

Please place in the meeting minutes:

Vashon as an island is surrounded by water. Water is the defining element of an island community. As an island community we can do very little successful planning if we do not include water in our most basic thinking. If we ignore water, its constraints, its benefits, our dependence upon it, we do so at our peril and all our planning will be for naught.

As a community, we must balance conflicting desires and natural constraints. The Town Plan as it currently exists is out of balance. Water District 19, which currently serves water to the Town Plan area, is in a moratorium for lack of water. The district has made many attempts to find new sources of water with minimal success and great expense.

The zoning within the town plan allows for more development than the Water District can provide water for. This presents a very complicated political problem that King County Planners have been unwilling to address. The Town Plan Committee believes that the current situation has led to much confusion amongst landowners, Water District boards and employees, as well as Water District 19 customers, who have born the financial burden of this confusion and will continue to bear ever increasing financial burdens in the future.

The Vashon Community recognizes its dependence on Vashon's groundwater for its drinking water. The Vashon Community recognizes that all its fresh water plays a vital role in the ecology of the Vashon community. The Vashon Community recognizes that it is sitting in the middle of Puget Sound and all the constraints and benefits created by this setting. The Vashon Community is willing to accept these facts and wishes to live within the constraints this setting imposes upon us.

The Town Plan must reflect this reality whenever setting policy that affects water in any way. The Town Plan shall only allow development if the water used in that development is saved from existing use.

The Vashon Town Plan shall encourage water policies that contain conservation as the key component. All development policies must be viewed and judged on the basis that there is no further degradation of our water resources. Protection of both water quantity, from excess withdrawals and deforestation and water quality from the irreversible effects of fertilizers, pesticides, septic tanks, leaking sewer lines, improper disposal of wastes, flushed pharmaceuticals and a myriad of other contaminants must be given the highest priority. Water conservation is most likely the only source of "new" water that is available to Vashon for the near and foreseeable future.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Garrison, Mark Graham, Martin Koenig, Evan Simmons

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WATER DISTRICT 19