

Eastsound Planning Review Committee

Minutes of July 3, 2025

Meeting opened 3:07

In attendance: Jason Bradshaw, April Duke, Mia Kartinger, Cindy Wolf, Justin Paulsen (county council), Sophia Cassam, Bob Eagan

Online: Bill Bangs, Kathi Ciscowski, Morgan Meadows

Agenda modifications or additions – none

Approval of June 2025 minutes

Public Comment – none

EPRC recruitment update – still actively recruiting –

Jason and Cindy explained for the cameraman filming the meeting that we are an advisory committee, respond to community desire

Justin – more regulations coming, good time to be on the committee

Department of Community Development Update – Mark Tompkins, Interim DCD Director

He's from the islands, and is actively recruiting for a full-time director, and has conducted first and second round interviews. He's hoping to identify a successful candidate by the end of July. He's recruiting for a new fire marshal since Chad Kimple is now the Orcas Fire Chief. He's also recruiting a new code enforcement officer. Our current officer, Rebecca, is staying very busy following up with complaints.

Building advisory council – last met in 2019! Between Covid and DCD Director vacancy. There's a desire from the council to reactivate it. Justin Paulsen is to be the liaison for that committee and to get representatives from the whole county to be a well-rounded representation. Hopefully, it will be up and working by next fall. He's looking for people from the owner/builder, designer, contractor communities for balanced advise.

Vacation rentals – working on figuring out vacation rentals on Orcas, significantly higher than current caps in place. Lopez has capacity, but Orcas is full. For example, if cap is 220, Orcas has around 400. Numbers NOT accurate but for illustration.

DCD is losing a key member at the end of July, Kyle _____, who has been doing a lot of heavy lifting. Kyle used to be part of the county health department, and a county employee since 2014.

The Health department is heavily financed by grants.??? Missed the rest here.

Cindy asked about dying bushes in Eastsound and who is responsible – Mark will find out – thinks it's Colin and the road department.

Working on the Critical Areas Analysis update, regulations to meet the best available new science based on existing document and improved. Editing for flow and utilization for permit applications. Completed shoreline master plan user guide for property owners – will be on the website soon. Sophia is finishing the master plan update.

Quarterly updates on permits, backlog situation. They've issued 30 more building permits than they have received so they are moving forward.

Prior council set up reviews of departments to ensure that they are getting their tasks done.

County Council Update -Justin Paulsen

Official – Eastsound dingy dock/float not returning in 2025. No fast fix – needs new piling – army corps/ecology, etc. Removing current creosote pilings is good.

Recent immigration issue in waters of West Sound, an individual was detained. Stone garden patrol for human/drug/arms trafficking. Boat checked out, but individual had a visa that had expired. Turned into immigration issue, not just a safety check and county sheriff's became observers. Federal agents will no longer be allowed on county vessels. The individual was detained on Thursday, located in Tacoma on Monday and is receiving county funds to help with legal fees.

New signs with fines – for example at West Sound Co Dock (went from \$25/night to \$250/night), Obstruction Pass ramp, Madrona Point/Haven Road (in response to neighborhood/community concerns)

Governor Ferguson coming to Orcas – business roundtable at the Outlook Inn July 14th, then Orcas Center at noon, meet and greet. Representative Debra L will also be on Orcas.

WSF just signed contracts for 3 new boats (not 5). The Orcas terminal contract went from the Rebman's to James and Gina Anderson. Locals are the new owners of the contract.

Passenger ferry data will be presented at the governor's visit, hopefully.

Legislature had hired the Evans School to study the ferry system – should be starting soon. Ferry advisory executive committee asking to be included in the discussion.

Bob Eagen – what happened to the \$50k grant for the parking study? Cindy thinks it might have been re-absorbed and not used due to the DCD triaging its workload.

Permits –

LANDUSE- 25-0057 Pugh Boundary line modification – According to Eastsound Sewer and Water district user it might be creating a need for a new membership. Currently they are on the same parcel. Jason said this did not get to the Sewer district desk, so the question is how things like this get to all interested parties/entities?

Jason will email that the EPRC from ESWD that it is fine with the adjustment with the addition that it will need another sewer membership.

Justin – new rules coming through the legislature to help ease lot modifications

DCD – cannot create an unbuildable lot by a boundary line modification.

LANDUSE – 25-0056 Boone Boundary Line Modification – creates greater compliance so a good plan.

Jason to email to approve it with correction to Sewer currently provided by Eastsound Water Users Assoc.

Cindy asked if there was permission needed to build on this lot originally to create a such a weird boundary line and will an adjustment cause the vacant lot to less buildable or have another negative impact?

Justin – there will be a density differentiation between the waterfront part of the parcel and the southern part of the parcel.

Agenda items for the August 2025 meeting:

Dark skies ordinance (was tabled in the past because the prosecuting attorney was going to combine ordinances to simplify the process and that was probably waiting for the comp plan update.)

Dying trees on North Beach Road -still dying and getting uglier

Include some information about EPRC and what it does for the new members – what is it facing now? What has it dealt with in the past? Maybe each meeting review the subarea plan, history of the advisory group, SWOT analysis.

Morgan wants links to learn more about the process and the committee.

Meeting adjourned 4:15