



Local Government Sounding Board Charter

WAC 173-18, -20, -22, -26, and -27 Rulemaking

Background

The Department of Ecology (Ecology) announced its intention to do rulemaking on May 2, 2024. We are amending state rules, Washington Administrative Code Chapters [173-26](#) and [173-27](#), under the state Shoreline Management Act ([Chapter 90.58 RCW](#)) to:

- Add requirements for local governments to address the impact of sea level rise and increased storm severity on people, property, and shoreline natural resources and the environment.
- Comply with the Shoreline Management Act and address issues we have identified as we have reviewed, adopted, and applied shoreline master program (SMP) provisions over time. These revisions will provide clarity around procedures to approve and amend SMPs as well as measures related to shoreline permitting and enforcement. We will identify the specific topics and content of these proposed revisions during the rule development phase through external engagement and internal coordination.

We are also reviewing and updating sections of Chapters [173-18](#) and [173-20](#) WAC so the lists of streams, rivers, and lakes reflect completed shoreline master program updates, and revising Chapter [173-22](#) WAC to clarify designations of shorelands and wetlands associated with shorelines of the state.

Local government sounding board

To manage Washington's approximately 28,000 miles of lake, river and marine shoreline, the state Shoreline Management Act (SMA) specifically establishes a partnership between Ecology and local governments. This cornerstone of the law is the reason Ecology is creating a local government sounding board for our rulemaking effort. The sounding board is composed of planning staff from the counties and cities with regulated shorelines who are required to adopt and maintain an SMP. Participation is voluntary, and members have offered to work with Ecology on rulemaking issues and language. Our goal is to draft new and revised WAC language that provides improved clarity and consistency, addresses shoreline management topics currently absent from state rules, and gives local governments direction on how to address sea level rise and increased storm severity in their SMPs.

Ecology is committed to give genuine and meaningful consideration of the insights, recommendations, and advice provided by the sounding board. Ecology also is committed to facilitating a fair process and maintaining an accurate record of members' insights, advice, and deliberations.

Meeting logistics

- We will be holding monthly, two-hour virtual meetings (using Teams or Zoom) from September 2024 through approximately June 2025. We may convene additional meetings after June 2025 as needed until our rulemaking effort is complete, which is expected to occur during summer 2026.
- Ecology or its consultants will facilitate the local government sounding board.

- There is no quorum requirement—members present and active at each meeting have the authority to continue to work in the absence of others.
- Meeting agendas and pre-meeting materials will be posted to [Ecology’s SMA rulemaking website](#) and generally distributed to sounding board members at least one week in advance of meetings.
- Sounding board members are expected to prepare for meetings by reviewing the meeting packet. Following each meeting, members should review the summary notes to ensure summary notes adequately capture their perspective.
- The sounding board will not be asked to provide consensus recommendations to Ecology; rather, we will solicit individual perspectives via a facilitated group discussion.
- Members who change employment/affiliation or who can no longer participate agree to notify Ecology as soon as possible.
- **It is Ecology’s best practice to provide a transparent and accessible rulemaking process. This means all local government sounding board meetings will be open to the public.** We will provide a brief opportunity for public input at the end of each sounding board meeting. Neither Ecology nor sounding board members will respond to public comments made during a meeting. Ecology will provide additional opportunities for members of the public to provide their input, including conducting listening sessions as well as through [online comment form](#).

Member Commitment

Sounding board members agree to:

- Active and good-faith participation.
- Demonstrate attentiveness and respect when others are speaking.
- Behave constructively and respectfully toward all participants during and outside of meetings.
- Respect the role of the facilitator to guide the group process.

Disagreement and differences of opinion will be acknowledged, explored, understood, and appreciated. The facilitator will address any potential conflicts that arise among sound board members. While not anticipated, recurring unproductive behavior by an individual member may result in Ecology respectfully excusing that individual from the sounding board.

Contact

Rebecca Rothwell, rulemaking lead

Rebecca.rothwell@ecy.wa.gov

Sounding board members

Name	Title	Affiliation
HB Harper	Planning Manager	Bainbridge Island
Steve Sundin	Senior Planner	Bellingham
Jason Sullivan	Interim Public Services Director	Bonney Lake
Mark Hofman	Community Development Director	Lake Forest Park
Amanda McIntire	Planner	Burien
Rebecca Mahan	Habitat Biologist	Clallam County
Joshua Engelbrecht	Comm Dev Director	Coupeville
Jane Hewitt*	Planner III	Grays Harbor County
Suresh Bhagavan	Planning and Building Director	Grays Harbor County
Jeff Wilson	Interim Community Development Director	Gig Harbor
Brian Shay	City Administrator	Hoquiam
John Lanier*	Long-Range Planner	Island County
Jonathan Lange	Planning Director	Island County
Doug Yormick	Environmental Planner	Issaquah
Josh Peters	Community Development Director	Jefferson County
Kollin Higgins	Senior Ecologist	King County
Meredith Penny	Director of Community Planning	Langley
Dave Timmer	Planner	Lynden
Ryan Harriman	Planning Manager	Mercer Island
Tara Leininger	Mayor	Metaline Falls
Nicole Floyd	Principal Planner	Olympia
Kim Mahoney	Community Development Director	Orting
Mike Stevens	Planning Manager	Richland
Margaret Glowacki	Senior Land Use Planner	Seattle
Jason Dose	Senior Planner	Shelton
Kevin Bagwell	Associate Planner	Shoreline
Emily Arteche	Community Development Director	Snoqualmie
Tirrell Black	Assistant Director of Planning & Econ Dev	City of Spokane
Tyler Kimbrell*	Planner II	City of Spokane
Ben Shumaker	Community Development Director	Stevenson
Abbie Adams	Senior Planner	Thurston County
Andrew Deffobis*	Senior Planner	Thurston County
Bryan Snodgrass*	Long-Range Principal Planner	Vancouver
Domenique Martinelli	Senior Long-Range Planner	Vancouver
Lauren Clemens	Climate Action Manager	Whatcom County
Tommy Carroll	Planning Manager	Yakima County
Olivia Story*	Long-Range Planning Section Manager	Yakima County

*Backup for primary participant