

County council discusses rural land-use proposal Alt 4 today

County land use meeting expected to draw crowd



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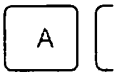


Comprehensive plan maps are on display in the county building today.
(Kaitlin Gillespie/The Columbian)

By Craig Brown and Kaitlin Gillespie
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A large crowd is expected to be on hand today as county commissioners tackle the always-thorny issue of land use, including a plan drawn up not by planning staff, but by County Councilor David Madore.



Madore's Alternative 4, which has not been vetted by the county's staff of professional land use planners, has drawn considerable support from a group of rural land owners, who argue that growth management restrictions infringe on their private property rights.

Three other alternatives, all developed by the county land use planners, are also on the table at today's meeting, taking place at the county Public Service Center in Vancouver.

Follow Columbian reporter Kaitlin Gillespie's coverage here, and look for a complete story to be posted after the hearing concludes, which is expected to be late this afternoon. A full story will also appear in Wednesday's print edition of The Columbian.



David Madore

8 hrs Edited

Today was a milestone day for rural Clark County.

All three Clark County Councilors unanimously approved moving our 20-year Comprehensive Plan forward including Alternative 4, which helps restore private property rights to rural landowners.

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) requires us to consider a variety of options for the future of our community. Our proposal includes one "do nothing / no change" option (Alternative 1), one city plan (Alternative 3), one rural plan that provides a little more flexibility (Alternative 2), and Alternative 4, the correction to the 1994 massive down-zoning of rural properties.

Alternative 4 has proven to be the most important and most supported proposal for rural landowners. None of these alternatives are set in concrete; none are "all or nothing" or "take it or leave it" options. Rather, they provide broad proposals to be improved as we move forward and the final recipe will be a hybrid of these options.

The mayors from each city within Clark County testified against alternative 4 today because they want the parcels of land just outside of their Urban Growth Boundaries to be large to ensure that that large businesses can provide jobs and local employment in the future. We agree. The solution is not to oppose Alternative 4 county-wide, but to make it better with that provision.

I share three words of encouragement: "Make it better." As good neighbors working together, we can ensure that our community has ample affordable, useful, manageable, and highly productive land for our future. And we can do so with thoughtfulness and full compliance with state law.

To learn more, see:

http://clark.wa.gov/thegrid/documents/Alternative4_1.pdf

And the April 14 Public Hearing entry of The Grid

<http://clark.wa.gov/thegrid/>

The intent of Clark County's growth plan is to accommodate economically healthy future growth with affordable manageable highly productive land throughout the county. We are on track to fulfill those goals.

Thank God! Yea Clark County!



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1 share



Chuck Miller Thank GOD for David Madore, yea Clark County!!!

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