benton County Shoreline Master Program (SMP) Update. Benton County is updating its SMP to comply with the Washington State Shoreline Management Act (Act) and current state SMP guidelines. The County's initial SMP was adopted by the Department of Ecology on April 25, 1974, and has not been updated since that time.

The three primary areas of focus of the SMP update are to: 1) accommodate reasonable and protective uses of the shoreline with an emphasis on water-dependent and related uses; 2) protect shoreline environmental resources; and 3) promote public access and provide opportunities to enjoy views and recreational activities in shoreline areas (RCW 90.58.020). The geographic scope and jurisdiction of the County's SMP update includes approximately 411 miles (calculated single banks) of shorelines, principally along the Columbia and Yakima Rivers. More information about the County's SMP Update process is available on the County's website at <http://www.co.benton.wa.us/>.

To form the SAC, the County is seeking persons with a range of backgrounds, interests, and perspectives of groups affected or impacted by shoreline issues such as: agricultural, environmental, recreational, citizens/property owners, and agencies including tribes, and local, state and federal governments. Interested applicants should:

- Represent a group or organization affected or impacted by shoreline management issues.
- Commit to providing two-way communication with other SAC members, the public, and the Planning Commission and Board of County Commissioners.
- Have an interest and commitment to working collaboratively, especially in regards to land use or other property issues.
- Be able to meet on a monthly basis for 18-24 months. The first SAC meeting will likely be held in fall 2012 and continue from that point.

Citizens interested in serving on the SAC are encouraged to apply by submitting a letter of interest describing their background, interests, and reasons for wanting to serve on the committee.

Letters of interest should be received by September 4, 2012, by the end of the business day and submitted to Susan M. Walker, SMP Project Manager, Benton County Planning, P O Box 910, Prosser, WA. 99350.

The County expects to seat around 12-18 individuals on the SAC. The Board of County Commissioners may provide input on or provide concurrence on the SAC selection. A schedule of SAC meetings times (approximately 16 meetings and 10 special public workshops) and locations have not been finalized. However, it is anticipated that the meetings will be approximately 2-3 hours long and held in Prosser.

Questions about the SMP Update, SAC, or application process should be directed to:

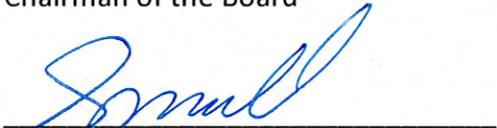
Benton County Planning Department
Susan M. Walker, SMP Project Manager
susan.walker@co.benton.wa.us
Phone (509) 786-5612
Fax: (509) 786-5629

Thank you for your interest in the Benton County SMP Update.

Sincerely,



Chairman of the Board



Member



Member

Orig. File- S. Walker