

# Wildlife Advisory Committee

05 April 2023 / 3:00 PM / COMMISSIONER CONFERENCE ROOM AND ZOOM

## Attendees

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Jeff Klausmann; Kathy O'Neil; Tamara Sperber; Wray Landon

NON-MEMBERS: Commissioner Michael Whitfield; Building staff Wendy Danielson; Planning Coordinator Jade Kreuger

QUORUM NOT ESTABLISHED.

## Agenda

### Ongoing Business

1. Wildlife Habitat Analysis.

## Notes

- **Update on IDFG participation in WHA.** Since the previous meeting, discussions were had with IDFG staff regarding participation in the proposed checklist for WHA. IDFG declines to participate in evaluating these studies for completion or accuracy. They will provide technical assistance only. Committee discussed an option of making sure the WHA requires a robust technical consultation with IDFG during the WHA process.
- **Options for Checklist.** Potential ideas: 1) Have a required meeting for WHA's in progress with Planning/Building staff and Consultant and IDFG staff without checklist; 2) Consider another Consultant from county-approved list to provide expert review of WHA with checklist; 3) County could attempt to hire Planner with Environmental or Biology expertise; 4) For short-term, County could attempt to keep an expert on retainer to review WHA studies and complete checklist. Other thoughts: Plan to have reviewer costs covered by Applicants. **Summary** of discussion was to - *Keep the checklist and the County will try to implement reviewing of WHA internally. For complex studies, County will seek outside expert second opinions at Applicant's expense.*
- **WHA and Building Envelopes.** It was felt that building envelopes should be included in the conservation plan. Discussion of researching best practices for standard sizes and configurations of building envelopes that would allow for good wildlife/habitat buffers.
- **WHA and Impact Mitigation.** If mitigation is allowed, how do we hold Applicants to the success of mitigation...Bonding, etc. Perhaps assurances could be built into a development agreement.
- **Abbreviated WHA for certain Building Permit applications.** How to define an Abbreviated WHA? Suggestion that Applicant could simply plan to avoid building within

indicator habitat and include an acceptable buffer. Concerns were raised that there could be community pushback if Building Permit WHA's are perceived as too onerous. Committee members will work on this concept.

- **Other WHA Items.** 1) Emphasize that extent of WHA analysis and Conservation Plan should be reflective of the size and complexity of the site and the proposed project. 2) Conservation Plan Definition needs further work. 3) Reevaluate if the document is clear that the WHA drives what can be proposed for development. Have we put Natural Resources far enough in front of development ideas? Suggestion to include Priority Targets from Map 3 in the Conservation Plan Map 4.
- **Status of WHA.** Planners want Building Permit language completed in WHA before it leaves committee. WHA could then be adopted as policy if approved by BoCC, allowing ongoing modification. Then WHA could ultimately become part of Code.
- **Miscellaneous.** Committee will try to present Planning and Building staff with a mock report based on the new WHA format.

## Action Items

1. **Schedule Special Meeting Thursday April 20th 3pm.** Prior to Special meeting, committee will work to resolve many of the above outstanding document work items. Will try to submit to Planning/Building Staff for final comments before Special meeting.

## Adjourn

5:00 pm.