

The Sentry

Kitsap Alliance of Property Owners

August 2009

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Jack Hamilton lends an update on the development of a state wide organization
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KAPO President’s comments

Tim Matthes
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Planes Trains Boats and Busses

PSRC doesn’t see what your fuss is

It not real money their spenden

It the taxpayer’s money, it’s never enden

I wrote this poem several years ago when the Puget Sound Regional Coordinating Council first created their bright idea they called Transportation 20/20. I suspected we would see PSRC waste untold millions of our dollars, and sure enough they have created the 700 hundred-page report they call Transportation 2040. Imagine how many billions of dollars will be wasted on the mass transit priorities in this report. Ideas that just don’t work.

Our members, Mr. Jack Hamilton, Mr. Chuck Shank, and Mr. Bob Benze have compiled a report and executive summary for Kitsap Alliance of Property Owners. This report and summary is on our web site www.kapo.org. I hope you will take a little time to read their work and consider how this Transportation 2040 plan will change each and every one of our lives forever.

KAPO will again have a booth at the Kitsap County Fair. It promises to be different and fun to man, thanks to Jackie Rossworn, Kathy and Dan Defenbaugh, Kris Danielson, Roberta Messinger along many other volunteers. Speaking of volunteering, we need some members to give out material at the fair booth Wednesday, August 26, 2009, to Sunday, August 30, 2009. We will have four three hour shifts each day. If you feel that you don't know enough to answer the public's questions we can put you with a member that can answer those types of questions. Mostly we need to meet and greet the public, and encourage them to learn about property issues. Call Roberta Messinger at 360-613-0421 to sign up and get your tickets.

KAPO August dinner speaker will be Representative Jan Angel. Join her on Thursday, August 27, at the AA China Buffet on Sylvan way. If you are not manning the fair booth that day, I hope to see you at 5:30 at the Buffet to welcome Jan and ask her questions. Members and general public are always welcome to come and find out a little more about KAPO and it members.

On July 23, six KAPO members attended the Washington Policy Center Conference on climate changes and the environment with special emphasis on Eco-Fads and other slight of hand tricks used to move the taxpayer to fund an ever increasing list of feel good programs that don't work. While we are tricked into wasting our money we also miss the chance to do the things that will truly make a demonstrated, measured improvement to our environment. I learned many things at this conference. Just a few of them are to follow.

We must be very skeptical when someone uses the term net cost. It is a trick that is often used to bend the data to support a particular position. Don't let them use net cost in place of figuring the real cost. The real cost is much harder to manipulate to support an unworkable position.

No matter what anyone says to the contrary, when we waste money we are wasting our resources, and often damaging our environment.

Government regulations do not and will not increase prosperity. They in fact stop it.

The solution to our environmental problems will be found by using technology/innovations and free enterprise. Not in handing our welfare over to politicians and bureaucrats.

In conclusion, I was very energized hearing so many people feel the same way that our KAPO members do when it comes to climate change and other environmental issues.

Executive Director's Report - Moving Right Along

Vivian Henderson, Executive Director

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July was a milestone for me. Exactly 10 years ago I started regularly attending County Commissioner's public meetings on behalf of Kitsap County property owners. I've been through 8 county commissioners (if you count Garrido twice); usually three commissioner meetings a week. It's been an education. I've learned a lot about county matters ~ not just land use. I've also learned a lot about the commissioners, department heads and county staff. There have been a lot of changes in staff, elected officials and staff in those 10 years. Many times I've discovered that I have more archival knowledge about past county matters than anyone sitting in the room.

My history with the county doesn't just go back 10 years. It started back in 1991 as the state was strong-arming local governments to implement the newly legislated Growth Management Act (GMA). That was when I discovered that our elected officials were no longer in charge. The Olympia bureaucrats ~ namely the Dept. of Ecology and Dept. of Community Trade & Economic Development had taken over. Other state agencies soon followed; i.e. Dept of Fish & Wildlife, Dept. of Natural Resources. They have punitive powers and grant money!

It seemed to me that our elected officials were happy and eager to hand over their legislative powers to these unelected bureaucrats. And when the bureaucrats found out how easy it was to get power ~ like taking candy from a baby ~ they revved up their engines! Now when some underling from the Dept. of Ecology tells one of our elected officials to jump – our elected officials say “How high”? It's a sad affair.

I always thought our local elected officials were there to protect us from a too powerful state and federal government. And we did have some good people trying to do just that. Matt Ryan was a County Commissioner when all this came down. He tried his best to protect Kitsap County property owners from the devastating downzones and other calamitous mandates of the GMA. Much to our loss, Matt got voted out of office. The only friend property owners had in Kitsap County and he lost at the polls. My hat is off to Matt Ryan. He tried! Thanks, Matt.

There were other good people who saw the potential for what has turned out to be serious unintended consequences of the GMA. Retired Senator Harold Hochstatter (13th Legislative District ~ Yakima/Kittitas) was a fighter. I will never forget his words:

*“The issue is not the issue. Who decides the issue is the issue.
If you decide the issue you are a free man. If a politician decides
the issue you can un-elect him, but if a bureaucrat decides the
issue you are his pawn and practically without recourse.”*

Thank you, Senator Hochstatter, you are so right!

But you don't see many Matt Ryans or Harold Hochstatters around anymore. They have been silenced and replaced by “bobble heads”. Bobble heads don't ask questions. Bobble heads don't read legislation before they vote on it. Bobble heads vote with the majority without question. If you want to see the “bobble head” jig performed just go to a meeting of the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) policy boards in Seattle. I have been going to PSRC meetings pretty regularly also for several years. Every motion that I have ever witnessed at PSRC board meetings has passed unanimously. Unanimously! Come to think of it I believe every motion I've ever heard at the Kitsap Regional Coordinating Council (KRCC) meetings has also passed unanimously.

In 2004 the KRCC, with the guidance of PSRC, updated the Countywide Planning Policies (CPP). The Kitsap Countywide Planning Policies are the framework for Growth Management in Kitsap County. They must be ratified by the County Commissioners and all four cities in the County. At the time, KAPO described these policies as “... the most difficult document KAPO's technicians have ever had to plow through.” KAPO submitted 19 pages of testimony carefully outlining concerns of property owners. We gave a copy of our testimony to every mayor, city council member and county commissioner. I was stunned when our three county commissioners and the city councils of Port Orchard, Bremerton, Poulsbo and Bainbridge Island ratified the

CPPs without a single dissent. They passed all of these elected officials unanimously. Now THAT is scary!

But I have a glimmer of hope there. Port Orchard Mayor Lary Coppola has been kicking up some sand at those meeting. Way to go, Mayor!

More next month

Is living well an indication of greed or is it good stewardship?

Bob Benze

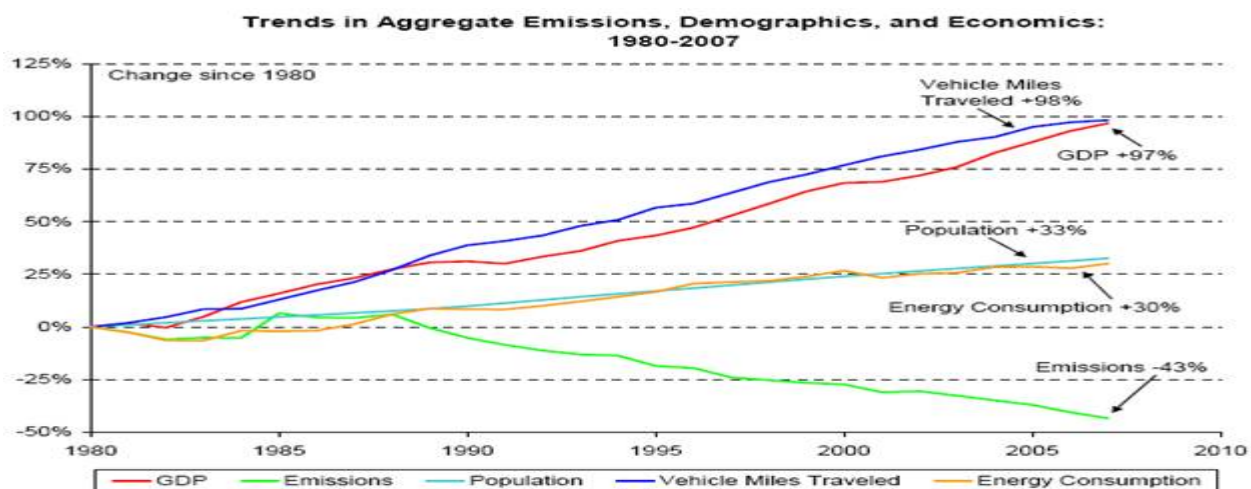
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There is a prevailing notion that the United States is a greedy country. It has only five percent of the world's population but unconscionably consumes 24 percent of the world's energy. There is a sense that our individual desires to have a nice lifestyle robs resources from the rest of the world and creates far too much waste and pollution.

People who think this way believe that we should feel guilty and be glad to give up much of what we enjoy for the common good. Their arguments are currently in vogue and both the federal government and state governments are actively passing legislation that will dramatically restrict our ability to live the way we choose.

Not only are we fast losing the rights associated with property ownership, our Washington State legislature wants to limit how much energy we can use and how many miles we can drive our vehicles. To this end they have already established goals to cut energy use and vehicle miles traveled in half by 2050, and they plan to specify exactly how they will make us do this in future sessions.

It might be a good thing to know if there is any merit to their presumptions before we citizens allow them to take away any more of our freedoms. It turns out that they don't have an ounce of data to back up their intentions. They simply believe it is intellectually the right thing to do. Indeed, the following chart from a recent Washington Policy Center presentation suggests they are 100 percent wrong.



A ton of rock-solid historical data such as this shows that the more wealthy a country and its citizens become, the better care they take of everything, including protecting the environment. This isn't because the government passes laws to make them do so, it is because a wealthy society has the time and the money to devote to these activities. Today there are more of us, we are richer, we travel more, we use more energy, yet the nation's pollution levels continue to steadily go down. Air pollution is well below EPA's super-safe standards almost everywhere,

It's time we demand that the laws being passed in Olympia and in Washington D.C. have some basis in fact. Bills like the Waxman-Markey cap-and-trade legislation will not do anything to help the environment, but they will ruin the greatest economy the world has ever seen – and any chance your children and grandchildren will have to live and enjoy their lives like we have.

Tell your elected representatives to do some factual research before they sign on to any more of this environmental nonsense, or you will send them packing.

Environmental Insight With a Touch of Real Science

Flora on Shoreline Restoration- “We Can't Get There From Here!”

Don Flora (a real scientist)

Last month I mentioned planners' enthusiasm for restoring shorelines to their “pre-settlement” condition. Not they nor you nor I know what that really means on the ground. Here's why.

Our Puget Sound lowlands have been in constant flux since the glaciers left. Picking a point in time to emulate precludes mimicking all other occasions.

The water has moved up or down hill with sea level changes. Long-ago levels can only be guessed, because old maps are vague and the underlying geologic changes can be gauged with only limited accuracy. Not only do we not know quite where sea level was at any particular time, we can't put it back there.

Beaches have moved landward at various rates. Nobody has been able to predict rates at which beaches erode their way into the upshore, based on rain torrents (bluff saturation), ice events (weathering of bluffs), wind storm intensity and duration (wave dynamics), and all the other relevant factors. And even if a shore attrition 'model' could be developed, the historic occurrence of all those driving factors is largely unknown.

In fact, the contours, textures, and habitat character of specific shores long ago are veiled in history. As are the kinds and densities of shore dwelling plants and animals. They vary widely today and presumably did in the past. It is doubtful that, even if we knew the right mix, we could re-create it.

The upland was likewise diverse and impossible to create. Less than 10 fir-tree generations ago the Puget Sound lowland wasn't conifer-covered at all. The dominant vegetation was oak trees and grass, a savanna of which we still have patches. Habitats revolved around the grass seed and acorns. Do we want this again?

Perhaps we want land cover like that of a couple of millennia later. We probably can't have it. The climate regime that existed at the time that our current oldest forests began is quite different from the climate of the last century.

In the early 1800's we had malaria, the ague that settlers came west to escape. We may not want to replicate the malarial swamps of that time. If the climate warms more we can have that plus yellow fever and the West Nile disease.

Advocates for restoration portray an array of vegetation overhanging tidewater banks to shade and nourish passing fish. They imply that ancient forests worked that way. But around half of the old-growth woodlands were burns, and perhaps half of the unburned trees were dead.

"Many ecologists now caution that trying to restore forests to their pre-European condition is chimera."

"Many Puget Sound rivers have been so altered ...that it is difficult to envision their historic appearance, let alone quantitatively reconstruct those conditions."

These statements in the research literature are made by scientists after decades of examining forest and river restoration respectively. Wrenching tidewater shores back to historic conditions is a route we cannot follow.

Given the problems with guessing historic conditions, discovering whether they were really desirable, and then returning to them may not be feasible. We can't get there from here. Rather, we can decide what "functions" and "values" we want from shores in the future, including benefits to the people, then head that way.

Editors Note: [Don has a number of reference documents identified to support and validate the comments in this position. If you are interested in the source documentation, please contact Don.](#)

MEDIATION IN THE HEARING EXAMINER'S PUBLIC HEARING PROCESS

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Some may have read The Sun Newspaper back in June that the Board of County Commissioners adopted a new mediation process to occur prior to an appeal of a Hearing Examiner's decision. The report of the Board's action on June 8th was somewhat misleading. All the Board did on that date was to amend the Hearing Examiner's ordinance to allow the Hearing Examiner to recommend mediation if a contested matter would result in an appeal. The process and rules for how mediation would work has not yet been adopted.

This past July 21st, the County Planning Commission began consideration of the mediation language to be inserted in to Kitsap County's "Procedures Ordinance" also known as Title 21.04 of the Kitsap County Code. The process of mediation has two elemental parts. The first opportunity for mediation comes when an applicant receives a staff report on his or her project and finds substantive disagreement with proposed conditions of approval or perhaps a recommendation for denial. In this instance the applicant can request "pre-hearing" mediation prior to the formal public hearing before the Hearing Examiner. In concept two opposing parties,

i.e. the applicant and Department of Community Development (DCD) staff would discuss their grievances in the presence of an arbiter who would attempt to help the parties structure a compromise and thereby avoid a later appeal of a hearing examiner decision.

The other avenue to arbitration would come when at public hearing the Hearing Examiner receives opposing testimony from exercised adjacent property owners and interested citizens. In this instance, the Hearing Examiner can recommend mediation as a means by which a compromise might be struck between an applicant and the citizens. If either party rejects the mediation process, the Hearing Examiner will go forward to make a decision. On the other hand if a mediation process is carried out, then the Hearing Examiner can take that "deal" into consideration when he or she renders the decision.

It is both possible and necessary that an aggrieved party may wish to pursue an appeal of a Hearing Examiner's decision even after "mediation" has occurred. Up until now, if an appeal is filed it goes to the Board of County Commissioners for public hearing. The Board's hearing is "closed record" meaning they cannot take any new testimony. Rather the Board must decide whether or not the Hearing Examiner made any substantive errors in his or her decision or failed to give proper consideration to testimony provided or ordinance provisions. The Board cannot base its decision on whether or not they like the project or whether the opponents to the Hearing Examiner's decision, just plain do not want the development "in their back yard."

A key aspect and really a major change in the appeals process is a companion rider to the mediation process. Once implemented, appeals will no longer go to the Board of County Commissioners; they will go directly to Superior Court. According to DCD Director Larry Keeton, appeals of hearing examiner decision cost an applicant or the public \$500.00. However, DCD's costs can be upwards of \$10,000.00. The Board of Commissioners believes the County will save money by changing the appeals process.

Aside from the cost of mediation which was to be compiled by DCD staff for presentation to the County Planning Commission it may or may not prove to be a financial savings to the County. Predictably the applicant's costs will increase, if for no other reason than he or she must pay for or at least share in the cost of a mediator and he or she loses precious time in the "entitlement" process (the process by which all necessary permits are obtained to develop the project). DCD will still have expenses to bear as the staff will be directly involved in either "pre-hearing" mediation or that mediation recommended by the Hearing Examiner in the final decision making process.

One factor not given much weight in this new process is the "lessons learned" in the current appeal process. Other than fielding phone calls from disgruntled citizens what forum exists where the County Commissioners have the opportunity to witness first hand what works and does not when they adopt ordinances. And other than the appeal's process where is it that the Board has direct exposure to the decision making process on proposed projects. It is too easy to pass ordinances without checks and balances for whether or not an ordinance is effective, no longer necessary, or achieves the original intent. Absent a "sunset" review, i.e. a set period of time for the duration of an ordinance after which time its implementation process is assessed, the only hands on experience the Board gets with their ordinances is in the appeals process. Incidentally, Kitsap County does not utilize "sunset review" for their land use planning and ordinance implementation.

For those having interest in what the mediation process might mean to them, it is best to contact DCD Director Larry Keeton and attend the public hearings on the proposed changes. Regarding the public hearings, the Planning Commission will be forwarding their recommendation to the Board of Commissioners in August and the Board will likely conduct their own public hearing in September – possibly October.

Kitsap County Planning Commission Activity Report

Mike Gustavson

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Planning Commission Meeting July 21, 2009

Planning Commission held a public hearing on the proposal to insert mitigation into the mix for land use decisions. It turns out, the proposal removes the only elected officials (County Commissioners) from the decision making process.

We asked for another public hearing on mitigation (August 8, 7:00 p.m. at the County admin building). This would be a good place to voice your opinion. We were very concerned that removing the County Commissioners would insulate them from ever confronting the need for code changes.

Later, we toured Kingston to see the proposed Kingston improvement plan for re-routing ferry traffic, parking and commercial development.

Next we toured the proposed Greater Hansville Community plan. It appears some in Hansville would like to keep north County "rural" by holding the 2000 acres of Pope Resources property hostage from ever being developed. The concept of rural seems a bit off, since portions of north County area already urban density and the remainder is truly suburban.

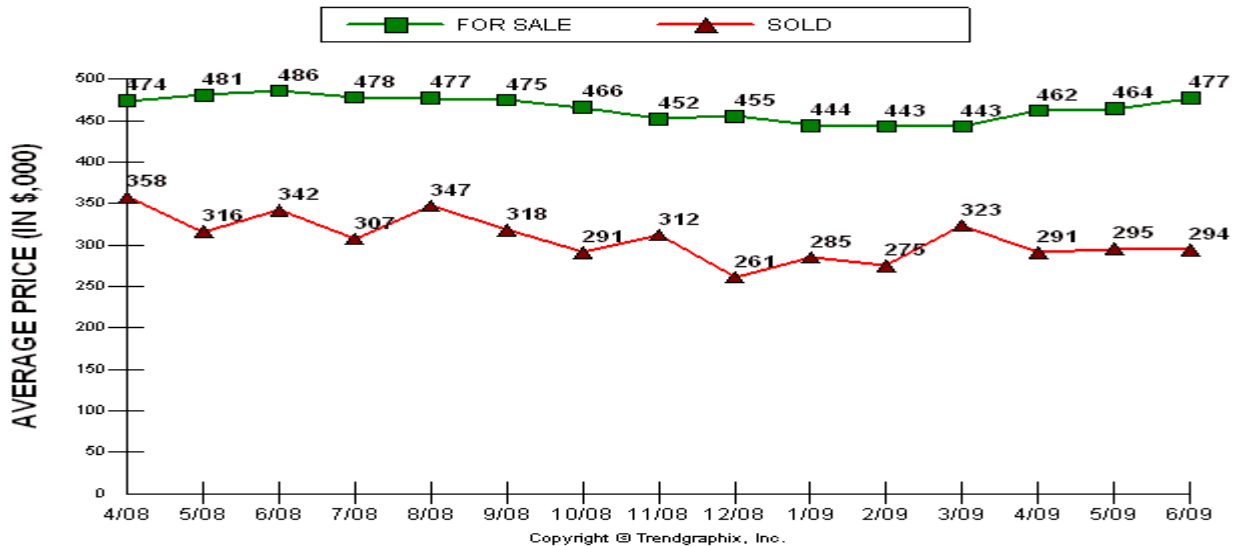
I believe someone needs to ask the locals to define the problem they are trying to solve and see if their plan would accomplish it. A better solution would be for the County Commissioners to tell the north County folks they need to form a home owners association and solve their issues without County involvement. McCormick Woods has had a home owners association for many years and it seems to work quite well at no cost to the County. The precedent of each neighborhood going to the County to set a special set of rules for their neighborhood will become quite costly and merely allows citizens to play the game of "Let's watch you and him/her fight" (with the County).

If the real issue is the 2,000 acres of Pope Resources property, perhaps the locals in North County should take up a collection and purchase the property.

Real Estate Roundup

John Taylor

Here is some comparative information about the housing market in Kitsap County. The data is raw, (without analysis of underlying contributors or other factors). However, the basic data appears to be consistent with the published information concerning the overall market and price of housing



	1 year			15 months		
	June 08	June 09	% Change	Apr 08	June 09	% Change
Avg. Active Price	486	477	-11.4% ↓	474	477	0.6% ↑
Avg. Sold Price	342	294	-14 ↓	358	294	-17.9 ↓

Date	6/08	8/08	11/08	02/09	06/09
# for sale	2492	2547	2083	1844	1813
# sold	227	228	142	132	257
# days on market	103	100	106	138	84
Average sqft price	\$174	\$173	\$156	\$150	\$151
Median Price	\$279,000	\$284,000	\$261,000	\$237,000	\$247,000

Editor's note: If you listen to the radio or watch cable TV you are probably aware that the same "low cost" or "low down" mortgage schemes that got us into the current economic down turn are already back in the offering. I wonder if anyone from Washington or Olympia actually understands the basics of economics?

An Island Perspective
Bainbridge Shoreline Homeowners
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Ed. – *This material was taken from the BSH web site with their permission.*

Bainbridge Island water resources Q&A.

by Jalyn Cummings, Water Resources Manager, City of Bainbridge Island

Recent Kitsap Sun articles reported that Bainbridge Island's water supply is seeing "steep drops" due to declining water levels and is "imperiled" by the threat of saltwater intrusion. In fact, the Groundwater Monitoring Program Update – December 2008 reflects that the island's aquifers are relatively stable, according to city water resources manager Jalyn Cummings.

"It's important to remember that we're dealing with a complex aquifer system," Cummings said. "The data mentioned in the Sun article is just a thin slice of a much larger study. We need to consider this information in the full context of available data in order to learn from it. We also need to remember that this report is a periodic update that does not offer conclusive findings about the Island's water resources and one well showing a decline does not mean the entire aquifer is declining."

The Groundwater Monitoring Program Update has been updated by the consultant which prepared it, Aspect Consulting, and will be re-released in the near future. It will be available on the city's web site.

Cummings offers the following answers to citizen queries and concerns sparked by the recent article.

Q. Is the island's water supply in danger? Nothing in the city's data set indicates that the island's water supply is in danger. The December, 2008 Groundwater Monitoring Program Update found only one of the 103 wells the City monitors each month showed a decrease in water level during the past two years. While the decrease in water level in this well is small in comparison with its total depth, and may not be indicative of levels in the entire aquifer, the report's authors recommended following the monitoring program's plan which calls for further monitoring and investigation. It is important to understand that the update is a report on monitoring data and does not offer any conclusive findings or recommendations.

Q. Should we be monitoring the island's groundwater? Yes, and we are doing so. Because groundwater is the island's sole source of drinking water, it is a primary goal of the city to study, understand and protect this resource. To achieve this goal, the city began an intensive groundwater modeling study in 2006, building on previous monitoring efforts. Monthly monitoring of over 100 island wells, continuing over two years, will provide baseline data for a complex computer model of the island's aquifers. The groundwater model, which is being developed in coordination with the United States Geologic Survey (USGS), will allow city staff and policy makers to evaluate water resources and anticipate the impacts of potential environmental changes. "The monitoring network is improving our understanding of the island's aquifers, and will increase our ability to be good stewards of our groundwater resources," said Martin Sebran, hydrogeologist with the Kitsap Public Utilities District, which manages water on the north end of the island.

Q. Are island wells being impacted by saltwater intrusion? No indication of saltwater intrusion was found in 2008 by the U.S. Geological Survey, which sampled approximately 30 wells around the island for chloride, an indicator of intrusion. The wells chosen for testing were considered representative of those most vulnerable to intrusion because they have intakes below sea level and are near the shoreline.

In 2006, the city's monitoring program found one well in the Seabold area which showed evidence of saltwater intrusion. The well has since been replaced and, according to the

manager, the new well exhibits good water quality and no chloride. Chloride levels measured in monitoring activities of all other aquifers were low, indicating normal background levels for Bainbridge Island, rather than saltwater intrusion. This does not rule out the possibility of saltwater intrusion somewhere on the island, but the data collected by the city thus far shows no other evidence of saltwater intrusion.

Q. What is next for the island's water monitoring program? The city's groundwater database is periodically updated with data on water levels, chloride concentrations, production volumes and rainfall data. Collection of this baseline data is to be used in the USGS groundwater model, scheduled for completion in April, 2010. Upon completion of the model, the city will continue its groundwater monitoring network on a smaller scale. The groundwater model will reside at the city and data will continue to be collected in order to update the model and run future groundwater scenarios.

Legislative Update

Jack Hamilton

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In the other Washington

It appears that the only thing that can save us from more 'help' from the federal government is for Congress to get off on the August recess as quickly as possible. For those of you who have questions about legislation before both houses of Congress do not feel alone. It appears that a large number of the Representatives and Senators are also having a bit of difficulty following the flow of bills and other sacrificial offering being pumped out by staff and professional legislation creators. Things are so bad that one very senior member of the House has commented that there is no need for members to read legislation before voting. After all even with several days and a staff of lawyers they would probably still not understand what a bill actually says or does. This 'advice' to a group of 535 with well over 200 being lawyers. Perhaps Ron Ross is right and the tea Party and next revolution are around the corner.

Word is out that Rep Jay Inslee will be 'home' for the recess in August but has no intention (or apparent desire) to hold one of his famous 'town hall' meetings to push his agenda. It may be that the average citizen is a little bit better informed than Inslee prefers on matters pertaining to "cap-and-trade" or government controlled health care. It has to be a hallmark in our representative form of government when our 'representative' doesn't want to know what we think or how we would like him to represent us.

In the State and Region

As Tim Matthes noted in his opening comments, KAPO has prepared and presented a detailed review of the pending Transportation 2040 DEIS. In a departure from our previous submissions, the detailed review comments are accompanied by a very specific transportation planning oversight comment section and a extensive set of comments on the overall planning philosophical approach linking both land use and transportation (Transportation 2040 and Vision 2040). While there is little reason to stay up at night hoping that PSRC will see the light, the input document goes a long step beyond a simple commentary and directly challenges the technical process, the underlying philosophy, the planning assumptions, and the models and

methodologies employed by PSRC to reach the conclusions that are offered in Transportation 2040.

One clear example of the failed thinking at both the state and PSRC is evident in the approach to “limiting” CO2 emissions. Here is an extract from the PSRC Transportation 2040 comments that address the nature of the failed thinking.

- A simple analysis of the energy related issues as required by emissions standards established by law, requirements for electric vehicles, and the increase in region transportation needs appropriate to the projected population and economic growth produces a conundrum not addressed in the Transportation 2040 plan.

Population data (US Census Estimates 2008)

King	1,875,519
Kitsap	239,769
Pierce	785,639
Snohomish	683,655
Total	3,584,582

Miles per person (2007) = 8,697 (WADOT Figures)

Miles in PUGET SOUND REGIONAL COUNCIL - 31,175,109,654 miles per year

Gasoline consumption @30 MPG =1,039,170,321 gallons per year (US CAFÉ standards)

Assuming no major scientific breakthrough to reduce the outcome of the hydrocarbon oxidation process, the equivalent gasoline quantity that would support the reductions required by law in year 2020 (about 16 percent) and 2035 (about 36 percent) would lower miles driven to 26,187,092,109 (2020) and 19,952,070,178. That reduction, in turn relates to removing 537,533 vehicles by (2020) and about 1,290,450 vehicles by 2035. Unfortunately, while the reduction from the 2007 base is in progress, population increases continue and with them the need for vehicles. With a growth of 1.5 million people in the horizon period and using the same PRIVATELY OWNED VEHICLE (POV) to individual ratio existing today, the numbers are much higher. Using a straight line growth estimate within the horizon period an additional 50,000 cars per year would have to be entirely eliminated to meet the emissions reduction criteria.

The effective elimination of approximately 115,000 emission creating vehicles per year and replacing their transportation capability with non-emitting vehicles is not addressed. The number of electric or hybrid vehicles required, on an annual basis, is approximately one-half the current world production of those vehicles that might serve as substitute vehicles. The current and forecasted availability of the raw materials for Lithium-Ion batteries, the current power storage devices for electric and hybrid cars, does not support a massive increase in production of either batteries or vehicles. In addition, the current supply of those materials on the world market is primarily from China and Argentina, not necessarily strong trade or defense allies of the United States. How PSRC is to meet the objectives and at what cost, while in competition with the rest of the state and the rest of the nation, is not identified in the plan.

In addition to the simple logic of direct vehicle replacement there is the issue of a replacement energy source. One gallon of gasoline equates to 33.4 KWH of electricity. To replace the

approximate 33 millions of gallons of gasoline saved each year will require about 1,113,000,000 KWH of electricity (1,113,000 MWH) In 2007 the entire electricity production for the state was 106,990,217 MWH with less than 3 percent from wind, solar, or similar non-emitting sources. (Hydro power was not considered because it is already classified non-renewable). The bottom line is that to replace energy for transportation needs, the PUGET SOUND REGIONAL COUNCIL region will need an increase of non-emitting energy sources that essentially exceeds current capacity. In that the same time frame electricity sources will be required for general population support and economic development, it is difficult to comprehend how the energy needs will be met to sustain any of the 2040 options.

Finally there is the issue of personal choice as demonstrated over the past 30 or so years. The US automotive market has always had available one or more lines or models of cars that traded size for fuel economy. In the mid-1970's during a major oil supply curtailment, a significant effort was made to shift the American car driver from "gas guzzler" to fuel efficient, high mileage vehicles. It did not work. The Ford Pinto, Chevy Vega, Pontiac Tempest, Fiats and Datsun's of all stripe, followed by Saturn, Honda, KIA, Hundai and a complete variety of fuel efficient vehicles from major manufacturers has not significantly modified the American choice for size, comfort, and safety on the road. The continued effort by planners to bring about a change in personal behavior is not only a continuing study in frustration, but a major divergence from the authority and responsibility delegated to our government. PSRC may be able to justify, in some manner, the ability to decide if roads will or will not be provided for citizens to use for personal transportation. PSRC does not have the moral imperative or the authority to decide what type of cars citizens will purchase and drive or how frequently or how far citizens will drive their cars.

Here in Kitsap – Living with our own “Rubber Chickens”

Bill Palmer has given us great insight into the mediation additive for the Hearing Examiner process. Unfortunately, even that process does not restore any backbone to the “rubber chickens” that represent us as Commissioners. Instead of doing the right thing and overriding the Hearing Examiner on the South Kitsap Montessori School issue, even with compelling evidence of error on the Examiners part, the “brave hearts of Kitsap” remanded the issue to the Examiner. What those three won't do to avoid taking a position that might cost them a vote is beyond belief. If we anticipate any level of personal or moral courage from any of the three we best rethink our hopes and dreams. I wonder if the “fearsome threesome” would be interested in sending Rural Interim Forest regulations to a mediator with land owners on one side and that entire opposition group with no vested interest on the other side. That might not work out so well for the “no-growth” guys and the “every tree is sacred” crowd.

The County has posted the East Kitsap Near-shore Study to the web site in preparation for commencing the Shoreline Management Plan update. The study carries the stamp of approval ,of the prestigious Battelle Laboratories. The study is being offered as solid scientific work and to be used as the basis for the SMP update work. (Battelle did not participate in the data collection and does not really certify the results of the study as accurate) Hey wait a minute. Isn't this the same study that. When previously asked, the County said would not be used for legislative purposes? Isn't this the same study that involved “data collection” by a number of people ‘instantly’ qualified as shore line surveyors and who walked some part of the beach looking at bulkheads and developments? Is this the same study that purports to be directed at the near-shore habitat for fingerling salmon but never looked in the water for that habitat? What a surprise that a “scientific” study of this quality, dressed up in the finest Power Point

presentation livery, now becomes an “official” scientific tome. It also looks like Patty Charnas has replaced Jim Bolger as the resident expert in “Best available science.” How fortunate for us that we have this stable of highly qualified experts to plan our futures for us.

If there might be some question about being a bit harsh with the “rubber chicken” trio, please note the response on their part to having to rescind a county ordinance to be in compliance with state law. The state says it is perfectly all right for a person to openly carry a weapon in parks and prohibits county governments from enacting any prohibition on that right. Kitsap has long fought the right but when caught between the law and litigation they reluctantly “lifted” the local ban. Please note that the county had no authority to enact the ban and were specifically prohibited by law from doing so. Apparently when the “guardians of our future” don’t agree with the law they believe they have the right to ignore it right up to the point of being carted into court. On the other hand, any law or regulation that might be interpreted in any manner to support one of their agenda items is considered as inviolate and exploited to the maximum extent. Can there be any doubt that the “If you don’t like it, sue us” philosophy is the guiding principle for legislative action in this county.

Washington Property Owners

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The effort to work with CAPR to find common ground and build a strong state wide organization continues. The process took a slight burp while I was off playing with trains in Hartford. We should be able to get back on line to completion soon.

Historical Almanac

August 1, 1790	First US Census reported - Population 3,929,214
August 3, 1958	USS Nautilus surfaces at the North Pole
August 4, 1790	Congress authorizes Revenue Cutter Service (Later US Coast Guard)
August 14, 1765	Sons of Liberty (Boston) protest Stamp Act under the Liberty Tree
August 14, 1945	Japan surrenders – World War Two ends
August 14, 1848	Congress creates Oregon Territory
August 15, 1914	Panama Canal opens
August 18, 1920	Nineteenth Amendment (Women’s suffrage) ratified
August 19, 1812	USS Constitution (Old Ironsides) defeats HMS Guerriere
August 21, 1959	Hawaii become fiftieth state

- August 22, 1902 Teddy Roosevelt is first US President to ride an auto in public
(Immediate action in Olympia to ban use of private autos – smile)
- August 27, 1859 First successful oil well drilled in Tittusville, PA
- August 31, 1955 GM demonstrates world first solar powered car
(Takes a while for technology to catch on, I guess)

The American's Creed

William Tyler Page

"I believe in the United States of America as a government of the people, by the people, for the people whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed; a democracy in a Republic; a sovereign Nation of many sovereign States; a perfect Union, one and inseparable, established upon the principles of freedom, equality, justice, and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes.

I therefore believe it is my duty to my country to love it;
to support its Constitution; to obey its laws; to respect its flag;
and to defend it against all enemies."