The last overhead Ms. Zemke used was essentially the same list of all of WEAN's recommended proposed species, but showing her recommendations made from the information Adolfson and Associates collected. The plants with a dot in front of the name are plants at this point appear to be rare in Island County and worthy of remaining on the list at this point; those plants with no dot in front of the name are those for which more information is needed; and the plants shown with the line drawn through the name are those for which there is not enough evidence to prove they are rare on the Island to warrant being included on the list, referred to by WEAN as " monitor or watch" species. [in Notebook GMA doc. #6139, shown under tab #9 second page]

She clarified in response to a question from Chairman McDowell about species shown on the dot map and locations that none of then personally visited any of the sites to confirm that the plants exist. She visited each site to confirm that some recent development or a new building had not gone up. As WEAN pointed out in its submittal, the location of those dots on the map have been placed in a vague location for the protection of the plant. WEAN needs to clarify for everyone: are the dots locations of the plants being proposed or is the plant species itself being proposed? At least for about 20 of the plants that are prairie species there are only certain conditions that they can in fact grow in, i.e. remnant prairies.

Mr. Dearborn, staff and consultants have been treating the dot maps as the precise location of the species. From a regulation standpoint designation of any species is not recommended without knowing with some reliability that it does occur or is likely to occur and where it is occurring. Adolfson's final list contains only 8 or 9 species they recommend be deleted because they do not believe there is danger of extirpation. Those species with the dots WEAN has said exist, and Adolfson verified through the UW herbarium, paper sources and observations of other experts that they have been noted to exist on Whidbey in the areas that were identified, but did not actually visit the site in the blooming period to determine whether in fact they are there or not, and concluded there is enough information for 15 species on the list to be confident at this point, short of a site investigation, they do in fact exist in that area.

Ms. Conolly noted that extirpation and rarity are closely connected because a rare species is at more risk of extirpation at any one time, and reminded about the three factors Ms. Zemke referred to that contribute to rarity of a specifies. All the prairie species are in danger of extirpation as the prairie habitat shrinks. Rarity is also related to population size. Ms. Zemke added to note – but are important in terms of maintaining genetic diversity with other species but that does not make them rare; however, it makes them important.

Prairie species include: Tapertip onion; Howell's brodiaea; Menzies' larkspur; Orange tiger-lily; Fool's onion; Showy Fleabane; Idaho fescue; Chocolate lily [also widespread in other places as well]; Death camas; Golden aster [growing on steep slope on Ebey's bluff and open grass land area]; Tomcat clover.

Mr. Dearborn responded to some questions from the Commissioners. The County's code provides that nominations that come from the public have to meet three n criteria set out in the code: (1) in danger of extirpation based upon trends since 1/1/85; (2) species is sensitive to habitat manipulation; and (3) habitat or species has commercial game or other special values such as locally rare species.

PUBLIC INPUT

Steve Erickson, speaking for himself and WEAN, provided two submittals for the record:

> Report intended to revise and update previous series of reports issued in 1998 and updated Spring of 1999 on locally rare vascular plant species on Whidbey Island and summary of conservation status, Dec. 2000 [GMA doc. #6066]
>
> Marianne Edain and Steve Erickson, Frosty Hollow Ecological Restoration, Skills, Education, Qualifications, partial list of clients, information concerning creation of annotated database of native vascular plants of Whidbey Island,; memberships; selected projects [GMA doc. #6142]

As far as whether WEAN was asking for designation of species wherever they occur or in the locations currently known, Mr. Erickson verified WEAN was asking for the protection wherever they occur. Information sources used by WEAN are grouped into three basic categories: herbarium specimens, historical reports [as listed in his report], and recent reports by field workers. Database being developed of every report of flora on Whidbey Island WEAN has been

able to gain access to and at the time he revised his report there were 3,122 species occurrence records in that database. They have had to rely on much of their own observations. Outside of the Ebey's bluff area some of the locations where endangered golden paintbrush occurs and Deception Pass area there has been relative little recent botanizing on Whidbey Island.

As far as status categories of the different species, WEAN adapted the same categories that the Washington Natural Heritage program uses, made applicable to Whidbey Island instead of on a state wide basis:

> Endangered means that the plant taxon is in danger of becoming extirpated from Whidbey Island in the near future if factors contributing to its decline continue. Endangered species are at critically low levels or habitats significantly degraded.
>
> Threatened means that taxon is likely to become endangered on Whidbey Island in the near future if factors contributing to its decline or habitat degradation continue.
>
> Sensitive means plant taxon is vulnerable or declining and could become endangered on Whidbey Island and unless there is a change, will continue to decline.
>
> Possibly extirpated means that based on recent field searches WEAN doubts it still exists.
>
> Watch category are plants for monitoring. Everything on the list from Lizzie Zemke List "Points to Consider when finalizing list" under #2, with the exception of Garry Oak, were in fact on WEAN's "watch" list and are not proposing those for designation at this time.

He then reviewed from his report the different categories [different from WEAN's earlier versions]. WEAN considered the plan status when possible in the echo region, defined as being the entire Puget Sound lowlands and sub-echo region being the northern portion of that echo region mainly from around the Snohomish – King County line on north. He reiterated that the dot maps WEAN provided were somewhat generalized. For some species such as *Lilium columbianum* the only report is an occurrence is on NAS Whidbey land, from Chris Chappel and the exact location is not known.

Mr. Erickson went over his list of species possibly recently extirpated from Whidbey Island [some were new listings by WEAN and Mr. Dearborn clarified for the record that it was not possible to consider new proposals at this point]:

> Clustered brodiaea: no herbarium specimens but recalled that Hitchcock actually lists it in his description in the range as occurring from Whidbey Island, and could be the one reported from Grasser's Hill
>
> Prairie Smoke – new in this submittal. Reported only from Central Whidbey and Kah Tai prairie remnant in Port Townsend.
>
> Musk Monkey Flower – wetland species. Zemke referred to 1990 Washington Plant Society list [a plant list she confirmed at this time was from a web site and noted there may be an occurrence at Deception Pass].

Next, from his submittal, Mr. Erickson reviewed his list of species endangered on Whidbey Island:

> Hooker's onion [Tapertip onion]: Five known occurrences: Grasser's Hill, Partridge Point, Fort Ebey State Park, Ebey's Bluff, and Goose Rock at Deception Pass.
>
> Howell's brodiaea: attended workshop given by the Nature Conservancy last Spring on developing echo regional conservation targets for vascular plants and there was universal agreement on this plant that should be an echo regional conservation target.

Jerry Fillman, Coupeville, questioned if none of the species existed on Whidbey Island how would folks be impacted – would it hurt. For example, he has never been impacted by the loss of the passenger pigeon. Mr. Fillman had some concern about a remedy suggested "500 yards" which could impact anyone present. At this point, Mr. Dearborn clarified that the figure was 500 cubic yards. Mr. Fillman stated that he talked to his neighbors on both sides of his parcel who did not receive a notice. He suggested what was becoming a rarity was property rights and the solution for him would be to plow his land and return it to agricultural production.