

## *April 2019 Update on the Shoreline Master Program*

*Regarding our quest of five years (see our 2014 LCIA letter on [www.lakecavanaugh.info](http://www.lakecavanaugh.info) ) to lobby with the Skagit County Planning Commission, as of April 2019 the County has yet to give us clear guidelines regarding setbacks and dock dimensions for the new Shoreline Master Program (SMP). Our efforts included many meetings with Commissioners and officials in the County offices, and hiring a land use lawyer to plead our case. See our letter from our lawyer to the county at [www.lakecavanaugh.info](http://www.lakecavanaugh.info). Nevertheless, there has been only minor movement by the county to meet any of our suggestions toward lightening the restrictions that have increased over the years.*

### **DOCKS:**

*As to dock dimensions, the county suggested in 2014 a proposal to only allow tiny, impractical docks in Skagit County. This is not supported by science as required by law. The LCIA countered with a much more specific and flexible proposal modeled after the rules in place at Lake Stevens, Lake Whatcom, and many other Washington lakes. (See our specific proposal on [www.lakecavanaugh.info](http://www.lakecavanaugh.info).) As a result of our efforts, the county dropped their proposal, but have yet to adopt a definitive new rule. This leaves Skagit lake residents with inconsistent and out of date state and county rules.*

*On a chance meeting with Betsy Stevenson, Senior Planner, in March 2019 she indicated to Dan Pugerude that they are moving toward a more accommodating position on docks. The one optimistic slant she offered was that for dock dimensions, they will move away from the out of date Department of Fish and Wildlife mandates and are still considering our proposal that takes into account the unique nature and geography of Lake Cavanaugh, though it is still uncertain how it will eventually pan out. She also admitted that it is unlikely that anything will be finalized before the end of the year; this has been the tendency since our first meetings with them: they have other County priorities that put the SMP on the back burner.*

### **SETBACKS:**

*As to setbacks, Skagit County's 100-foot setback from the lake for buildings is the most restrictive of any lake that we have found in the state. Similar lakes in Western Washington average from 35 to 60 feet. Because of LCIA's hard work, Skagit County has made it easier to obtain a variance from 100 to 75 feet, but it still costs money and causes delays. And 75 feet is still more restrictive than other lakes, and is not supported by science as required by law.*

*We will offer updates as they become available in the future.*

*Our lawyer has retired from litigation practice, and if we want to take legal action, we will need to retain a new lawyer.*

*Dan Pugerude*

*Chris Kane*

*Gary Duvall*