

Date: September 13, 2018
To: Lewis County Planning Commission
From: Fred Evander, Senior Long Range Planner
RE: **PUBLIC HEARING – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROGRAM**
ATTACHMENTS: Attachment A – Code/Comprehensive Plan Update Process (2 Pages)
Attachment B – Revisions to Public Participation Program (5 Pages)

At the October 9, 2018 meeting of the Lewis County Planning Commission, the Commission will hold a public hearing on changes to Lewis County Code Chapter 17.12 – Public Participation Program. These changes would remove the requirement that revisions to certain portions of the Lewis County Code, Shoreline Master Program or Comprehensive Plan need a public hearing before both the Planning Commission and the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC).

CONTEXT

The Lewis County Code currently requires public hearings on changes to the land use code, Comprehensive Plan, and Shoreline Master Program to be held by both the BOCC and the Lewis County Planning Commission. This two-step process:

- Extends the needed review time for land use changes by requiring two separate noticing periods and hearings (see Attachment A).
- Encourages public participation to be focused on the BOCC (where the ultimate decision is made), rather than the Planning Commission process (where the input is intended to occur and is most productive for the update process).

PROPOSED CHANGES

The proposed changes would reduce the number of public hearings required, only imposing one public hearing before the Lewis County Planning Commission, while retaining the right of the BOCC to hold a public hearing on matters that they deem necessary.

Some additional code clarifications would also be included within the revisions.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

No State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Review is required for this code update per 197-11-800(19) WAC.

RECOMMENDATION

The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on the proposed code changes on October 9, 2018. If the changes are deemed appropriate, the Commission should forward a copy of the changes to the Board of County Commissioners for their approval.