

April 2013

Cedar River

by Peter Rimbos, Corresponding Secretary

On Monday, April 1, 2013, the Greater Maple Valley Unincorporated Area Council (GMVUAC) held its regular monthly meeting. Topics discussed included: (1) Cedar River Council; (2) Citizens' Survey and Ballot; and (3) Fire District Levy.

Open Public Comment

Ravensdale resident Joe O'Dell expressed concerns with Ravensdale Park plans for completed Phase 1: Impacts of synthetic field materials, incomplete buffer planting, and incomplete invasive species removal and soon-to-be-started Phase 2: Water runoff, vegetation removal/alteration, and endangered species identification.

Mr. Odell stated the initial State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) process checklist for Phase 2 did not disclose that the entire site was a Category 1 critical aquifer recharge area and only looked at the site for stormwater collection, not removal of organic contaminants that are typically associated with the type of field turf used.

He stated the County's Phase 2 Determination of Non-Significance was not supported by the information available, such as site plan, drain plan, and traffic analysis. He believes parts of the plan appear contrary to provisions of both the King County Comprehensive Plan and the Critical Areas Ordinance.

Mr. O'Dell calls for the County to have an open and transparent process. Phase 2 SEPA review and public comment period are scheduled later this month.

The Area Council's Natural Resources/Parks Committee currently is reviewing Mr. O'Dell's concerns, along with applicable County documents. [Further information can be found here.](#)

Cedar River Council

The Cedar River Council (CRC) is made up of a group of stakeholders who discuss issues regarding the health of the Cedar River. Membership includes Cedar River basin residents and representatives of community groups including the Area Council, businesses, and local, state, federal, and tribal governments.

The CRC advocates in four key areas -- Water Quality, Wildlife Habitat, Recreation Access, and Flood Management. past efforts have led to improvements in Cedar River basin health. CRC regularly reviews and comments on projects affecting Cedar River basin communities.

Through a recent CRC vote, the Area Council will continue its representation on the CRC. The Area Council voted to have member Beverly Tonda continue as its representative.

Citizens' Survey/Area Council Ballot

The Area Council would like to thank all the many citizens who submitted their Bi-Annual Area Council Citizens' Survey and Ballot. This has been a great opportunity to receive information on local matters of importance for subsequent discussion with our local government, King County. Also, thank you for voting for your Area Council representatives. Results are being tallied and soon will be published in local media, as well as on our web site.

Fire District Levy

The Area Council reaffirmed its full support of the April 23 Fire District #43 Levy.

Next Area Council Meeting

Meetings are held the first Monday of each month. A Public Comment period at the beginning of each meeting provides citizens an opportunity to voice issues of concern to Area Council members and government officials in attendance. Next monthly meeting: Monday, May 6, from 7:00 - 9:00 PM at the Fire Station at 231st St & SR-169.

Your Area Council "works to keep the Rural Area rural" by serving as an all-volunteer, locally elected advisory body to King County on behalf of all rural unincorporated area residents living in the Tahoma School District.

