

City of Okanogan

NEWS RELEASE

January 23, 2023

Shoreline Master Program Update Getting Underway

The City of Okanogan will be initiating the public process for completing the required comprehensive and periodic reviews of its Shoreline Master Program (SMP) in January, 2023. The city adopted its first SMP in 1991 after using the Okanogan County Shoreline Master Program since 1976 then began preparation of a comprehensive update in 2010, which has not been completed. The current process is to complete and submit the both the periodic update and comprehensive amendment process.

The City is required to have an SMP in compliance with the Shoreline Management Act, passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor in the early 1970s. The Act requires that each county, city or town that contains a river or stream with a mean annual flow of 20 cubic feet per second or a lake greater than 20 acres in size, prepare and adopt a Shoreline Master Program. The SMP is a combination comprehensive plan and zoning code for areas under shoreline jurisdiction, that area lying 200 feet landward on a horizontal plane from the ordinary-high-water-mark or floodplain boundary, whichever is greater, and any associated wetlands. Okanogan has shoreline areas along the Okanogan River.

Land uses within shoreline jurisdiction in the community include residential, commercial, public, light industrial and undeveloped. The SMP contains permitting requirements and regulations for a variety of land uses within shoreline jurisdiction with the overall goal that the shoreline area be managed to “ensure no net loss” of shoreline functions and values. With Brewster’s shoreline areas a combination of developed, developed and vacant land, the updated SMP will affect new and significant redevelopment of land within shoreline jurisdiction. Most common activities, e.g. building a single family home and appurtenant structures, remodeling within an existing structure footprint and other low impact activities under a state defined amount are exempt from permitting but do require compliance with the SMP.

The Planning Commission, filling the role of the Shoreline Advisory Committee will hold occasional public meetings throughout the winter and spring of 2023 as work on the update progresses. The City has created a link on its Webpage, [https://www. www.okanogancity.com](https://www.okanogancity.com) that contains a presentation that provides background information on the Shoreline Management Act, an overview of the City’s existing SMP and the process being used for the periodic update. The Okanogan Planning Commission will host a workshop to review the SMP and periodic update process on February 13, 2023 at City Hall with an online option as well (Online details can be found online at www.Okanogancity.com) The website also contains a link to a community survey regarding the Shoreline Master Program. The website and survey will be going live on February 13, 2023.

Any questions can be directed to Kurt Danison, Consulting Planner at (509) 322 4037 or by contacting Chris Johnson, Okanogan City Planner at (509) 429-1232.