

**Latah County Planning Commission**  
Minutes, 12 April 2000

Planning Commission [PC] Members: Skyler Schlueter [SS], John Hunt [JDH], Suvia Judd [SJ],  
Kathleen Warnick [KW], James Hagedorn [JH], Janet Hohle [JanH], Louise Barber [LB];  
Planning Director, Gerard Billington [GB]

**Present/Absent:** SS, JH, SJ, KW, JanH, LB present; JDH absent. Staff: GB.

**Packet materials:** agenda; minutes from 3/22/00.

**Meeting:**

Meeting called to order; minutes from 3/22/00 passed.

Discussion on additional items to be considered for inclusion in the ordinance revamping. SJ hoped that the "vote" we took at the previous meeting did not mean that low vote meant low priority. The items discussed are as follows.

Special areas/open space: motion to skip inclusion on this round of the process passed with only one abstaining vote. A definition of what we would be trying to protect needs to be determined (could be areas defined by either site or characteristic); an inventory of special areas would be needed; a determination of what would be tolerable protection; the PD ability to handle enforcement; SJ suggested that we could include wording to allow citizens to bring forward areas for special protection, but GB said that should go into the Comprehensive Plan and not in the ordinances.

Feed lots: this is a weakness in the current ordinances; the proposed draft has partially addressed the issue (the limit of ten animals). JH noted that if the state has taken any action, we should be using that information as we discuss this. GB noted that the draft states "not permitted in Latah County," and that overrides anything the state might say differently. The motion to include this item in the proposed changes passed unanimously. Later in meeting, SJ suggested that language should include the distinction between pets and livestock, and that wildlife farms, although managed by the state, are subject to county regulation regarding location.

Natural hazards: flood hazard is already included; motion to include unstable slopes and wildland fire prevention passed unanimously. Need exists to identify the areas, and the adoption of John Bush's map for identification of specific areas.

Industrial and commercial design standards: motion to include this item, including noise, lights, and smoke, passed unanimously. Should include buffering, construction, setbacks to make more palatable to neighbors. The concept already exists in the ordinance, but in soft language. The Comprehensive Plan states where these areas are, but aside from gravel pits, no hours of operation, etc., is specified.

Wildlife (more than one species) habitat: Passed, 3-2, to include in this round. JH stated that Latah County is doing a good job and that the wildlife population is healthy; SJ suggested that Greg Serveen, Idaho Fish and Game Department, be invited back to review Latah's situation and inform PC before attempting to build anything into ordinances.

Homes served by private roads: before 1993, county did regulate (repealed as part of old land division ordinance); one remaining problem is too many people on poorly maintained dirt roads. Should we enforce improvement of a road after a certain number of houses? 1997 land division ordinance requires

turnouts every 1000 yards, gravel, ten-foot wide minimum required, but a nightmare to enforce; also required is easement to a property if no frontage exists on an existing road. Motion to skip inclusion passed unanimously.

Airstrips: the proposed revision states that airstrips are permitted if the purpose is for commercial application in agricultural zone; any other use is conditional use. FAA regulations may cover everything we need; however, county could be more restrictive. Do we want design standards for airstrips? Presumed that FAA does a pretty thorough job. GB recommended that the PC not adopt FAA regulations as part of our ordinances because the PD would then have to enforce those regulations. Motion to skip this inclusion passed unanimously.

GB will obtain feedlot regulations from the state and invite both John Bush to discuss his map and Greg Serveen to make a presentation on wildlife habitat at the May 24 meeting. If they cannot attend, feedlots will be on the agenda.

Next meeting, May 24, 2000, at 7:00pm, County Courthouse, 2-B.

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_ 15 May 2000  
Louise D. Barber