

Eastsound Planning Review Committee

Minutes of October 2, 2025

Meeting opened at 3:05

Attending: Jason Bradshaw, Cindy Wolf, Morgan Meadows, April Duke, Justin Paulsen (commissioner), Online- Sophia Cassam, Mia Kartinganer

Bill Bangs, Bob Eagan, Dan Vekved, Robert Smallwood, Russell Guerry

Online- Kathy Ciscowski, Vanessa Rogers, Darcie Nielsen

Agenda Modification or additions – Council update up first so Justin can leave

Council update – Justin Paulsen

EPRC-Per 1992 bylaws, originally EPRC was formed to focus on Eastsound only.

We need to update some facets of the bylaws. Do we, and the community, want the committee to represent Orcas broadly or keep its narrow focus. Deer Harbor Planning Review committee haven't met in years. It would give more of Orcas an overall voice in planning and development.

County– SJ County is currently in the budgeting process. It's looking bleak going forward, significant shortfalls. December 1 it should be open to the public.

Our county is greatly dependent on state and federal assistance and grants, about 2/3.

They have asked their staff to try and work on a 9% reduction in spending while still completing state-required mandates.

WSF- Orcas dock will be worked on, and it will be closed for 2 days in Spring of 2027. Justin wants to have foot ferry traffic available at the minimum during those days.

Approval of Minutes

August 7, 2025, minutes – approved

September 4, 2025, minutes – approved

Public Comment – none

EPRC Recruitment – ongoing

Sea Level Rise report – Cindy Wolf, there was a climate vulnerability assessment, county wide. The next workshop will be broken down to neighborhoods and will be working on solutions. It's scheduled for the last week of October on Orcas Island. There is a report

and a map on their website – search for “San Juan County Sea Level Rise”. Assuming we are not going to get loads of money from the Federal or State governments, how can we work together to mitigate potential problems, especially roads like Crescent Beach and other infrastructure. Orcas Island does not have as many vulnerable homes as the other islands.

The Comp plan to be finished first, then the climate change action plan can be put into place.

OPALCO Substation improvement – 490 Lovers Lane

Project proposal stage only – started looking at it a couple of years ago and reviewing aging assets. Friday Harbor was just re-built. The improvement would include battery storage, on current lot but there would be expansion of the fencing so staff could drive into it and for battery storage. Batteries would not be coupled with any solar. They could be segmented to certain buildings during an emergency – for example, the school or Senior Center as a shelter. The batteries will also be used to level off their loads during each day.

Grant money through Washington State Dept of Commerce will fund 50% cost of the project. Large transformers are hard to come by. They put in the order in 2024 and won't get them until 2027. They will need to shut down the substation late spring-early fall to rebuild.

Critical areas are on the property including wetlands.

Permits /build 25-0238 – New 2 story single family with attached garage – on newly subdivided property on west side of Lover's Lane – EPRC no comment, all looks fine

Agenda Items for November

Scope of responsibility – What is legal? If legal to expand the scope, then invite the public for input. Should the EPRC expand to include other planning bodies like the Deer Harbor planning committee? Other parts of the island.

Meeting new DCD Director

Meeting adjourned 4:08

