

January 23, 2024 Special Meeting: Wilson-Monroe Re-zone Application and SEPA Checklist

Summary: (dated 01.27.24)

The County's procedure for passing re-zone applications and the accompanying SEPA (State Environmental Policy Act) checklist does not meet State Urban Growth Area standards. The Klickitat Comp Plan, and Snowden Sub-Area Comp Plan are decades out of date, and on-going re-zoning without notice to, or feedback from, affected neighbors leaves all of us unprotected from land-use decisions that may be irreversibly harmful to the Snowden Community and rural Klickitat County.

The deadline for an Appeal of the SEPA evaluation for the current Snowden rezone application is February 01, 2024.

Further input regarding the Wilson Monroe Re-Zone Application (see snowdencommunity.org home page for link to documents) will be due by March 18, (as far as we now know).

Action Plans:

The Snowden Community Council (SCC) approved spending \$150 for the fee and will appeal the SEPA Evaluation of Non-significance.

The County Memorandum says the act of filing an Appeal will require the County to schedule a hearing. The full case against the SEPA evaluation can be made at the hearing. County residents can comment on the SEPA checklist, and the County's process (for free) at the hearing.

Jenn Sharp and Eric Wilson are doing a great deal of research into the details of this situation and will write the bulk of SCC's appeal of the SEPA evaluation.

Jenn and Eric will also provide basic bullet-points facts and considerations to support other citizens' letters and comments.

The SCC approved that Roger, as Chair, speak on their behalf at the next Board of County Commissioners Meeting on Tuesday, January 30. In his 2 minutes of Public Comment, Roger will announce the SCC's intention to appeal the SEPA evaluation, and our general displeasure with current planning procedures.

We encourage anyone who shares these concerns to attend the January 30 BoCC meeting, by zoom or in person, at 9:00 AM and add your (two minutes) opinion for Public Comments. You can also email your comments to loria@klickitatcounty.org; or mail comments to 115 W. Court St. MS-302, Goldendale, WA 98620. The more residents who have concerns or questions that comment or speak up, the more seriously the County will have to take us. (See the KC BoCC website for information on how to participate in Public Comments.) The link to the BoCC zoom Meeting is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/586587651>

The SCC will be reaching out to other KC Community Councils for support in our efforts to challenge current county re-zone procedures, as these procedures affect all rural Klickitat County, and our voices will be stronger together. Roger Gadway, as Board Chair, will be leading this effort.