

## **Ferry County Ordinance No. 2023-04**

### **Adopting Public Participation Plan**

**WHEREAS**, RCW 36.70.470 states that "Each planning agency shall endeavor to promote public interest in, and understanding of, the comprehensive plan and its purpose, and of the official controls related to it"; and

**WHEREAS**, the County desires to engage the public in its planning and policy decisions at all stages. Public participation shall include notice procedures that are reasonably calculated to provide notice to property owners and other affected and interested individuals, tribes, government agencies, businesses, school districts, and organizations of proposed amendments to plans and ordinances.

**WHEREAS**, Ferry County Ordinance 2007-08 adopted March 20, 2007, established the Public Participation Plan, and

**WHEREAS**, Ferry County Ordinance 2009-13 adopted March 16, 2009, amended Ordinance No. 2007-08 updating the Public Participation Plan, and

**WHEREAS**, Ferry County Ordinance 2009-18 adopted April 6, 2009, amended Ordinance No. 2009-13 updating the Public Participation Plan, and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it ordained that the Ferry County Board of Commissioners hereby adopts the Public Participation Plan Ordinance, as described on attached "Exhibit A" and by this reference made a part of said Ordinance; and


**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it further ordained that this ordinance repeals and replaces Ferry County Ordinance No. 2007-08, Ferry County Ordinance No. 2009-13, Ferry County Ordinance No. 2009-18, and/or any previous Public Participation Plan Ordinances and/or Resolutions that may be currently in effect.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of County Commissioners of Ferry County that the attached ordinance is adopted:

APPROVED this 11 day of Dec, 2023

FERRY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
FERRY COUNTY, WASHINGTON

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
MICHAEL HEATH, Chairman

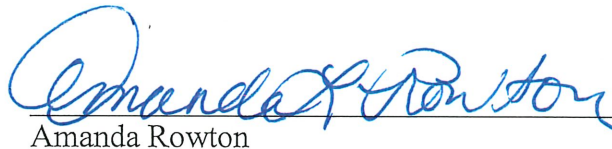
  
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ROBERT P. DEAN, Vice Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
BRIAN DANSEL, Member

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kathryn I. Burke  
Prosecuting Attorney

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Amanda Rowton  
Clerk of the Board

**FERRY COUNTY**

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN**

**ORDINANCE 2023-04**

FERRY COUNTY  
Planning Department  
147 N. Clark Ave., Suite 7  
P.O. Box 305  
Republic, WA 99166

## **1.0 Purpose of Plan**

Ferry County provides this Plan to ensure that maximum public participation is promoted in all phases of the development of plans and ordinances.

## **2.0 Scope of Plan**

This Plan applies to all Ferry County plans and ordinances

## **3.0 Revised Code of Washington (RCW)**

The following shall be used as the minimum guide in this Public Participation Plan (PPP), and are included by reference.

RCW 42.30	Open Public Meetings Act
RCW 36.70	Planning Enabling Act
RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c)	SEPA Requirements for Counties & Cities

## **4.0 Definitions**

Public	Persons who are residents and/or land owners in Ferry County and other affected and interested individuals, Colville Confederated Tribes, government agencies, businesses, school districts, and organizations.
Studies	Investigations of issues related to land use planning and development.
Ordinance	A legislative enactment by the Ferry County Board of County Commissioners.

## **Acronym List**

BOCC	Board of County Commissioners
PC	Planning Commission
PPP	Public Participation Plan
RCW	Revised Code of Washington
SEPA	State Environmental Policy Act

## **5.0 Policy Statement**

"The people of this state do not yield their sovereignty to the agencies, which serve them. The people, in delegating authority, do not give their public servants the right to decide what is good for the people to know and what is not good for them to know. The people insist on remaining informed and informing the people's public servants of their views so that they may retain control over the instruments they have created. For these reasons, even when not required by law, public agencies are encouraged to incorporate and accept public comment during their decision-making process." RCW 42.30.010

It shall be the policy of Ferry County that every reasonable effort will be made to solicit public participation in the preparation and/or revision and review of planning studies, plans and ordinances in draft or adopted form. Furthermore, the PPP requirements of the State Legislative laws (RCWs) listed in Section 3.0 shall be considered the minimum requirements, which the County in good faith will endeavor to meet.

## **6.0 Meeting Announcements**

Notice of all special meetings of the PC, or BOCC, pertaining to plans or ordinances in draft or adopted form, shall be published once in the newspaper of record (if time permits), posted on the County website and prominently displayed at the meeting location at least 24 hours prior to the time of such meeting.

An e-mail registry may be maintained of persons and groups in the county interested in any planning related meetings. The registry service may be publicly announced and actively promoted at least twice annually on the county website. An e-mail notice of any meetings in Sections 7.0, 8.0 and 9.0 may be sent to all persons on the registry.

## **7.0 Hearing Announcements**

Announcements of public hearings by the BOCC or the PC shall be published once in the newspaper of record, at least ten days before the hearing. Notices may also be published in neighboring newspapers.

## **8.0 Public Review Announcements**

Announcements of availability of all draft plans or ordinances, for public review, shall be published for 2 consecutive weeks in the newspaper of record; then allowing 60 days from the first published notice for the review and the submission of comments. Notices may also be published in neighboring newspapers.

## **9.0 Public Review of Draft Studies, Plans and Ordinances**

Public review of and comments on all draft plans and ordinances shall be actively promoted. Public meetings may be promoted and conducted by the BOCC, Planning Director or PC Chairman. The meeting(s) may be scheduled during development of the draft plan or ordinance, or at the end of the comment period.

A State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) review and analysis as specified in RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c) shall be performed by the County on original plan and ordinance drafts, if required, before submittal to the public for review and before submittal to the BOCC for its final hearing on new documents or revisions.

## **10.0 Public Submissions**

Written comments shall be sent or delivered to the Planning Director and shall be date stamped on receipt or on the postmark date if mailed. The comment author may also send copies to the BOCC, and/or PC Chairman.

Oral comments by members of the public at meetings, or public information meetings of the PC or hearings by the BOCC shall be documented. The speaker may identify himself or herself.

The public may record, using their own equipment, open meetings and hearings in a manner that is not intrusive or disruptive to the meeting.

## **11.0 Handling of Public Written and Oral Comments**

Copies of all original public comment letters and documented comments shall be made available to the public at the County Planning Department or the BOCC office. This documentation shall also be available to the PC and BOCC for review. All public comment documentation shall be kept by the Planning Department or BOCC for 6 years. Copies of these documents shall also be made available to members of the public upon request at the current fee schedule.

## **12.0 County Response to Written and Oral Public Comments**

The PC may review copies of all original written and oral (documented) public comments taken at study meetings, PC meetings and hearings of the PC and BOCC. The Planning Department or BOCC shall maintain all responses to public comments for 6 years. These records shall be available to the public for review at the Planning Department or BOCC. Copies of these records will be available to the public upon request at the current fee schedule.

## **13.0 Incorporation of Public Comments by the PC.**

After a PC public comment period, the PC and/or its working groups are responsible for incorporating accepted written and oral public comments into draft plans and ordinances. Comment resolutions by PC working groups shall be carefully reviewed and approved by a majority of the PC before submission to the BOCC with a recommendation of action.

## **14.0 BOCC Hearing on Final Draft Plans and Ordinances.**

The BOCC shall conduct a public hearing of the PC recommended plan or ordinance. The date, time and place of the hearing shall be published once a week for 2 consecutive weeks in the newspaper of record. The notice may also be sent to neighboring newspapers. At the public hearing, the BOCC may concurrently consider additional proposals related to the subject of the hearing, whether or not considered by the PC.

## **15.0 BOCC Disposition of Final Draft Plans and Ordinances**

Upon receipt of a final draft plan or ordinance, and a public hearing having been held, the BOCC may disposition the document by a majority vote of approval, disapproval, defer, change or remand to the PC with written reasons for disapproval or remand, with directions for continued action by the PC.

In the event that substantive changes are made to the document by the BOCC, the document shall be resubmitted for an additional public review and comment period after which the BOCC shall hold at least one public hearing for oral and written comment prior to consideration or adoption.

Final comment resolution shall be in accordance with Sections 12.0, 13.0, 14.0, and written directives by the BOCC.

Nothing in this Plan shall be construed to limit the legislative authority of the BOCC to consider and adopt new, re-written, or amended versions of plans and ordinances.

## **16.0 Emergency Legislation by the Board of County Commissioners**

Nothing in this Plan shall be construed to limit the BOCC authority to enact emergency ordinances to remedy a true emergency condition(s) effecting public health and safety. Such emergency legislation shall not require compliance with the terms of this Plan; HOWEVER, such emergency legislation shall expire within 180 days unless extended by the BOCC for up to an additional 180 days. Thereafter, the emergency legislation shall be void and any replacement shall be enacted in accordance with this Plan.

## **17.0 Severability**

If any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase of this ordinance is declared unconstitutional or invalid for any reason, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining parts of this ordinance.