



Administrator's Friday Letter

September 4, 2009

1. Shoreline Master Plan Update

On August 31, 2009, the Washington State Department of Ecology returned the executed contract authorizing DuPont to begin work on updating the DuPont Shoreline Master Plan. The \$75,000 grant runs three years and concludes in June 2011. Year one tasks include inventorying the shoreline and preparing a characterization report. Year two tasks include drafting the plan, analyzing cumulative impacts of the plan, and holding the community visioning meetings. Year three tasks include preparing the Shoreline Restoration Plan, demonstrating how the Shoreline Plan achieves the requirement of no net loss of shoreline functions, and values, holding the Planning Agency public hearing and finally, City Council action. Future public meetings and hearings will be advertised on the City website and bulletin boards as they are scheduled.

2. McDonald's Project Moving Quickly

Bill Anderson, the City Building Official, completed a first review of architectural, structural, mechanical, and plumbing plans submitted by the architects for McDonalds and issued a comment letter on August 3rd. The applicant responded with necessary revised plans on September 2nd. The project will likely be under construction this year.

3. Tree Board Begins Work

The City Tree Board had its first organizational meeting on September 1st. This body is charged with providing guidance on tree related issues in the City. The City has a huge number of trees and many issues have arisen over the years regarding removal, care, and replacement of trees. The Tree Board's first order of business will be a work plan. Among items to be considered for inclusion in no order of priority: street trees, hazardous trees, urban forestry and Tree USA participation, development regulations regarding tree retention, and tree care education.

4. City Organization Responds, Tightens Belt

The City of DuPont has not been immune to the impacts of the economy on our operating budget. To mitigate the impacts, the City has been utilizing various budget deficit reduction strategies which include: not filling several vacant budgeted positions, a reduction-in-force of one building inspector, collaborating with neighboring cities to explore cost-saving opportunities (sharing building inspector services; pavement management), transitioning to a more cost-effective fire model (with a lower level of service), and operating on a reduced budget (9% less than 2008 expenditures and 4% less than the approved 2009 budget). This process has balanced the City's budget to date, but staff continues to monitor the situation and implement additional reductions as needed to remain in balance.

5. Public Safety Radio Communications Improved with new Antenna

Effective Friday, August 28th, the Public Safety radio tower adjacent to the new Public Safety Building was complete and almost fully operational. The DuPont Police Department is still awaiting the final programming of their base radio to achieve full operational requirements. This new communication enhancement assures uninterrupted local radio coverage and significant inter-operability with multiple local, County, State and Federal Agencies for both day-to-day operations and for major disaster events.

6. New Battalion Chief in the Fire Department

Tuesday, September 1st was "Day One" for recently promoted Battalion Chief Greg Cooper. Officially dubbed "Battalion 25", Chief Cooper takes over as Operations Chief with a long list of projects, policies, and items to accomplish. "Priority one is to get around and meet and greet everyone" was Chief Coopers comment on Tuesday.

7. Emergency Operations Training

September 15th will mark a training day for City of DuPont personnel. Pierce County Department of Emergency Management (DEM) will be activating WEB-EOC at the City of DuPont Emergency Operations Center in the new Public Safety Building. Management personnel will receive live training on being connected directly to the Pierce County DEM via the new software.

8. City Complying with Stormwater Regulations

At the last Council meeting, the City updated its Stormwater Code to bring portions of the Code into compliance with new State and Federal Stormwater Regulations (NPDES Phase II permit). This Code update represents one step in our ongoing efforts to remain in compliance with the new regulatory requirements. The goal of the new regulations is to minimize the potential for uncontrolled and adverse impacts to our region's water quality. Many of the requirements the City has already been implementing through our existing development process.

The City received a grant from the State Department of Ecology to fund updates and conversions of our stormwater GIS data, prepare newly required reports, develop our Stormwater Management Plan, and to assist with public information efforts. The new identification signs that are being placed at our stormwater ponds were made possible by the grant. The City is pursuing a new grant of up to \$50,000, to continue the process of compliance with the new Stormwater Discharge Permit Requirements (NPDS). Washington cities work together to lobby for financial resources to offset new regulatory requirements. This is a benefit to our local rate payers.

9. Crime Alert

The Police Department is looking for a theft suspect. He drives a small white pickup with a primer hood and is described as an older white male with a white beard. He has been stealing items off porches and from yards and alleys. He has been seen driving in our alleys in the morning hours. Anyone with information should contact the DuPont Police Department at 253-964-7060.