

Transformative change through community-centered planning

Henry Bell (he/him)

Senior Coastal Planner Washington State Department of Ecology Coastal Zone Management Program 10th Assembly of Planners Symposium Guam | August 19, 2025





A little about me...





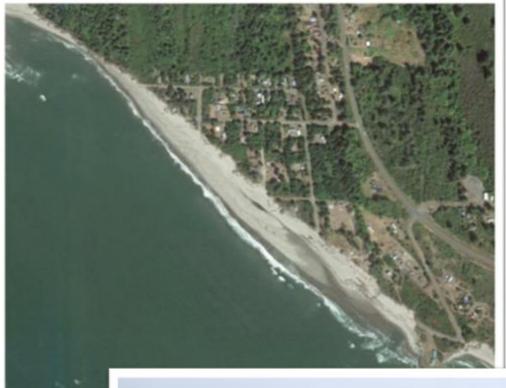








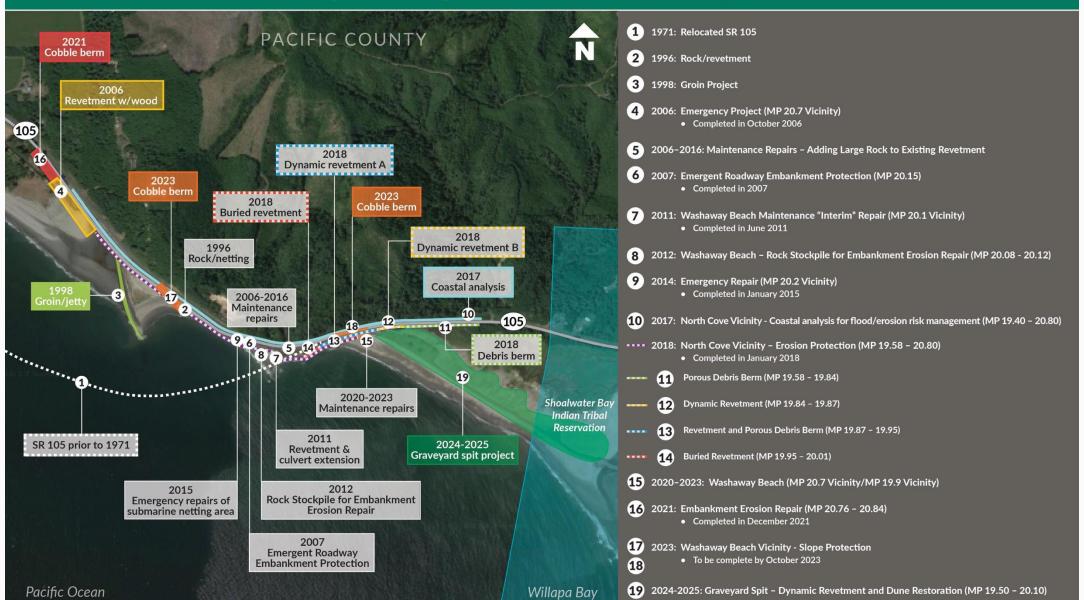




North Cove, Washington

Washington State Department of Transportation History of SR 105 Projects Adjacent to Willapa Bay





Re-framing the planning process

Participatory mapping: a communitydriven method for identifying and visualizing local knowledge, priorities, and experiences

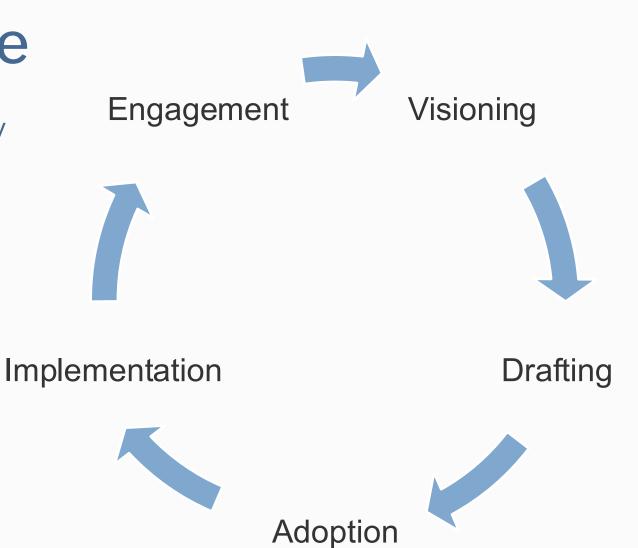
Community science: involves the public in scientific research and data collection; can also include traditional, cultural, and local knowledge



The planning cycle

Planners play a vital role in ensuring community members are meaningfully engaged





Engagement

- Community Advisory Teams
- Deep dive events
- Youth committees
- Paid community liaisons



Visioning

- What would you like your community to look like into the future?
- What does a resilient and thriving community look like to you?





Drafting

- Multiple rounds of review and input from decision-makers and key partners
- Ensure community perspectives are heard and incorporated



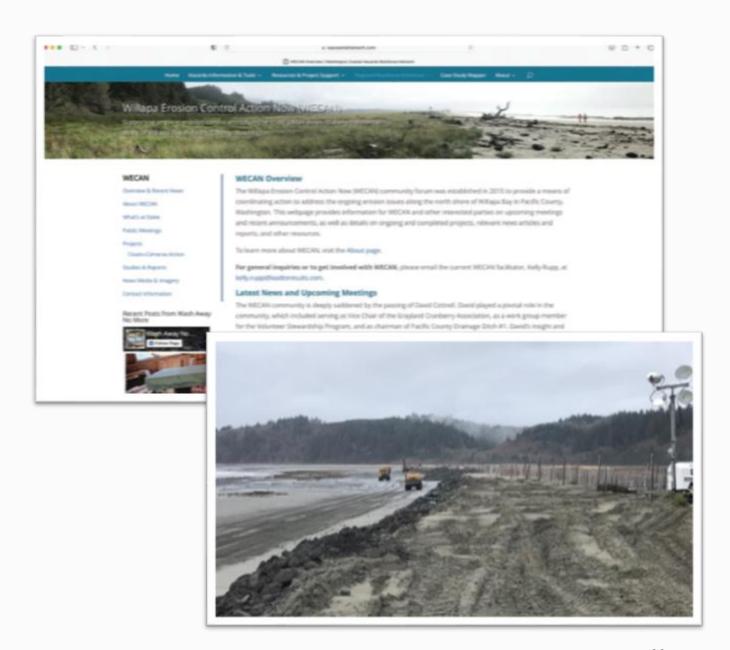
Adoption

- Get buy-in
- Herd the cats!



Implementation

- Stay engaged
- Attend public meetings and events
- Follow through on identified actions
- Build strong relationships to inform next plan update



4 - GRAVEYARD SPIT (PLANNED) LOG PLACEMENT ARMOR LAYER SNOWY PLOVER NESTS STREAKED HORNED LARK NESTS CRABBING, FISHING DYNAMIC REVETMENT SR105 INTERIOR MARSH

NATIVE DUNE GRASS MIGRATORY WATERFOWL

SEA OTTER





Thank you!

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More information about North Cove and WECAN:

www.wacoastalnetwork.com/local-projects/wecan