Legislation Details (With Text)

File #:	2007-0622 **Version:** 3		
Type:	Motion	**Status:**	Passed
File created:	11/19/2007	**In control:**	Growth Management and Natural Resources Committee
On agenda:		**Final action:**	12/10/2007
Enactment date:		**Enactment #:**	12645
Title:	A MOTION requiring development of procedural and design standards addressing public safety and health concerns in the placement of large woody debris in the waterways of the county.		
Sponsors:	Larry Phillips, Kathy Lambert		
Indexes:	Public Safety, Water		
Code sections:			
Attachments:	1. Mot12645.pdf, 2. 2007-0622 Attachment 2 to Staff Report (11-27-07).pdf, 3. 2007-0622 Revised Staff Report.doc, 4. 2007-0622 Staff Report - large woody debris rules (11-27-07).doc, 5. 2007-0622 striking amendment.doc, 6. 2007-0622 Title Amendment.doc		

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
12/10/2007	2	Metropolitan King County Council	Passed as Amended	Pass
11/27/2007	1	Growth Management and Natural Resources Committee	Amended	Pass
11/27/2007	2	Growth Management and Natural Resources Committee	Recommended Do Pass Substitute	Pass
11/19/2007	1	Metropolitan King County Council	Introduced and Referred	

Clerk 12/11/2007

A MOTION requiring development of procedural and design standards addressing public safety and health concerns in the placement of large woody debris in the waterways of the county.

WHEREAS, regional efforts to control flooding and to develop habitat for waterborne species have involved the placement of large woody debris in the waterways of the region, and

WHEREAS, while the placement of large woody debris has been undertaken in support of important and appropriate regional values, the waterways of the region are also used extensively and increasingly for boating and other water-oriented recreation, and

WHEREAS, much of such water use involves untrained and casual water recreationists of all ages,

utilizing a wide variety of floatation devices, who may not be aware of, or prepared to respond to, potential hazards associated with large woody debris placements, and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to consider, in the placement of such large woody debris, the need to minimize the likelihood of accidental encounter by recreational boaters and other recreational water users, with potential public safety implications, and

WHEREAS, with the implementation of the Flood Hazard Management Plan, and the approval of revenues to support the plan, the region might see an increase in the numbers of river structure rehabilitation projects that might include placement of such woody debris, and

WHEREAS, continuing regional efforts to encourage the enhancement of fisheries habitat, might additionally result in such woody debris placement, and

WHEREAS, these developments create a context appropriate for a more clear, transparent and accessible procedural approach towards large woody debris placement, and

WHEREAS, the council may want to retain the option to adopt standards in county code, or to seek their adoption as rules;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

A. The water and land resources division of the department of natural resources and parks be directed to develop proposed procedural and design standards regarding placement of large woody debris, which standards should give full consideration to impacts to public safety and health, and to minimizing hazards to recreational water users;

B. The procedural and design standards, at a minimum, should address:

1. How such woody debris can be placed so as to minimize hazards to recreational water users;

2. Avoiding placement of such woody debris in narrow channels or canyons where opportunity for egress by recreational water users is limited;

3. Minimizing the chances that recreational water users may be swept into overhanging roots or limbs

of woody debris;

4. Minimizing the opportunity for entrapment of recreational water users in large woody debris, through entanglement of arms or legs, or through the action of the debris as a sieve against which a water user can be caught;

5. Minimizing placement of such woody debris where the action of the water current may push a water recreationist into the debris, such as on the outside edge of a bend in a river; and

6. How interested recreational water safety groups can be involved in commenting upon division plans for projects involving the placement of such woody debris;

C. A draft version of proposed procedural and design standards will be prepared and presented to the growth management and natural resources committee, or its successor, by March 1, 2008; and

D. The water and land resources division of the department of natural resources and parks will prepare a summary, to the level of its current understanding, of:

1. An inventory of the groups, persons, agencies or interests involved in the placement of large woody debris in the waterways within King County; and

2. A description of the permitting, procedural or regulatory requirements those entities must meet in placement of large woody debris.

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