Welcome to the Planner’s Update.

Please feel free to send us any comments or ideas for how to make this newsletter more useful.

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RESOURCES ON-LINE

1. [Dept. of Commerce/Growth Management](#)
2. [Commerce Regional Planner's Forums](#)
3. [Commerce Short Course on Local Planning Schedule](#)
4. [American Planning Association Washington Chapter](#)
5. [PAW – Planning Association of Washington](#)
6. [AWC Videos: GMA Comp Plan Conversation Starters](#)
7. [Municipal Research Service Center (MRSC)](#)
8. [Smart Growth Online](#)
1. IN MEMORIAM – BRUCE HUNT LET US SAY FAREWELL TO A GREAT PERSON

Commerce mourns the passing of our dear friend and colleague Bruce Hunt. On October 23, Bruce passed away at his home after a brief battle with a rare and aggressive form of cancer. Bruce served as a planner with the Department of Commerce and with Spokane County for over 20 years. Bruce’s planning career included seeing Spokane County through several major milestones in implementing the Growth Management Act. Bruce was one of Washington’s leading experts on urban growth areas and was the principle author of the recently updated guidebook on urban growth areas.

Bruce was also an avid and accomplished cyclist and a racer of vintage automobiles among his many varied interests. He is survived by wife Kate, brother David Hunt, and sister Randy Brown.

Bruce was a man of tremendous talent, integrity and courage. We will all miss him dearly.

2. COMMERCE ANNOUNCES INTERIM ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR LGID

From Brian Bonlender, Director, Washington State Department of Commerce

The departure of Kendee Yamaguchi left a vacancy in our Local Government and Infrastructure Division (LGID). Dan McConnon, Commerce Deputy Director, has done a wonderful job of filling in to date but this is an important position that requires more time than I can reasonably ask of Dan. To that end, I have decided to appoint Mark Barkley as the interim Assistant Director of LGID. Mark has agreed to take on this task on a temporary basis. I will recruit and appoint someone permanently after we see if there are any changes from this session and the results of the 2015-2017 budget.

3. GRANT UPDATE

For most jurisdictions with both 2015 and 2016 GMA Update Grants, your next status report due date is **December 31, 2014**, so please remember to submit your status reports and any deliverables that are due by the end of December. You should also submit your invoice voucher according to the payment schedule in your contract. We will be sending all current grantees a reminder that includes these instructions in more detail.

**Deliverables Reminder:** Please remember to review your Commerce grant contract scope of work and familiarize yourselves with the due dates for all tasks and deliverables. A complete grant status report must be submitted on time, with deliverables, based on the agreed to due date for each reporting period. If you have any questions or concerns about meeting a specific due date, or need to discuss possible amendments to your grant scope of work, please contact your assigned Growth Management Services contract representative.
4. WAC UPDATE

Commerce is preparing “housekeeping” amendments to rules guiding implementation of the Growth Management Act (GMA) to reflect statutory amendments adopted between 2011 and 2013. There are two statutory amendments that require an update to Commerce rules.

The first amendment addresses exempting artificial features from the definition of critical areas. The Legislature clarified the definition of "fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas" to exclude "such artificial features or constructs as irrigation delivery systems, irrigation infrastructure, irrigation canals, or drainage ditches that lie within the boundaries of and are maintained by a port district or an irrigation district or company.” This language has been added verbatim to WAC 365-190-030 and WAC 365-196-200.

The second set of amendments addresses periodic update times for comprehensive plans and development regulations.

- The Legislature aligned deadlines for counties and cities to require an update every eight years, rather than every seven years.
- An extra two years is granted to smaller, slower-growing jurisdictions.
- The deadline for counties to review Urban Growth Areas was combined with the overall periodic review, rather than on a separate 10-year schedule.
- Buildable Lands Program must be completed one year before the applicable periodic review deadline (rather than on a separate 5-year schedule).

A public hearing on the proposed amendments is scheduled for December 11, 2014 at 9 a.m. at the following location:

Washington State Department of Commerce
1011 Plum Street SE, Building 5
Columbia River Room 1110
Olympia, WA 98501

5. NEP WATERSHED PROTECTION AND RESTORATION GRANT PROGRAM

In January 2015, the Washington State Departments of Ecology (Ecology) and Commerce (Commerce) will be soliciting applications for grants under the NEP Watershed Protection and Restoration Grant Program. This program is supported by federal funds from the Environmental Protection Agency.

Funding Theme – Improving Land Use Management:
Projects should use a landscape-scale approach to improve watershed management and land use decisions, so that the type, location and design of development or re-development are
focused on protecting and restoring key areas critical to maintaining the integrity of watershed processes in the Puget Sound area.

INFORMATIONAL MEETING & TRAINING ON NEW APPLICATION PROCESS ON JANUARY 29, 2015:

Ecology will hold an informational meeting to clarify the requirements for the solicitation and to provide training for submitting an application through a new online system. This will be held in person in Lacey and via webinar on January 29, 2015 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. See Ecology website for details on the meeting location and remote participation.

Potential applicants who have never used the online EAGL application system are strongly encouraged to attend!