

# Lewis County Planning Commission

## Public Meeting

In-Person & Virtual Meeting via Zoom

### May 26, 2026 - Meeting Notes

**Planning Commissioners Present:** Jason Alves, District 1; Jeff Skutley, District 2; Frank Corbin, District 3; Roger Moore, At-Large; Gretchen Fritsch, District 3; Nate Carpenter, District 1;

**Planning Commissioners Excused:** Robert Hankins, District 2

**Staff Present:** Mindy Brooks, Director of Community Development; Natalie Kamieniecki, Senior Long Range Planner; Kylie Peckham, Office Assistant Sr

**Materials Used:**

- Agenda
- Draft Meeting Notes – May 12, 2026

#### 1. Zoom Guidelines

The clerk dispensed with the Zoom Guidelines.

#### 2. Call to Order

- A. Determination of a Quorum

6 Commissioners were present; there was a quorum.

#### 3. Agenda & Meeting Minutes

The Chair asked for consent to approve the agenda for May 26, 2026 and the meeting minutes from May 12, 2026. There were no corrections. There was consent to accept as presented.

#### 4. Public Comment

There were no members of the public who wished to provide comments.

#### 5. Public Hearing

- A. Cannabis Retail

There were two members of the public, one in person and one via zoom, that provided testimony in favor of Cannabis Retail.

Natalie Kamieniecki, Senior Long-Range Planner for Community Development, gave a presentation on cannabis retail. *See presentation for details.*

Commissioner Fritsch asked if the Onalaska Subarea plan had design guidelines in it. Mindy said that the Onalaska and Packwood guidelines are very similar, with additional guidelines in Packwood. Commissioner Corbin stated that part of what we went through with the Packwood Subarea Plan was to maintain rural character.

Commissioner Alves asked for positives and negatives regarding a separate zone for cannabis retail. Natalie responded that we would have to create an actual zone for specific parcels or do an overlay of parcels and we have not explored doing that separately because we looked at zoning that would make the most sense, access to major transportation corridors and existing commercial business zones.

Commissioner Fritsch confirmed that we have the same distance as the state requirements between businesses and sensitive areas.

Commissioner Corbin confirmed that cannabis businesses that are already located will not be required to conform to the changes in this code.

Commissioner Fritsch questioned if we determined adding places of worship would change potential locations of retailers. Mindy responded that in Freeway Commercial there are no places of worship. In Packwood, it would not change locations. Mindy is not familiar with where churches are located in Onalaska to confirm if that would change location possibilities. Commissioner Fritsch stated that if no one opens a business in the next year then maybe we need to revisit if it is too restrictive.

Commissioner Moore asked how much more restriction is there for cannabis retail vs liquor retail. Mindy responded that it is significantly more restrictive.

Commissioner Skutley asked for clarification on the design restrictions. Mindy clarified that the design guidelines are stated on page 22 of Attachment A.

Commissioner Corbin states that Lewis County is coming up to State level regulation and that will eventually catch up to what is at the federal level. Commissioner Corbin states that he likes how the code is written as is.

Commissioner Carpenter motioned to recommended approval of the proposed Cannabis Retail Code Package, as presented in Attachment A of the May 19, 2026 staff report to the Board of County Commissioners. Seconded by Commissioner Fritsch. The motion passes 6-0.

Chair Corbin concluded the hearing on Cannabis Retail Code.

**6. Good of the Order:**

**A. Staff**

Mindy – None.

Natalie – None.

**B. Planning Commissioners**

Commissioner Carpenter ask when the first workshop for the public with the Board of County Commissioners will be. The tentative schedule is a workshop on June 17, 2026 and the Public Hearing on June 23, 2026.

**7. Calendar:**

The next Planning Commission meeting will be on June 9, 2026, and the agenda item will be a public hearing on the Urban Growth Area Clean Up.

**8. Adjourn**

Commissioner Alves made a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 7:04 pm.