provide for growth. He added that the growth management act gives us an opportunity to create the sort of environment for growth that we want right from the grass roots up. If we take advantage of it, then we are not looking at being forced from the top down but, rather, creating something that will result in us taking control of our own future.

Commissioner Shelton said that's exactly what Langley and Coupeville are saying. They are trying to take control of their future and we, at the county level, have a problem with that.

Mr. Rose asked how you reconcile rural character and urban growth areas, particularly when we don't define rural character but use it as the star we're following.

Mr. Kwarsick said we need to get beyond some of the words of the GMA and just take charge and apply them in a way that makes sense to our communities. Langley and Coupeville are rural towns, they want to remain that way, and that's the way we should treat them. The law says they are urban growth areas by default and we should give them wide latitude in terms of their own destiny. He added that because of the cost of growth in terms of providing infrastructure, Langley and Coupeville need to come to terms that they are not Oak Harbor; they haven't planned for water and sewer to the degree they need to; they can't accommodate, and are not planning to accommodate, even their existing towns. The GMA work should be done first then we can look at special planning projects.

Chairman Colby concurred.

Mr. Rose asked if the infrastructure in Oak Harbor would exist without the driving force of the Navy since the federal government both mandated and paid for it. He added that unless there is some sort of economic generator in the municipalities, Island County is not going to cough up the money to put in a sewer system. We are looking for ways to satisfy the state mandate on GMA, but in many ways we realize we are not doing what we are supposed to be doing.

Commissioner McDowell stated that the GMA is not set up for a rural county like it is for areas such as Seattle and Bellevue.

Mr. Rose asked if we are talking with other rural counties who are as buffaloed as we are by the GMA forcing something on us.

Mr. Kwarsick said that the regional planners meet regularly and know that they are obligated to adapt the goals and objectives of the GMA to local communities.

Chairman Colby pointed out that we have a lot of latitude within the GMA and can do lots of things that will fit what we want to see for the future of our county. He added that more frustration with the GMA has been evidenced on the part of urban counties than rural counties.

Commissioner McDowell mentioned a meeting that he and Commissioner Shelton attended in January for new commissioners in which the GMA was discussed. It was made clear that GMA is a set of guidelines with complete control given to counties in terms of how it is implemented. The important point is to go through the process of looking at it. He added that we shouldn't feel hemmed in by GMA. The state is not telling us what Island County has to look like.

Mr. Borden stated that we have to be goal oriented and focused this year to get through the process.

Commissioner Shelton agreed with the goal oriented philosophy, but added that we shouldn't put something in place, just to meet a goal, without considering all of the ramifications. He said we should move forward in terms of growth management, but we need to do so with the idea that we are taking a difficult state mandate and

applying it to a county for which is probably wasn't written. We should not consider that we are writing these things in stone.

Commissioner McDowell said we don't have the option to revisit the issues come July 1994.

In response to earlier comments made by Rufus Rose with regard to the work of the Planning Commission, Chairman Colby stated his feeling that the Planning Commission will not be of the most value to the people of Island County if it concerns itself with trying to figure out what the Board wants. He said the Planning Commission is designed to represent the people of Island County and to be an organization separate from the Board of Commissioners. The object is to look at land use issues and come to the Board with recommendations without regard for what the Planning Commission thinks the Board might think or want.

Mr. Kwarsick spoke concerning what the Planning Commission is doing these days other than work in process. One task involves going through the Comprehensive Plan line by line to determine if the language is in compliance with the goals and objectives of the GMA and the county-wide planning policy. The idea is to arrive at an annotated Comprehensive Plan that can be used to demonstrate fulfillment of the objectives of the GMA.

Mr. Rose asked if monies could be made available which would make copies of the Comprehensive Plan, which currently cost $20.00, more affordable to people who are interested in the review of the Plan. He also asked if it would be possible for individuals to come to the Planning Department and copy the Plan onto their own floppy disk for a small charge; Mr. Wallgren wondered if the $20.00 charge really stops someone who wants a copy of the Plan from getting it.

In response to Mr. Porter's comment on the problem of inadequate mapping, particularly zoning maps, and whether there is any way the county could afford the Planning Department access to computerized mapping, Chairman Colby stated the only way would probably be by finding a grant to do it since money is not available in the current expense fund. He concurred that there is a need for updated maps, and also that zoning needs to be on the assessor's maps.

Mr. Borden spoke about the role of the Planning Commission as regards the Capital Facilities Plan and expenditures. He said they need to figure out how there can be a better link between planning and the capital facilities budget because, like it or not, they are in the loop because of the GMA. He asked for input from the Board as to how the Planning Commission can become better prepared to make their recommendations before passing them on to the Board.

Chairman Colby indicated that the subject is a terribly complicated one, however, a way needs to be found to address problems which up to now have never been addressed. With regard to an earlier statement by Rufus Rose that the county would not "pony up" any money to fund a sewer system for Freeland or anywhere else, Chairman Colby expressed disagreement and pointed out that capital facilities planning may be the place to identify initial seed monies for that purpose. However, if as a matter of fact the overall plan calls for some kind of infrastructure in that area then the capital facilities plan has to identify a method of addressing it.

In addition, Chairman Colby pointed out that the Capital Facilities Plan is tightly tied to the Comprehensive Plan and the GMA. He added that you simply can't put in the GMA that we are going to do all these wonderful things if we cannot turn around and identify where the money comes from in the Capital Facilities Plan. While the GMA gives us lots of latitude to do lots of things, it also ties us to good, realistic planning.

Mr. Rose asked if the submissions made by the Planning Commission go through a common screen.