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# OMAK CITY PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING

## AGENDA

Tuesday – April 5, 2022 – 5:30 PM

**Zoom – Hybrid Meeting**

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A. CALL TO ORDER

B. ESTABLISH A QUORUM

Stacey Okland, Chair  
Anne Potter, Vice Chair  
Erin Munding

Barry Hansen  
Jack Schneider

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Approval of Minutes from March 1, 2022



D. OLD BUSINESS

1. Cultural Preservation – Element E review
2. Community and Economic Development – Element D review

E. NEW BUSINESS:

1. City of Omak Shoreline Master Program – Periodic Review and Survey Recommendation to Town Council



F. OTHER BUSINESS:

- City Update – Tyler Wells, City Building Official



**Action by Planning Commission**

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If you need support, contact the City Clerk in advance of the meeting by calling 509-826-1170 or e-mail [clerk@omakcity.com](mailto:clerk@omakcity.com) for assistance.

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### Join Zoom Meeting

Deputy Clerk Cindy Hicks is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Planning Commission Meeting

Time: Mar 1, 2022 05:30 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/97119024998?pwd=OW54WVFmTmpFRUNuaG5SQkFPU3Vmdz09>

Meeting ID: 971 1902 4998

Passcode: sNNk1L

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**Call to Order:**

Chairwoman Okland called the meeting of the Omak Planning Commission to order at 5:34PM and a quorum was established.

**Commissioner & Administrative Personnel:**

Stacey Okland, Chair	Kurt Danison, Contract Planner
Erin Mundinger	Tyler Wells, Building Official - absent
Barry Hansen	Connie Thomas, City Clerk
Anne Potter, Vice Chair	Cindy Hicks, Deputy Clerk
Jack Schneider	

**Approval of Minutes:**

Commissioner Potter moved, seconded by Commissioner Schneider to approve the minutes from January 4, 2022. As there were no comments, Commissioner Hansen abstained with the rest of the Commissioners voting to approve the motion.

**New Business:**

**Community and Economic Development – Element D**

Contract Planner Kurt Danison explained to the Commission that he added some new pages based on the discussion during the January 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. Prior to the next meeting Mr. Danison will ensure the Commissioners have the document with “track changes” so they can see changes.

**Cultural Preservation Element**

The Commission discussed the inclusion of other cultures in this element. The element speaks to Native American, Anglo and Latino culture. Commissioner Hansen said there are Jamaicans living in the Central District as it’s identified. Mr. Danison said the demographics of the incorporated area used census information and he will be updating that information. He will retain the 2010 census information and add 2020 to see the changes in demographic makeup. In reference to policy number seven, Chairwoman Okland asked if there is a commission. Mr. Danison said there is not but, the city will agree to work with them. There was discussion about the city’s role in forming and or supporting a commission and what that looks like. There was discussion amongst the Commissioner’s on keeping policy number seven and if it would be appropriate to strike the recommendations. Commissioner Mundinger said going to Commissioner Hansen’s thoughts about Jamaicans, the document can acknowledge agricultural workers from a variety of locations.

Commissioner Schneider said there is a paragraph for Native Americans, Anglo and Latino. The community is growing, and it will help to have a fourth paragraph for the underrepresented so it’s inclusive of all. Mr. Danison will update the element and it will be available for review at the April meeting.

**Analysis of Duplex Units in the RS Zoning District**

Contract Planner Danison provided the Commissioners with an analysis of areas in the City of Omak that could potentially become a duplex unit. After discussion, the Planning Commissioner’s felt the current zoning requirements for a duplex in the Residential Single Family

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Zoning District was adequate. The current zoning requires a Conditional Use Permit and this process allows neighbors to comment and, potential conditions to be added if need be.

**Other Business:**

**City Update**

Contract Planner, Kurt Danison, gave a briefing to the Commission on the Shoreline Master Program update they will be working on over the next year. Part of the process is public participation and a community survey. Mr. Danison will prepare the survey and have it ready for review at the next meeting.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

SIGNED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Stacey Okland, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Connie Thomas, City Clerk

## **PLAN ELEMENT D: COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

### **1. BACKGROUND**

This element of the Greater Omak Area Comprehensive Plan represents the second time economic development has been considered in the context of comprehensive planning within the Planning Area. The 1993 Economic Development Element was based on the "Economic Development Action Plan for the Central Okanogan Valley" prepared by local citizens to improve the climate for employment and business growth. This Element has been updated to reflect changes in the local economy and draws heavily upon the Strategic Plan created in 2003 by Partnership 2005/Economic Alliance and the Omak-Okanogan Community Assessment Report (2004), Washington Rural Development Council.

The initial effort for creating an Economic Development for the City's Comprehensive Plan began in 1991, when Okanogan and Omak business and government leaders began organizing to promote business and economic development. With the assistance of the Okanogan County Council for Economic Development (OCCED), the group was able to undertake a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis of the Central Okanogan Valley. E. D. Hovee & Company, under contract to the State Department of Community Development, conducted the study and completed the report in June 1991.

The Economic Development Action Plan for the Central Okanogan Valley was intended to carry out the "Vision" for the area developed by the SWOT Committee. This group also prepared a series of Goals that provided general direction to citizens interested in pursuing economic development. Finally, the Goals led to the development of Objectives and Actions Items, which are specific activities, or projects intended to stimulate economic revitalization and realization of the "Vision".

Upon completion of the SWOT Analysis in 1991, the tenor and need for economic development plans began to change. The Central Valley area was beginning a transition from reliance on traditional resource-based industries to a future that demanded a more diverse economic base, a trend that continues, and in many ways has accelerated over the past decade. While wood products, tree fruit and cattle remain important contributors to the economy, the value of tourism, government, retail sales, health care and service industries has increased.

One of the critical parts of the early local economic development planning efforts was crafting a "Vision" for economic development in the Central Okanogan Valley. While the "Vision" arose from countless hours of discussion and consideration of many different points of view over a decade ago, the statement is still relevant today.



## The Vision Statement

*"To develop a community with a diverse business, ~~and~~ agricultural and tourism economy providing social, recreational, educational, cultural and job opportunities for all citizens on a par with the rest of Washington State. This economy is to be built on sustainable use of natural resources, preserving our rural atmosphere and clean air and water."*

~~The latest~~Another County-wide effort for improving the economy began in February 1999 when the Okanogan County Commissioners appointed a countywide Task Force to establish a functional strategic plan for community development and economic diversification within Okanogan County.

In May of 1999, Task Force members attended a three-day Rural Symposium in Ellensburg that provided experts to assist rural communities in their economic development planning efforts. During the Symposium the Name Partnership 2005 was chosen to reflect the underlying theme of strong partnerships and commitment of minimum of five years to achieve a more stable, diversified economic base for the county.

In August of that same year, the Commissioners endorsed the draft Strategic Plan, appointed interim Board members and expressed interest in having the Partnership 2005 help establish the criteria and process for funding infrastructure proposals under the guidelines of the "Distressed Counties" tax money.

During the next twelve months the Partnership was to create an organization that was both efficient and effective. The Partnership 2005 and the Okanogan County Council for Economic Development (OCCED) decided together to create a new entity, which would combine the roles and responsibilities of OCCED with the new ideas and high creative energy of the new Partnership 2005 thus, Alliance 2005 (now called the Economic Alliance) was created.

The Alliance was established as a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization. The goal of this organizational structure was to create an effective partnership in Okanogan County between private enterprise, county, tribal and local governments to implement the strategies laid out in the new five-year plan.

During this same period, particularly during 2001, 2002 and 2003, the city began to identify and prioritize economic development related projects. The intent was to focus community development efforts on activities that would help stimulate creation of a sustainable economic future built upon traditional industries and new technology. ~~The~~A planned small business incubator, redevelopment of the Omak Stampede Arena and grounds, development of a value-added agricultural products industry, expansion of higher education opportunities, upgrading of basic infrastructure, improving pedestrian access, upgrading the Omak Airport including planning for a business and industry park and expanding access to high-speed, high bandwidth telecommunications were all identified as important components of a new economy.

Another A final piece drawn on for this a previous update of the Economic Development Element is the Community Assessment completed in 2004. The Assessment resulted in over 400 citizens being asked to respond to the following questions:

- What do you think are the major problems and challenges in your community?
- What do you think are the major strengths and assets in your community?
- What projects would you like to see completed in two, five, ten and twenty years in your community?

While the results of the assessment confirmed many of the City's priorities and provided a fresh look at issues and concerns within the community, the results provide a grounding in the need to ensure that the community, in its many forms and cultures, is considered as part of the economic development picture. For that reason, this element has been given the title of Community and Economic Development Element.

The most recent examination of the area's economy is summarized in the 2021 Economic Development and Recovery Strategy prepared for the Economic Alliance by E.D. Hovee. The following pages provide a profile of the Central Okanogan valley excerpted from the strategy.

The Action Plan, Economic Alliance Strategic Plan and the Community Assessment provided direction and concepts that are integrated into this plan element through goals, policies and recommendations for economic development in City.

The following pages provide an excerpt from a current economic development recover plan prepared for the Economic Alliance.



### Central County Profile

With an estimated 13,800 residents, the Central area represents the most populated region of Okanogan County. The county’s two largest cities – Omak and Okanogan – are located here as well as the smaller incorporated communities of Conconully and Riverside. Highway 97 access and central location make this a good location for retail, service and governmental functions that serve the entire county.

**Demographics.** Despite its larger existing population, the Central area has experienced **population growth** of only 3% over the last decade, well below county and NCW-wide rates of increase. An estimated 18% of residents are Latino, below the county-wide average of 22%. With proximity to the Colville Reservation on the east side of Omak, 7% are Native American.

At 41-42 years of age, the **median age** of Central area residents is slightly younger than the county median, slightly older than the greater NCW region. The area has somewhat higher proportions of both younger (less than 25) and older (75+ year) residents than the county.

At an estimated \$57,400, annual **median household income** is above the county-wide but below the NCW-wide median figures. About 15% of families have below poverty-level incomes, just above the county-wide proportion of 14%.

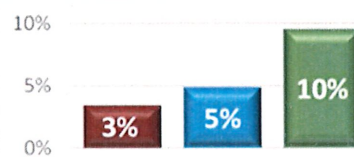
**Employment.** Of persons age 16+, the area’s **labor force participation rate** is at 55%, on par with the county but below the NCW figure of 60% labor force participation. This reflects a relatively high rate of non-wage income, both in the form of retirement savings and transfer payments.

About 28% of residents employed have jobs in local, state or federal government positions – somewhat above the county-wide proportion of 25%. An estimated 56% of workers have *white collar* positions, the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest rate of the five Okanogan County sub-regions.

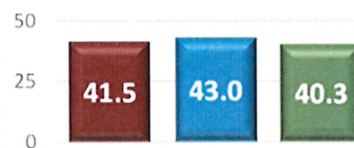
### The Central County Region



#### % Population Growth (2010-20)



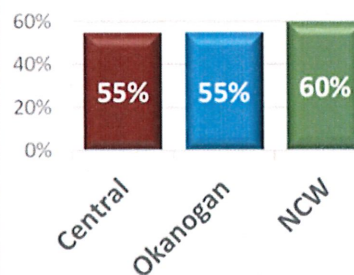
#### Median Age of Population



#### Median Household Income



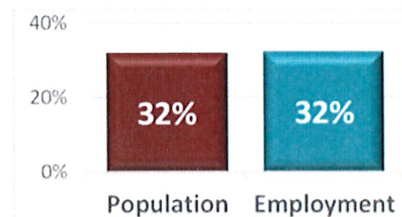
#### % Labor Force Participation



Sources: WA-OFM, Environics/Claritas

For this sub-county region, employment appears to be **roughly in balance** with population. With 32% of Okanogan County’s population, the Central County area accounts for an equivalent 32% of the county’s job base, as illustrated by the chart to the right. The Central area has also experienced the strongest job growth, accounting for an estimated 86% of net wage and salary job growth across Okanogan County from 2009-18, especially for governmental positions.

### Central County Population & Employment as % of County



Sources: Environics/Claritas, Census OTM.  
Data does not include self-employed.

For wage and salary workers, Census *On-The-Map (OTM)* information indicates that those working in the Central area tend to be in higher paying education and public sector jobs – albeit partially offset by the county’s highest proportion of lower paid retail workers.

Workers are predominantly White with relatively low Hispanic/Latino workforce – with the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest proportions of adult workers county-wide having educational attainment beyond high school (just below the Methow Valley). Approximately 56% of Central area wage and salary workers are female (highest of the five sub-county areas) – as compared to a roughly 50/50 female/male workforce balance county-wide.

**Community Assets & Priorities.** Based on survey results and interview conversations, key Central region assets include land for development, tourism potential, and the area’s central location for governmental, retail, and health care services. The biggest challenge may be lack of a coherent vision for future growth. There is interest in diversifying the local economy including for industrial and downtown area development but with need for expanded county-wide and regional involvement as for business recruitment. Most frequently mentioned priorities are to:

- Attract new business, grow tourism and welcome newcomers
- Stabilize and improve health care services
- Better engage the community and improve tribal coordination
- Expand workforce training and business technical assistance
- Provide support for grant writing and administration (here and county-wide)

**Summary Notes.** Of the five sub-county regions, the Central area comes closest to fitting the overall residential demographic profile of Okanogan County. The Central area also appears to achieve the best overall population-employment balance. However, a couple of points of divergence are noted – a below average rate of population growth in recent years and higher than average dependence on governmental and retail employment.

Due to its central location, there is opportunity and interest to diversify beyond the current mainstays of the local economy – predicated on ramped up community engagement and opportunities for regional partnerships. As a survey respondent noted, a “thriving economy” would look like an “unemployment rate below 3%, new store fronts downtown, happy people.”



## **Policies for Community and Economic Development**

The following policies are intended to guide decision making regarding economic development in the Greater Omak Area.

The City, in partnership with the County and Colville Tribes shall:

- Policy 1: encourage preservation of the rural and small-town atmosphere with its clean air, water and open spaces as an important component of community and economic development.
- Policy 2: encourage continued development of Omak as the “shopping center” of Okanogan County by providing a variety of areas for commercial development and upgrading and maintaining infrastructure (water, sewer, streets, broadband, stormwater, etc...) required to serve new and existing development.
- Policy 3: encourage retention and expansion of businesses in the downtown core through redevelopment, infrastructure improvements and development of partnerships.
- Policy 4: encourage continued development of the growing retail and service area in the vicinity of the Omache Shopping Center as a compliment rather than competitor to the downtown core.
- Policy 5: encourage the promotion of social, recreational and cultural activities as a means to add vitality to the local economy.
- Policy 6: recognize the diverse nature of the economy and its impact of the community and the many cultures that exist here, and work to resist bigotry and promote community harmony as a vital part of community and economic development.
- Policy 7: support expansion of entrepreneurial, vocational/technical training and increased higher educational opportunities and offerings as a means to encourage diverse and sustainable economic activity.
- Policy 8: protect existing and encourage expansion of primary healthcare and mental healthcare services as an important part of community and economic development.
- Policy 9: encourage continued development of diverse retail and service sectors while preserving present jobs and businesses by working to create new business and job opportunities.
- Policy 10: encourage continued development and expansion of value-added agricultural and specialty wood products industries.

Policy 11: support and encourage industries that maintain sustainable use of natural resources.

Policy 12: ~~promote availability and skills of local workforce, low overhead costs (e.g. land, housing, power) and access to high-speed/high bandwidth fiber and wireless telecommunications.~~

Policy 13: continue development of the Omak Municipal Airport as an important transportation link and site of future business and industry park.

Policy 14: cooperate with and encourage community organizations in the implementation of this element.

Policy 15: prepare contingency plans or addressing future health emergencies.

Policy 16: encourage and support development of mid-range housing for fully employed persons.

Policy 17: encourage the expansion of broadband throughout the community.

## **Comprehensive Plan for Community and Economic Development**

The comprehensive plan for economic development consists of a refined and focused set of recommendations derived from the "Economic Alliance Strategic Plan" and Community Assessment. The recommended projects are geared to implement the policies and attain the "Vision" stated above. The projects provide specific examples of how this plan element can be implemented.

### **Implementation:**

The initial task of implementing the comprehensive plan for economic development is to present the plan, particularly the recommendations to as many community groups and local governments as possible. Where needed, the City should include recommended actions in other elements of this plan, specifically the Capital Facilities, Transportation and Parks and Recreation Elements. In addition the City should maintain continued involvement with the Economic Alliance as this organization will play an important part in seeing many of the recommendations implemented

## 2. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ELEMENT

The following recommendations provide direction for the implementation of this plan element.

- That the City work with appropriate organizations and groups to identify and recruit industrial and commercial development desired in the Greater Omak Area.
- ~~That the City continue working with the Economic Alliance and Okanogan County on the development of a small business incubator.~~
- That the City continue working with Omak Stampede Inc., Omak Rodeo and Native American Center Association, the Tribes and other stakeholders on completing the redevelopment of the Stampede Arena and Grounds.
- That the City continue working with the PUD and area internet service providers on expanding access to highspeed wireless and fiber telecommunications throughout the City and at the Omak Municipal Airport.
- That a plan for the protection, restoration and enhancement of the riverfront within the Planning Area be prepared that addresses public access and creates economic opportunities.
- That educational programs be developed and implemented on one or more of the following, and presented at schools, community groups, local governments, and the community at large:
  - < the importance of quality health care to economic development
  - < the value of recreational opportunities to tourism and community well-being
  - < the consolidation of various services and functions between Omak and Okanogan including but not limited to School Districts, Fire Departments, Park and Recreation maintenance, City government, etc....
- That public and private involvement and support be generated for community traditions and events such as Omak Stampede, Tribal Pow-Wows, County Fair, Cinco de Mayo, Community Concerts, performing arts productions, sporting events, farmers markets, and local volunteerism and activism. Use local human resources wherever possible, to encourage local involvement in community action and to enhance community pride.

That efforts be made to continue and expand recreational events and opportunities including but not limited to the following:

- < all Junior Rodeo and other equestrian events
- < Sports trails, mountain bike riding
- < Hunting and fishing
- < Alpine and Nordic Skiing



- < Snowmobiling
- < Dog Sledding
- < Golfing
- < Horseback riding
- < Water sports

- That the City may support group(s) that collect information and raise money for advertising and promotion of fund raising, bond issues or other financing needed for expansion of public educational and healthcare facilities that directly relate to quality of life and economic development.

That the City support existing and expanded training programs in the medical care field.

- That coordinated and cooperative marketing of the area by the Omak and Okanogan Chambers of Commerce, Okanogan County Tourism Council and other organizations interested in economic development be developed and supported.
- That opportunities presently provided by the Economic Alliance for financial and business guidance to existing and new businesses should be expanded.
- That programs be supported to increase awareness across the state and along the West Coast, of the opportunities for small business development in this high-quality living environment.
- That the city recognize and support volunteer committees that work throughout the community.
- That private and intergovernmental efforts to diversify the area's economy be encouraged and supported.
- That an information database be created to help firms locate development sites. The data base should include at least the following:
  - < land use designations (both Comprehensive Plan and Zoning)
  - < availability of infrastructure
  - < environmental constraints (shorelines, floodplains, critical areas)
  - < jurisdictional information
  - < permit requirements
  - < access constraints
  - < references to any studies related to site
- That efforts be made to participate in public land forest planning practices and encourage initiatives geared towards improving forest health and reducing fire risk to private landowners.



- That efforts be made to institutionalize a means of evaluating the impact of legislative and agency actions on the area and create a process for informing legislators and agencies of the identified impacts.
- That the City encourage development of a value-added products manufacturing industry based on existing resource based industries.
- That the City encourage development of a recycling and remanufacturing industry based on utilization of recyclable materials.
- That public policies are instituted that are models of sustainable resource use.
- That the City encourage development of uses for forest wood waste for fuel, value added products, etc...
- That the City encourage development of new industry based on production, processing and marketing of botanical crops.

## PLAN ELEMENT E: CULTURAL PRESERVATION

### I. BACKGROUND

The Greater Omak Area is the home of diverse cultures, from the original Native American inhabitants to the traditional resource industry-based Anglos to the more recent influx of Latino, Jamaican and other ethnic agricultural workers<sup>1</sup> and urban refugees. The mixture of these different cultures and the constantly changing conditions in which they interact provides exciting opportunities and challenges in community relations and development.

The City, County and Tribes must consider that the Greater Omak Area will most likely see significant growth by the year ~~2025~~2040. The effects such growth will impact of every cultural group in the Planning Area in different ways. The customs, culture, traditions and community of each cultural group, especially the Native American Culture, must be carefully considered when planning for the future and how change will be managed.

#### Native American Culture:

The area comprises ancestral territories of the Wenatchee, Chelan, Entiat, Methow, Okanogan, Nespelem, San Poil, and Moses Columbia Tribes. The traditional customs of Native American people of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation are to be preserved. The established culture of the people is related in song and dance and through oral history. The archeological and historical sites are fragile areas that must be preserved. Native American Country can be a positive part of the ever-changing community of the Greater Omak Area. The expected development in the future can only be enhanced by the contributions of the Native Americans in our area.

#### Anglo Culture:

The customs and cultures of the Greater Omak Area is a result of the diversity of the people settling here for nearly 200 years. The richness of the land encouraged the fur traders; then came the miners, and the cattlemen, the railroad, the paddlewheel steamers, and then the farmers to help sustain the land. The custom and culture of those people have given our area that distinction and diversity found only in a few places in America. The cultural contributions of each group and the traditions of their forefathers have made the people of the Greater Omak Area better able to handle the rapid change and long-term development.

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<sup>1</sup> - a significant change over the last decade has been an increasing reliance on Federal H2A visa workers for seasonal agricultural work.

**Latino Culture:**

The first influx of Latino people into the Okanogan Valley began during World War II when the U.S. Government initiated a program to bring Mexican persons into the area to assist in the apple harvest. Over the years an increasing number of Latino persons have come to the area to work in the orchards primarily on a migrant labor basis. However, the past decade has seen more and more Latinos coming to the area with their families and settling permanently. As the numbers have increased so have the number of Latino owned and operated businesses.

Members of the Latino community commend the efforts made by the City, County and Tribes to promote cultural diversity and identity. As part of the multi-cultural community that comprises the Greater Omak Area, Latinos feel that mutual respect and understanding are very important. Latino persons desire to fully participate in building a better future for the community; therefore, any effort made for the good of all will break down barriers and unite all community members in spite of our differences.

**Other Races and Ethnic Groups:**

Over the last decade there has been an increasing reliance on Federal H2A brought into the County to provide seasonal agricultural labor. Recently a significant number of the workers are from Jamaica adding to the cultural diversity of the community. In addition, there are growing communities of Filipinos, Sikhs and other races and ethnic groups. The following table provides a historical perspective on the demographics of Omak.

**Table E-1 Demographics of Incorporated Area 2000, 2010 and 2020**

	2000		2010		2020	
One Race	86054233	96.4%	4649	95.95%	4317	88.83%
White Alone	60133230	67.4%	3447	71.15%	2992	61.56%
Black or African American	140	0.2%	27	0.56%	46	0.95%
Native American and Alaska Native	1773469	19.9%	841	17.36%	899	18.50%
Asian <u>Alone</u>	670	0.8%	27	0.00%	50	1.03%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	80	0.1%	2	0.00%	5	0.10%
<u>Some</u> Other Race <u>Alone</u>	730534	8.2%	305	6.30%	325	6.69%
Two or More Races	367322	3.6%	196	4.05%	508	10.45%
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>89274600</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>4845</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>4860</b>	<b>100%</b>
<i>Hispanic or Latino (of any race)</i>	<i>1000</i>	<i>11.2%</i>				

### Policies for the Cultural Element

The following policies are intended to guide decision-making regarding changes which could impact the diverse cultures of the Planning Area.

The City shall:

- Policy 1: recognize that the lands East of the Okanogan River within the Planning Area lie within the bounds of the Colville Indian Reservation.
- Policy 2: recognize and will strive to conserve the diversity, variety and unique character of Reservation lands.
- Policy 3: encourage the identification, preservation and protection of archeological resources throughout the Planning Area.
- Policy 4: encourage the development of cultural resources through museums, interpretative centers and other means to provide educational opportunities for residents and visitors.
- Policy 5: encourage and promote diverse cultural activities that involve all sectors of the community.
- Policy 6: encourage the employment of Native Americans and Latinos in private commercial and industrial enterprises, governmental institutions and identify and overcome barriers to their employment.
- Policy 7: agree to work to form a commission with members from the City, Tribes, County and community to promote community and cultural diversity and mutual understanding.
- Policy 8: support and recognize the contributions of diverse cultures to the community.
- Policy 9: support activities that bring all cultures together.

## 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- ~~• That the City support formation of a commission to promote community and cultural diversity and mutual understanding.~~



- That the City support development and implementation of educational programs on the customs, cultures and traditions of Anglos, Native Americans, Latinos and other cultural groups and presented at schools, community groups, local governments, and in the community at large.
- That the City recognize contributions of the area's diverse cultures in the community.

~~That activities that bring all cultures together be encouraged and supported~~

# SURVEY

## City of Omak Shoreline Master Program Update

The City of Omak is conducting a periodic review and update of its Shoreline Master Program (SMP) as required by state law. The SMP applies to all lakes over 20 acres, and larger streams (over 20 cubic feet per second) as well as associated wetlands and uplands at least 200 feet on a horizontal plane from the Ordinary-High-Water-Mark of the shoreline. The Okanogan River and any associated wetlands are within the jurisdiction of the SMP. This project will focus on updating policies and regulations to ensure consistency with current state law. Please help guide this project by providing your input to the following questions. Skip any that do not apply to you.

1. What is your relationship to Shorelines in Omak? (Check all that apply)
  - I recreate along shorelines (e.g. walk beaches or trails, camp near shorelines, etc.).
  - I paddle, boat or fish on the water bodies.
  - I have a business dependent on Omak shorelines (e.g. marina, aquaculture, etc.).
  - I own, rent or have access to, property within 200 feet of the Okanogan River?
    - o If yes, name all that apply: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_
  
2. The state Shoreline Management Act requires local SMPs to balance three goals: Use & Development, Public Access, and Resource Protection along our local shorelines of the state.  
Which of the following SMP Governing Principles do you support (select all that apply):
  - Ensuring local regulations are consistent with state laws & rules
  - Achieving local planning policies through both regulatory & non-regulatory means
  - Avoiding unconstitutional infringement upon and taking of private property rights
  - Applying SMP regulations only to shoreline areas & applying SMP planning functions more broadly across watersheds
  - Protect shoreline ecological functions
  - Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_
  
3. What types of use and development activities would you like to see maintained and/or increased in the Shoreline? (select all that apply):
  - Public access to the shoreline (visual and/or physical)
  - Private access to the shoreline (stairs to the water)
  - Commercial development
  - Education opportunities
  - Underwater dive parks
  - Docks, boat ramps, mooring buoys, marinas, etc.
  - Residential development
  - Aquaculture (shellfish, finfish)
  - Fishing
  - Marine Trades (boat building and repair, etc.)
  - Water quality
  - Other (please specify)

### Questions #4-9: For Recent Permit Applicants

4. Have you inquired about, applied for, or been issued a shoreline permit by the City of Omak? If yes, which type or permit (select one and describe the type of development):
  - Shoreline Exemption \_\_\_\_\_
  - Shoreline Conditional Use Permit \_\_\_\_\_
  - Shoreline Variance \_\_\_\_\_
  - Shoreline Substantial Development Permit \_\_\_\_\_

5. Were there any barriers you ran into when attempting to permit a project in Shoreline Jurisdiction? Were the barriers financial, regulatory, or other? (describe):

6. When presented with the SMP Regulations, were you able to easily comprehend the intent of the regulations, and did you clearly understand the permitting process?

7. Did you fully understand what was expected from you (i.e. applications, reports, fees) and the reasons for certain requirements such as special reports?

8. Could you easily get your questions answered in a meaningful and timely manner? (describe):

9. If you answered questions #4-9, what could be done to improve the regulations, process, etc?

10. Are there any sections of the SMP or specific provisions that you think the City needs to revise? (describe):

11. Are there any changes to local circumstance, new information, or improved data the City needs to consider regarding the SMP? (describe):

12. Is there anything else you would like to share about the SMP periodic review and update?

13. How would you prefer to contribute to the update effort?

- Workshop
- Field Trip
- Survey
- Interview
- Email
- Online Meeting
- Not interested

**Thank you for your time!**

For more information about the SMP periodic review/update, please see the project website.

For questions or to sign up to be notified of SMP periodic review/update events, please contact:

Kurt Danison, Contract Planner  
509-322-4037, [kdanison@ncidata.com](mailto:kdanison@ncidata.com)



**City of Omak**  
**Shoreline Master Program Periodic Review**  
**Public Participation Plan 2022-2023**

### **Project Description**

Omak is conducting a periodic review of its Shoreline Master Program (SMP) and is seeking to engage with the public and stakeholders for input and comments. The SMP helps our community plan for the future, balancing shoreline development with environmental protection, and provide for access to public shores and waters. The City wants to know what YOU value about shorelines and any issues YOU would like the SMP to address.

### **What is the SMP?**

The SMP is a tool to plan and regulate the use of Washington shorelines. The SMPs are local land use policies and regulations that guide the use of Washington shorelines, public and private. The SMP's aim is to protect the shoreline for future generations, provide for public access to public waters and shores, and plan for shoreline use. The City's SMP includes our community's goals, policies, regulations, and programs focused on development, conservation, use, and restoration of our shorelines.

### **Why Do We Care About Shoreline Management?**

The Shoreline Management Act (SMA) is intended to prevent inherent harm in developing Washington's shorelines. The SMA requires all counties and most cities with shorelines to develop and implement a SMP.

### **What is a Periodic Review?**

The Periodic review is meant to look at what has changed in the community and in the rules and bring our SMP, from 2018, up to date. It is required every eight years, under RCW 90.58.080(4) to make sure the City stays current and complies with the requirements of the SMA. The Periodic review includes this public participation plan.

### **Why Is Public Participation Important?**

Since public use and enjoyment is the primary purpose of the SMA, the public needs an opportunity to participate. A Public Participation Plan (Plan) is required to describe how the City will encourage early and continuous public participation throughout the process of reviewing the SMP. This Plan describes the steps that Omak will take to provide opportunities for public engagement and public comment.<sup>1</sup> This plan is a working document and will be adjusted as needed to provide for the greatest and broadest public participation.

### **Public Participation Goals**

- Provide the public, all generations, including school age children, with timely information, an understanding of the process, and multiple opportunities to review and comment on proposed amendments to the SMP. Provide translated materials.
- Actively solicit information from citizens, property owners, and stakeholders about their concerns, questions and priorities for the process.
- Encourage the public to informally review and comment on proposed changes to the SMP throughout the process and provide those comments to decision makers.
- Provide online workshops, meetings and hearings for both informal and formal public input at project milestones prior to decision-making by local officials.

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<sup>1</sup> This plan is in addition to any other minimum requirements for public participation required by Omak Municipal Code.

- Consult and consider recommendations from neighboring jurisdictions, federal and state agencies, the County PUD and Native American tribes.

The following is a general timeline that includes anticipated public participation opportunities. An up-to-date timeline will be posted and maintained on the City’s website:

## **SMP Periodic Review Timelines and Process**

## **Tasks**

### **PHASE 1: PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND INITIATE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**March 2022 – May 2022**

**-----, 2022 PC meeting**

- Identify shorelines
- Develop public participation plan
- Launch website
- Engage with public and stakeholders
- Online open house kick-off
- Survey

### **PHASE 2: SHORELINE INVENTORY AND CHARACTERIZATION**

**June – August 2022**

**-----, 2022 PC Meeting**

- Review inventory and characterization report of shorelines
- Engage with public and stakeholders

### **PHASE 3: DESIGNATION, POLICY, AND REGULATION DEVELOPMENT, CUMULATIVE IMPACTS ANALYSIS**

**September – November 2022**

**-----, 2022 PC Meeting**

- Complete draft SMP
- Draft code amendments
- Online open house refresh with draft code amendments

### **PHASE 4: RESTORATION PLAN December 2022 - February 2023**

**-----, 2023 PC Meeting**

- Revisit and revise
- Session with Planning Commission
- Engage with public and stakeholders

### **PHASE 5: LOCAL APPROVAL March – June 2023**

**PC Public Hearing -----, 2023**

- Final draft SMP
- Public hearing and comment period

### **PHASE 6: STATE APPROVAL & ADOPTION**

**July - August 2023**

**City Council Public Hearing -----, 2023**

- Submit draft amendments and checklist to Ecology for review
- Revise documents as needed
- Approval and adoption
- Submit final draft and checklist to Ecology for final determination

## Opportunities for Community Input - Outreach

Omak is committed to providing multiple opportunities for community input throughout the process. The City will use a variety of outreach approaches to inform the community and encourage their participation, including the following:

<b>Website</b>	The City's website will include an SMP webpage where interested parties can access status updates, draft documents, official notices, links to online workshops, meetings and hearings, minutes and other project information. The webpage, expected to go live on ----, 2022, will be the primary repository of all information related to the SMP process. The page will include who to contact for more information and an email link for questions and comments.
<b>Survey</b>	A community <a href="#">survey</a> will be conducted during the months of ---- 2022 to solicit specific feedback from interested parties and results will be posted on the webpage.
<b>Open House</b>	Omak will initiate the SMP process with an online community open house on -----, 2022. Public comments received during the Open House will be posted on the webpage.
<b>Mailing Lists</b>	An email list of interested parties will be created, advertised and maintained by the City. The list will be used to notify interested parties regarding SMP progress and participation opportunities. Interested parties will be added to the list by contacting the Clerk's Office.
<b>Comments</b>	Interested parties will be encouraged to provide comments to Omak by letter, email and/or participation in online meetings. All comments will be forwarded to the Planning Commission and Omak City Council. The webpage will be the central repository for information under consideration. Documents will be available for review on the City's webpage and at City Hall with advance notice and copies will be provided at the established copying cost.
<b>Planning Commission</b>	The Planning Commission will be the primary forum for detailed review and recommendations to the Omak City Council. Interested parties are encouraged to attend online workshops, meetings and hearings and provide comments during Planning Commission review and deliberations and/or City Council workshops and public hearings. Official notices will be published as established in City policy.
<b>City Council</b>	The City Council will receive monthly updates on the update process, proposed revisions and timelines.
<b>News Media</b>	The local news media will be kept up-to-date on the process and receive copies of all official notices.
<b>Field Trips</b>	Interested parties, such as seniors, community centers, Tribes, recreationalists, and schools will be invited on sponsor led field trips.



	Provide comment forms for instant feedback.
<b>Festivals, Fairs, Farmers Markets</b>	Set up information tables or booths to distribute information and speak with community. Provide comment forms for instant feedback.
<b>Social Media</b>	Engage with community via blog, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter.
<b>Workshops/Presentations</b>	Make presentations to stakeholder groups, community organizations, and neighborhood associations. Provide comment forms for instant feedback.

## Stakeholders

Omak will engage, at a minimum, with the following stakeholders:

<b>Shoreline Property Owners</b>	<b>Individual Shoreline Users</b>
Home and residential property owners Homeowner associations Business and industry owners Railroads Public property owners Public and private utilities	Shoreline area residents Shoreline users – those who fish, swim, paddle, boat and walk Residents generally interested in local planning Non-English speaking populations Tourists and visitors
<b>Shoreline User Groups</b>	<b>Local and Regional Organizations</b>
Boating and paddling organizations Swimming clubs Fishing groups Beach watcher organizations Research, academic and educational institutions Sporting groups	Business groups such as the Chamber of Commerce Environmental organizations Conservation organizations Restoration and enhancement organizations Land use organizations Property rights organizations Ethnic organizations Neighborhood associations Real estate associations tourism agencies
<b>State Agencies</b>	<b>Tribes</b>
Department of Ecology Department of Fish and Wildlife Department of Natural Resources Department of Commerce Puget Sound Partnership Department of Health Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation Department of Transportation	Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
<b>Federal Agencies</b>	<b>Local Officials</b>

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service NOAA Fisheries U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Federal Emergency Management Agency U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Neighborhood planning advisory groups Planning Commission SMP advisory groups Appointed Officials Elected officials
<b>Neighboring Jurisdictions</b>	
Okanogan County	

**Public Hearings**

The Planning Commission will conduct a public comment period and at least one public hearing to solicit input on the SMP prior to submittal of a draft plan to the City Council for its review prior to submittal to the Department of Ecology in ----- 2023. The City Council will hold one public hearing before final adoption in ---- 2023.

The City will publish notices of all hearings that will state who is holding the comment period and/or hearing, the date and time, and the location of any public hearing. Notices will be published per official policy and comply with all other legal requirements such as the Americans with Disabilities Act. A notice will be sent to the email list (above) and the Department of Ecology.

**Roles and Responsibilities**

Stakeholders have various roles in the SMP planning and reviewing process. For example, the public’s role is to attend meetings and provide oral or written comments. User groups may develop position papers that they present to the planning commission. State and federal agencies may provide technical expertise and information about laws and regulations. The City of Omak Planning Commission will act as the Shoreline Advisory Committee for this planning effort. The Commission may engage a technical committee, with members requested to provide suggestions and review scientific studies and other data about the local shoreline, analyze the inventory and characterization information, and provide science-based recommendations about shoreline issues. Providing there is an interest, the Commission may also form a citizens committee to review the public participation plan, shoreline policy issues, inventory and characterization, and recommends goals, policies and regulations. This committee also may help organize and conduct public participation events.

Appointed and elected officials also are stakeholders. A planning commission usually reviews all available information and recommendations from advisory committees, hears public comment at workshops and public hearings, and makes a recommendation to the City Council. The Council considers available info and the planning commission recommendation, then decides whether to adopt that recommendation or make changes to it. The Council’s decision is sent to Ecology for review and approval.

The SMA is a cooperative partnership between local and state government. Omak has the primary responsibility for initiating planning, updates, and administering the regulatory program. The Department of Ecology (Ecology) acts in a support and review role and provides assistance to make sure the SMP complies with the SMA. Ecology approves and adopts SMPs.

The primary contact for the City of Omak SMP update is:

Kurt Danison, Contract Planner  
509-322-4037, [kdanison@ncidata.com](mailto:kdanison@ncidata.com)

The primary contact for the City is:

Cindy Hicks, Deputy Clerk  
509-826-1170, [deputyclerk@omakcity.com](mailto:deputyclerk@omakcity.com)

The Washington State Department of Ecology is responsible for providing technical assistance to the City and must approve the City's updated SMP. The primary contact person at Ecology is:

Lennard Jordan, Shoreline Planner, Central Regional Office  
[lennard.jordan@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:lennard.jordan@ecy.wa.gov)

The City Council's role is to review the draft SMP update, gather public input, make changes as desired, and locally adopt the final SMP, if needed.

### **What Happens at the End of the Periodic Review?**

At the end of the review, we will know whether we need to revise our SMP. The final steps will include the adoption of a resolution, motion, or ordinance following notice and a public hearing. This includes, at a minimum, findings that a review and evaluation has occurred and identifying the revisions made, or that a revision was not needed and the reasons therefore.

### **What Happens If You Don't Like the SMP?**

An interested party may file an appeal with the Washington State Shorelines Hearings Board within 60 days of the publication date of the written notice of the final action.