

ShoreScore Update

July 2013¹



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Shoreline Management Program

Bellevue City Council will start discussion of the SMP Monday July 15th at a special study session (City Hall, 6PM Room 1E-113). Beyond the specific requirements within the proposed program, which was approved 7-0 by the Planning Commission in January; the Council must decide what to do next. Do they send it directly to the Dept. of Ecology for review or are other actions necessary?



WSSA has advised the Council that there are key items missing at present; the most critical being an analysis of the impacts of the draft regulations. The Cumulative Impacts Analysis (CIA) is supposed to address the question of whether, over time, the regulations will result in improved shoreline “ecologic functions.” WSSA has also noted the need to define: (A) the transition from current rules (under the Critical Areas Code adopted in 2007) to the new SMP requirements and, (B) how staff should be administering floodplain regulations. Without such clarifications your attempt to gain permits for improvements or maintenance activities will be unclear and complex.

WSSA asks your support at the July 15 meeting. While there will be limited opportunities to provide input, we continue to need property owner presence. As we’ve said - **No People?** Then, there are **No Problems!**

We believe independent professional input will be needed to review the CIA. We question how the City decision makers can send a set of draft regulations forward without such information in hand.

Willowmoor Project Update

On June 27th, more than 60 area residents attended the kick-off meeting for this King County – Redmond collaborative project. Nearly 75% of those attending were residents of Lake Sammamish shorelines.

Prior to the meeting, WSSA sponsored an orientation visit for 18 attendees to walk along the Transition Zone (TZ) in Marymoor Park to the weir. Board member Marty Nizlek described the features and

¹ Prior issues of ShoreScore Updates are available online at [WSSA’s homepage](#).

functions of the weir and TZ, pointing out current issues, such as sediment build up and the effects on the lake in wet months. (Thank you everyone who came out to this and the meeting itself!)

At the meeting County staff provided a history of changes to the river from Lake Sammamish to Lake WA, reasons why the project is seen as necessary, and how it will be organized and funded. Questions were taken from the audience and further detail was provided.

WSSA followed-up the meeting with an online survey. Two-thirds of West Lake Sammamish shoreline participants have responded to date and ranked the 4 stated goals of the project in the following order of importance (Most Important to Least Important) –

Lake water level control

Improved water quality

Improved maintenance & cost reduction

Habitat enhancement

Specific concerns mentioned by survey respondents included the following:

- The overriding factors should be safety and protection of property
- Impacts of the dog off leash area on the river need to be considered
- A comprehensive analysis of the lake's and Bear Creek's drainage basins is needed
- Each city with jurisdiction on the lake must beef up control of their drainage and storm sewers
- These cities should share in the cost of Willowmoor and other identified projects



The County meeting ended with staff describing an advisory committee which will work with them to identify alternatives, help evaluate them and make a recommendation for improvements. WSSA has been invited to provide one member, as has been the Sammamish shoreline resident homeowners' association (SHO). We've also been told that Dr. Gil Pauley, retired UW Fisheries professor, will be a member. Other organizations which will be seated may include SODA (Save Our Dog Area), the Audubon Society, Sammamish Rowing Club, area bird watchers, and Redmond City residents and businesses.

The study, which may take 2 years or more, will cost \$450,000. Given the lengthy nature of the effort, WSSA has urged the County to continue efforts to remove the sediment and debris in the channels of the Transition Zone.

Why We Need Your Support

In addition to continuing need for legal advice, WSSA has retained the services of a professional water resource engineer. He will provide technical review of the County's evaluation of Lake Sammamish's hydrology (i.e., where the water comes from and when) and the County's hydraulic analysis of the Transition Zone (i.e., anticipated water flows and lake levels). Without your support, we cannot maintain this effort. Please consider a contribution of \$50, \$100, or more by sending a check made payable to WSSA and mail it to P.O. Box 6773, Bellevue, 98008 or via PayPal at our [website](#).