

Codes and Ordinances Subcommittee May 18, 2010

Backup

Status update: Staff report of shoreline modification and shoreline access (trams)

I. Background

In response to Parks Board, Environmental Board and Planning Commission requests in 2009, ERM and PDR have been reviewing changes to code as necessary to address shoreline access (trams) and clarify shoreline protection requirements including the prevention of vertical bulkheads and promotion of stable shorelines that provide the beneficial environmental function of native riparian vegetation and shoreline geomorphology. Although an official draft cannot be provided until after interdepartmental review, it should be available by May 19, therefore, Andrew Clamann (ERM) and Pat Murphy would like to present a status report summarizing the proposed code changes seeking the Codes Ordinances Subcommittee comments.

II. Presentation Summary

Background: Previous 2009 resolutions, identified problems, solutions and goals

Pilot Study: Overview of a 2009-2010 pilot study using coir logs on Lake Austin

Proposed Code Changes: Summary of proposed code changes for interdepartmental review in May. Highlights include:

- Definitions for bulkhead and shoreline access (trams)
- Require site plan and building permit for shoreline access
- Require a licensed third party inspection (meets State regs)
- Trams must minimize disturbance to vegetation, preserve canopy, replace herbaceous ground cover and be screened from view with vegetation
- Shoreline protection: Minimize wave action and wave return, demonstrate design guidelines and materials in ECM (forthcoming), no slopes greater than 45 degrees, no capturing or recapturing of land
- Site plan not required for maintenance if: structure was legally constructed, no variance is required, no change to footprint, and addition or replacement is <10% of structure or ≤20 linear feet
- Prohibit new boat ramps
- Replace "Town Lake" with "Lady Bird Lake" to reflect current name.
- Prohibit storage of toxic or hazardous materials over water (fuel, oil, herbicides, insecticides, fertilizers)
- Clearly establish that inundated areas are part of the CWQZ

Guidance for Alternatives: Existing resources available to development community, new City of Austin webpage, development of ECM

III. Supporting Materials

Hard copies of the power point, EPA article, examples of existing guidance from Federal and professional organizations will be provided at the presentation; however, some of the documents and resources that may be discussed in the presentation can be more thoroughly reviewed at board member discretion through the following links:

EPA – First national lakes assessment released (2010). A comprehensive study of the nation's lakes. Findings suggest that our lakes remain vulnerable to excess human disturbances, especially along the lakeshore. Therefore, local, state and national initiatives should center on protecting shoreline habitats, particularly maintaining vegetative cover and controlling development. The study shows that poor habitat condition along the lakeshore (found in 36 percent of lakes) is the most significant stressor in lakes. Removing trees and shrubs and constructing docks, marinas, homes and other structures along shorelines all contribute to degraded lakeshore habitat. Poor biological health is three times more likely in lakes with poor lakeshore habitat than in lakes with good habitat.
Available at: <http://www.epa.gov/NewsNotes/pdf/89issue.pdf>

LCRA – Dredge and Fill Standards

The LCRA promotes a policy for the highland lakes which states "Land Reclamation — Not Allowed. Property owners are not permitted to reclaim lost property resulting from the natural erosion process or a flood event. All shoreline stabilization projects and fill work must be conducted on or above the lake elevations listed in this booklet.

Available at: http://www.lcra.org/library/media/public/docs/water/Dredge_and_FillStnds.pdf

A few web links to resources to explore other federal, state and regional shoreline protection guidance

The Shoreline Stabilization Handbook. Northwest Regional Planning Commission.
Available at: www.nsqd.gso.uri.edu/lcsg/lcsg04001.pdf

Understanding, Living With, & Controlling Shoreline Erosion: A

Guidebook for Shoreline Property Owners

Available at:

<http://www.watershedcouncil.org/resources%20and%20publications/files/Shoreline%20Erosion%203rd%20Edition.pdf>

Shoreline Restoration Projects Examples from Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council.

Available at: <http://www.watershedcouncil.org/restore/>

Living Shorelines: a guide for waterfront property owners. 2006 document

from the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program Fact Sheet Series.

Available at: www.deq.state.va.us/coastal/livingshore.html

Green shorelines: Bulkhead alternatives for a healthier Lake

Washington. City of Seattle. Department of Planning and Development.

Available at: www.cityofseattle.net/DPD/Planning/Green_Shorelines/Overview/

Living shorelines as alternatives to bulkheading/shoreline hardening.

NOAA Sea Grant Mississippi-Alabama 2007.

Available at:

<http://www.masgc.org/pdf/masgp/07-026.pdf>

Streambank and shoreline protection manual. 2002 .USDA NRCS, Lake County

Soil and Water Conservation District and the US Army Corpse of Engineers.

Available at: www.lrc.usace.army.mil/co-r/StrmManual.pdf

Shoreline protection alternatives. NOAA Sea Grant Mississippi-Alabama

2007. Available at: www.masgc.org/pdf/masgp/07-026.pdf.