

ROUGH NOTES: EFFECTIVE LAND USE TESTIMONY

June 19, 2013

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Sponsorship (Appendix I.A.)

Good Afternoon. My name is Mike Walker. This afternoon I am a representative of the three sponsoring groups for a workshop on effective land use testimony.

Rogue Advocates
Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society
Goal One Coalition

My presentation represents the sponsors view about *Effective Land Use Testimony*. In a nut-shell *Effective Land Use Testimony* is taking responsibility. Verifying the proposed land development activity. Identifying the potential impacts of the proposal. Discussing any concerns with planning staff. Being sure of your facts when presenting or preparing comments. Sticking to the issues, standards, and/or criteria of the land use application. Critically, testimony that does not address the issues and standards and/or criteria for approval will not be considered by the decision makers.

Please ask your questions as we go along. I know I hate holding questions until the end of a presentation.

B. Citizen Involvement (Appendix I.B.)

One of my passions is to have meaningful public involvement and, therefore, an “informed public” and “informed decision-makers” when it comes to land use decisions in the Rogue Valley. In a nut-shell I think an effective citizen involvement program would facilitate planning decisions which better reflect the desires of the community. I believe an effective program will also decrease later conflicts and appeals.

C. Why am I here? Qualifications? (Appendix I.C.)

What are my qualifications to give this presentation?

First, and most important, I am a proud 1958 8th grade graduate of Hugo Elementary School. We used to have some of the best fruit orchards in Josephine County and I would love to see this agricultural enterprise thrive again.

I am a citizen like you. After 14 years of land use activism in the trenches I have developed some firm opinions.

My journey started in 2000 self-teaching myself about Oregon Statewide Goal 1, Citizen Involvement. I provided local testimony on different local land use applications until another watershed was reached and in 2003 I represented myself at the Oregon Land Use Board of Appeals for the first time. After that I have scored 7-1 at LUBA: won 7, lost 1.

For me local land use testimony, written or oral, local land use appeals, and appeals to the Oregon Land Use Board of Appeals all have the same methodology and form standards. This process and these standards are based upon LUBA's rules and regulations. For me they are the same if I go before a hearing officer, a local planning commission, or the elected decision makers.

I was greatly assisted in my self-education of the land use process by my Land Use Advisor, Jim Just, Executive Director of the *Goal One Coalition*. Jim became my land use mentor and friend. He is now retired and I miss him. The point here is get help if you can and are serious about representing yourself in Oregon's land use process locally and at LUBA. To be successful you need to provide effective land use testimony.

You can represent yourself, but you can not represent a group or anyone else. Only a lawyer can do that.

D. Why Are You Here?

If there are a small number of participants and time, give each a opportunity to identify themselves.

E. Handouts (Appendix I.D.)

I understand that you have been provided four handouts by Talent 4 Clean Air & Water. These handouts are the first four in our “Findings” series. I also provide a one page evaluation form.

F. Small Group Follow-up Session (Appendix I.E.)

If interested, I will meet with a small group of 4 - 6 individuals as a followup to this session in my Hugo, Oregon home.

However, this followup is not about representing you, doing research for you, quality controlling your testimony products. It is about the front end: an attempt to give you some of the tools to represent yourself.

G. Not Legal Advice (Appendix I.F.)

This presentation is as much about providing information and provoking questions as it is about my opinions. It is not legal advice and does not take the place of a lawyer. If citizens use information contained in this presentation, it is their personal responsibility to make sure that it is applicable to their situation. I and the three sponsoring groups assume no liability for the information provided.

H. Guinea Pig (Appendix I.G.)

Finally, you’re the guinea pig as this presentation is the very first draft of a training/outreach program, and the subject for experimentation, thus the name, *“Rough Draft: Effective Land Use Testimony.”*

Sometime in the near future after several evolution of the training workshop presentation, the experiment will evolve into a “*Final: Effective Land Use Testimony.*”

1. Rough Draft -
2. Final Draft -
3. Draft Final -
4. Final -