

THE SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM UPDATE

Protecting the Shorelines

I see examples like “Valley Creek to Oak Street”, “Rainier Property Development Plans”, and PA Waterfront Improvement Plans”, as signs of the lack of public/private interest in protecting the natural qualities of the shorelines in our area. Proposals to return shorelines to their natural state have been refuted and replaced with plans for seawalls, promenades, and piers.

Public Access

This will always be in high demand. The Waterfront Trail will continue to meet much of this demand and that should remain a strong community focus.

Private Property Rights

This needs attention. Too often shoreline owners bear the burden of inconsiderate visitors. Public education and information should be a higher priority.

Inspiration for Participation

As we rebound from Harborworks and associated issues and challenges it's a tough time to get the stakeholders back to the table. Where is the Port of PA now with shoreline planning? Where is Ken Sweeney? Ken was always an able and strong participant in that role for the port and the community.

The common goal being to provide the most opportunity, for the most users, for the longest time period, while protecting the natural environment and ecosystems that make this area what it is.

Past Secretary of State Ralph Monroe once told me “ your commodity on the North Olympic Peninsula is not from timber, fishing, or farming, but from the natural vistas and the special nature of the place.” He suggested moving the emphasis from removing the natural resources to marketing those natural resources as they remain, now and into the future.

With all that said I want to commend the tribes on the collaborative efforts of late and note that we should all look to that example as to far reaching resolves for how we plan for that special place where the mountains and the prairies of the North Olympic Peninsula meet the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

Now, it's your turn. How does one incite the appropriate response to this message?

Thank You

Mike Langley, on the beach February 17, 2011