

# City of Tonasket

## NEWS RELEASE

June 6, 2022

### **Shoreline Master Program Update Getting Underway**

The City of Tonasket will be initiating the public process for completing the required comprehensive and periodic reviews of its Shoreline Master Program (SMP) in June, 2022. The city adopted its first SMP in 1991 after using the Okanogan County Shoreline Master Program since 1976 then prepared a comprehensive update in 2013, which was not submitted to the Department of Ecology for approval. The current process is to complete the adoption process for the comprehensive update and submit the periodic update and proposed amendments,

The City is required to have an SMP in compliance with the Shoreline Management Act, passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor in the early 1970s. The Act requires that each county, city or town that contains a river or stream with a mean annual flow of 20 cubic feet per second or a lake greater than 20 acres in size, prepare and adopt a Shoreline Master Program. The SMP is a combination comprehensive plan and zoning code for areas under shoreline jurisdiction, that area lying 200 feet landward on a horizontal plane from the ordinary-high-water-mark or floodway boundary, whichever is greater, and any associated wetlands. Tonasket has shoreline areas along the Okanogan River and Bonaparte Creek.

Land uses within shoreline jurisdiction in the community include residential, commercial, public, light industrial and undeveloped. The SMP contains permitting requirements and regulations for a variety of land uses within shoreline jurisdiction with the overall goal that the shoreline area be managed to “ensure no net loss” of shoreline functions and values. With Tonasket’s shoreline areas a combination of developed, developed and vacant land, the updated SMP will affect new and significant redevelopment of land within shoreline jurisdiction. Most common activities, e.g. building a single family home and appurtenant structures, remodeling within an existing structure footprint and other low impact activities under a state defined amount are exempt from permitting but do require compliance with the SMP.

The Planning Commission, filling the role of the Shoreline Advisory Committee will hold occasional public meetings throughout 2022 and into 2023 as work on the update progresses. The City has created a link on its Webpage, <https://www.tonasketwa.gov> that contains a presentation that provides background information on the Shoreline Management Act, an overview of the City’s existing SMP and the process being used for the periodic update. The Tonasket Planning Commission will host a workshop to review the SMP and periodic update process at its June 21, 2022 regular meeting. The website also contains a link to a community survey regarding the Shoreline Master Program. The website and survey will be going live on July 1, 2022.

Any questions can be directed to Kurt Danison, Planner at 509 322 4037.