



RECEIVED

Clark County Board of Commissioners  
P.O. Box 5000  
Vancouver, Washington 98666

November 17, 2016 (sic)

**Re: 2014 Resolution - Public participation Plan and Preliminary Scoping Schedule**  
For the public record

The Clark County Public participation plan and preliminary scoping schedule has been woefully inadequate and most certainly is a fatally flawed process. There have been only six public outreach meetings in all of 2014 and these were conducted in the cities. In those meetings, very little information was mentioned regarding the massive scope of work that is to be done in the 2016 review of the Comprehensive Plan. The rural and resource lands have had no meaningful changes since 1994-1996, despite the trend of an 18% to 30% population increase in the area since that time. Instead, the county is relying on web based, on-line participation, which does not comply with the GMA.

In the **2014 Resolution Relating to Comprehensive Plan 2016 Periodic Update**, it states, *"a resolution relating to the adoption of the Clark County Public participation plan and preliminary scoping schedule that will be used for the county's comprehensive land use plan..... RCW. 36.70A.130 requires the county to....take legislative action to review and if needed, revise it's comprehensive land use plan and development regulations.....RCW 36.670A.140 requires counties to conduct outreach to establish and broadly disseminate to the public a public participation program identifying procedures providing for early and continuous public participation in the development and amendment of comprehensive land use plans.....clearly identify the procedures for broad dissemination of proposals and alternatives, opportunity for written comments, public meetings after effective notice, provisions for open discussion communication programs, information services, and consideration of and response to public comments;...."* The Resolution states, *"the Board of County Commissioners, after effective notice, considered the Clark County Public Participation Plan and Preliminary Scoping Schedule at duly advertised public hearings on January 21, 2014. Throughout Phase I and Phase II, extensive interactions with the community will provide information to the process."* This all looks very impressive, but what is really happening?

**Techniques and Strategies - Innovative Public Involvement Technology**

- 1. Project grid.....web based / on-line
- 2. Mapping/web based survey.....web based / on-line
- 3. Surveys / polls.....web based / on-line
- 4. CVTV / videos.....TV / web based /on-line
- 5. Clark County website.....web based / on-line
- 6. Webinars.....web based / on-line
- 7. Social Media.....web based / on-line
- 8. Futures Game.....web based / on-line

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**"Planning commits to hold meetings at convenient times, and at locations that are accessible."**

The first scoping meeting was at the Vancouver, Washington library in the center of the city, twenty five to thirty miles from where most rural landowners live. Public notice was inadequate and very few people came. Meaningful interaction with the public was minimal and consisted of people being advised to look over the many maps that were on display. The second scoping meeting was in the city of Ridgefield and consisted of the same format as the first meeting. Again, the location was many miles from where rural landowners live. The Third scoping meeting was in the city of Camas and consisted of the same format as the other two. It was also miles away from the majority of the landowners. Two members of the public made comments regarding the proposals, but that information was not included in the scoping comments. The fourth meeting was held in Battle Ground, Washington with the same format as the others. Although this location was closer, there still was no opportunity for meaningful public discussions or interactions in any of these meetings and they were poorly attended because the notices of the meetings were inadequate.

The first open house had the same presentation as the scoping meetings and was held in Vancouver, Washington. Again, there was no public discussion or interaction allowed and the format was the same as the scoping meetings. The second open house had numerous attendees, but the building was too small and the format was the same. None of these meetings informed the public that they now had an opportunity to voice their opinions regarding any area of the 2016 Comprehensive Plan update. Staff limited comments to what was being presented at the meeting. The public did not know that they now could voice their recommendations and concerns at these public meetings, in a familiar and customary way.

1. Present material.....web based / on-line
2. Public notification of hearing.....web based / on-line
3. Planning Commission.....web based / on-line
4. Calendars, agendas, programs meetings documents  
notices, hearings, public involvement.....web based / on-line

**E-mail Distribution Lists Databases.....list of individuals and groups who have expressed an interest in the Comprehensive Plan update**

This is also a web based / on-line program, but even though Clark County Citizens United, Inc. attended hearings and gave the CCCU email address each time, none of this information was forwarded to the email address given, except the Board of Commissioners agenda.

**Stakeholders Outreach**

*“Community Planning will identify and reach out to ....persons or groups that are affected by the plan update, including those who may not be aware they are affected. Stakeholders include, general public, environmental groups, school districts, public health community, neighborhood, civic organizations, public agencies and other groups.”*

No mention is made of landowners, property rights groups, farmers or foresters, which the GMA specifically mentions.. The public health community is the Clark County Health Department; school districts are generally not concerned about zoning; neighborhood/civic organizations are in the urban area; public agencies are urban; and other groups are not known. The outreach again depends on web based interaction.

- 1. Neighborhood Assn. via social media .....web based / on-line
- 2. News release.....web based / on-line
- 3. Notification of availability of information.....web based / on-line

**Phase I Focus on Information to the Public**

- 1. Establish Preliminary Scope of Work and Public Participation Plan -... on-line
- 2. Selection of 20 year population projection range (public).....on-line
- 3. County wide planning process.....web based / on-line
- 4. Regional growth trends and allocation.....web based / on-line
- 5. Buildable lands analysis.....web based / on-line
- 6. Formal review of Comprehensive Plan and Development regulations - on-line

**Phase II - Increase Efforts to Involve Public Before Key Decisions.....on-line**

- 1. Urban Growth modifications.....web based / on-line
- 2. Draft Comprehensive Plan revisions.....web based / on-line
- 3. SEPA analysis and public review period.....web based / on-line
- 4. Draft development regulation revisions.....web based / on-line
- 5. Final adoption.....web based / on-line

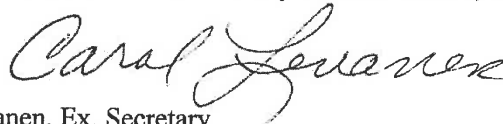
A public poll would clearly show that the general public and rural landowners have no idea what is going on with the Comprehensive Plan, much less know that they can give comment. The county's almost exclusive dependency on web based and on-line public process doesn't reach the blind man with no computer and 20 acres. It doesn't reach the elderly couple who didn't learn how to use a computer and own 200 acres, nor does it reach out to two sisters who live in Alaska and own 9 acres. In fact the process does a very poor job of reaching out to anyone. The public meetings that have been conducted give vague and general information and don't allow meaningful participation from the

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public. Testimony from these meetings have been skewed or missing. Who is to know who is submitting on - line testimony? The public should have access to all public comments and yet it is not available for review, on-line, and very difficult and expensive to get, otherwise. Even voiced comments and questions from the public are not being presented. How many hundreds of comments were made on-line that no one knows about and can't respond to? Those who don't subscribe to the Internet or public media must be able to have access to the process and have their voices heard. All of the public has a right to know, not just a select few.

Clark County planning staff is well into the process of the 2016 Comprehensive Plan update and landowners still remain in the dark. They too, want to be educated over what is going on. They want answers to questions and changes to the plan that reflects their long standing concerns. They are waiting for a meaningful public process that complies with the law, and so is Clark County Citizens United, Inc..

Sincerely,



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