

TO:

**Gearhart City Council  
698 Pacific Way  
Gearhart, OR 97138**

DATE:

**March 30, 2023**

**Dear City Council Members,**

For the record, my name is Noah Dolinajec and I am the Executive Director of the Necanicum Watershed Council. The Necanicum Watershed Council (NWC) has been serving the Seaside and Gearhart communities for nearly 30 years, working to protect the unique and vital ecosystems that support us, and our wildlife, everyday. In the last 18 months, the NWC has worked closely with the City of Gearhart on an exciting pollinator habitat project along the Gearhart Ridge Path, removing invasive species and replanting those patches with healthy, happy native pollinator-friendly vegetation like big leaf lupine, douglas aster and camas. This Spring, community members should see the first blooms from those plants that were able to establish themselves. The project has been a great success thus far, planting over 600 seedlings on two portions of the trail and engaging with 20+ community members through volunteer work.

In the recent weeks, myself and Gearhart City Administrator Chad Sweet have discussed at length what the next phase of this project might entail. With funding support from the Oregon Wildlife Foundation and Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund, we are strategically planning a phase II that can act as a "living" project, giving community members an opportunity to assist in the stewardship of the project. In an attached document you will find photopoints of the City property directly South (across from City Hall) along the trail. This portion of the path possesses full width without infringement and receives more sunlight than the majority of the trail, making it a prime planting location for a successful pollinator patch. One of the priorities of this project is to engage the general public in the restoration and maintenance of a pollinator habitat hence our idea for the next phase to be the ***Gearhart Community Pollinator Garden***.



This phase of the project would have a multi-dimensional positive impact on the Gearhart community, mainly by 1) creating a space for a high-quality pollinator patch, assisting with the natural propagation of pollinator species throughout the community, 2) engaging the community in a public-forward stewardship project with a the Necanicum Watershed Council and 3) improving the "curb appeal" of the path at one of its most public points.

Any good pollinator garden needs time to establish itself, and volunteers to assist in its care. In order for the Watershed Council to manage the scheduling of volunteers, plantings and maintenance of the garden, we feel it would take about 100 hours of NWC staff time per year (\$5500.00). I am respectfully asking for the city's support to continue this project and the management of what could become a staple of Gearhart's community identity, in the form of a donation of \$5500.00/year for the next four years to manage the Gearhart Community Pollinator Garden. This funding on its own would allow NWC staff to organize volunteer scheduling, planting dates/parties, garden maintenance and observation and time to develop more funding avenues to support the continued care of the community habitat.

It can be easy to overlook the impact a tiny flying insect like a western bumble bee, or a migratory fish like a coho salmon can have on our everyday lives, but they bring us more than just observational joy. Pollinators work to protect native vegetation and help cultivate our foods, fish provide sustenance to Oregon's recreational fishing community and to the State's 560-million dollar commercial fishing industry, and most of all, these creatures act as indicators that our ecosystems are still able to handle the pressures that we are placing on them. I take our relationship with the City of Gearhart very seriously, and look forward to many years of working together to develop projects that can carry Gearhart into the future, sustainably supporting both the human and wildlife populations that call Gearhart home.

**Regards,**

**Noah Dolinajec**

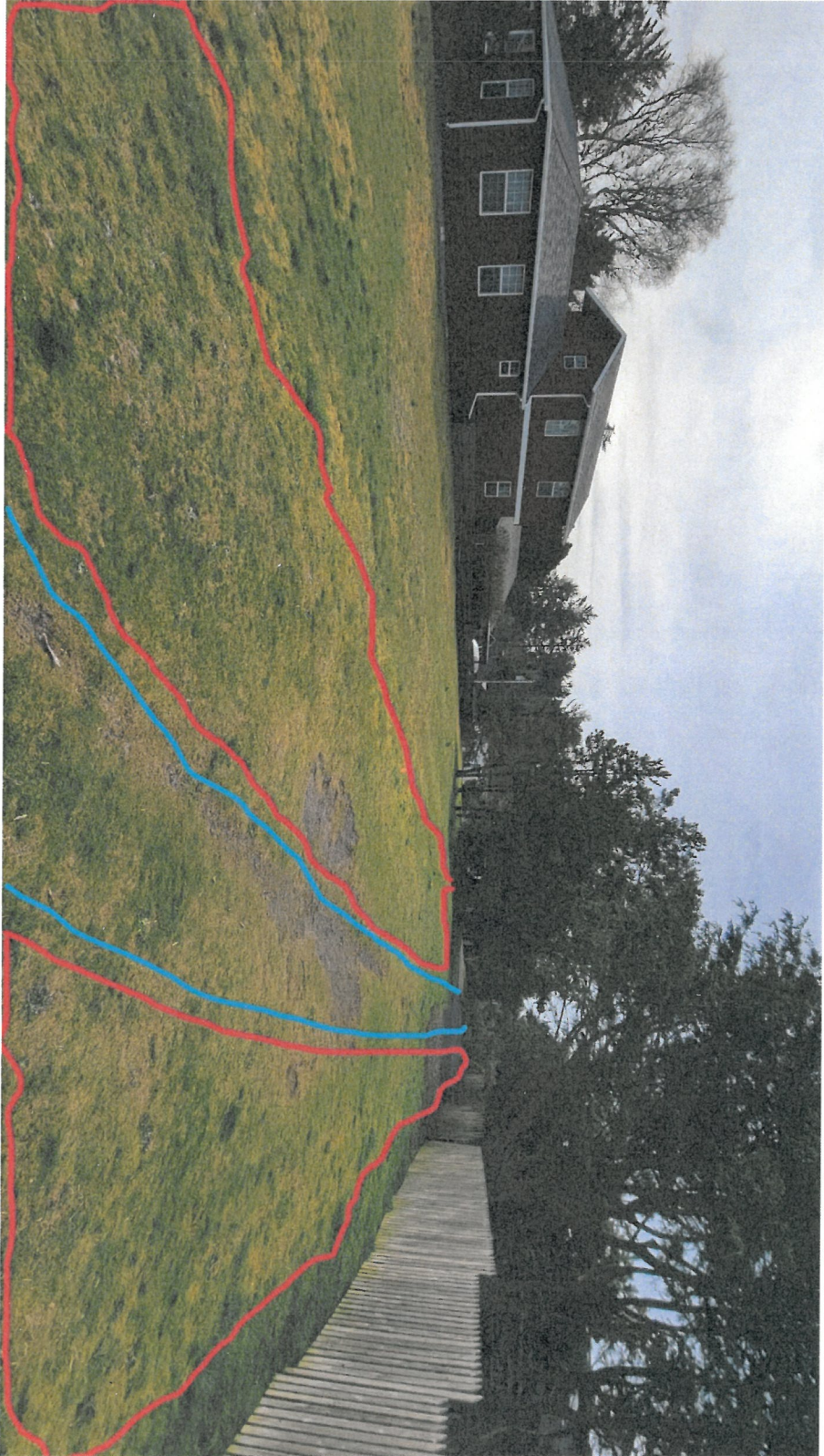
Executive Director, Necanicum Watershed Council



Ridge Path at A st.



Ridge Path at Pacific Way





# Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

## Water Resources Department

North Mall Office Building

725 Summer St NE, Suite A

Salem, OR 97301

Phone 503 986-0900

Fax 503 986-0904

[www.oregon.gov/owrd](http://www.oregon.gov/owrd)

APRIL 12, 2023

MARK McFADDEN  
CITY OF GEARHART PUBLIC WORKS  
PO BOX 251  
GEARHART, OR 97138

Subject: Water Management and Conservation Plan

Dear Mark:

Please find the final order approving your Water Management and Conservation Plan enclosed.

The attached final order specifies that the City's plan shall remain in effect until **April 12, 2033**. Additionally, the City is required to submit a progress report to the Department by **April 12, 2028**, detailing progress made toward the implementation of conservation benchmarks scheduled in the plan. Finally, the City must submit an updated Water Management and Conservation Plan to the Department by **October 12, 2032**.

***NOTE:** The deadline established in the attached final order for submittal of an updated water management and conservation plan (consistent with OAR Chapter 690, Division 086) shall not relieve the City of Gearhart from any existing or future requirement(s) for submittal of a water management and conservation plan at an earlier date as established through other final orders of the Department.*

We appreciate your cooperation in this effort. Please do not hesitate to contact me by telephone at 458-253-0597 or by e-mail at [tamera.l.smith@water.oregon.gov](mailto:tamera.l.smith@water.oregon.gov) if you have any questions or if I can be of any assistance.

Kindest regards,

Tamera Smith  
Water Management and Conservation Analyst  
Water Right Services Division  
Enclosure

cc: WMCP File  
Application G-16489 (Permit G-16390)  
Watermaster Nikki Hendricks, via email  
Tim Henkle, GSI, via email ([thenkle@gsiws.com](mailto:thenkle@gsiws.com))

**BEFORE THE WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT  
OF THE  
STATE OF OREGON**

In the Matter of the Proposed Water                    )     FINAL ORDER APPROVING A WATER  
Management and Conservation Plan for                )     MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION  
the City of Gearhart, Clatsop County                 )     PLAN

**Authority**

OAR Chapter 690, Division 086, establishes the process and criteria for approving water management and conservation plans required under the conditions of permits, permit extensions and other orders of the Department.

**Findings of Fact**

1. The City of Gearhart submitted a Water Management and Conservation Plan (plan) to the Water Resources Department (Department) on October 13, 2022. The required statutory fee for review of the plan was received by the Department on October 13, 2022. The plan was required by a condition set forth under the City's previously approved plan (Sp. Or. Vol. 88, Pg. 498 issued on September 6, 2012).
2. The Department published notice of receipt of the plan on October 25, 2022, as required under OAR Chapter 690, Division 086. No comments were received.
3. The Department reviewed the plan, and finds that the plan is consistent with the relevant requirements under OAR Chapter 690, Division 086.

**Conclusion of Law**

The Water Management and Conservation Plan submitted by the City of Gearhart is consistent with the criteria in OAR Chapter 690, Division 086.

This is a final order in other than a contested case. This order is subject to judicial review under ORS 183.484. Any petition for judicial review must be filed within the 60-day time period specified by ORS 183.484(2). Pursuant to ORS 536.075 and OAR 137-004-0080, you may petition for judicial review or petition the Director for reconsideration of this order. A petition for reconsideration may be granted or denied by the Director, and if no action is taken within 60 days following the date the petition was filed, the petition shall be deemed denied.

Now, therefore, it is ORDERED:

**Duration of Plan Approval:**

1. The City of Gearhart Water Management and Conservation Plan is approved and shall remain in effect until **April 12, 2033**, unless this approval is rescinded pursuant to OAR 690-086-0920.

**Plan Update Schedule:**

2. The City of Gearhart shall submit an updated plan meeting the requirements of OAR Chapter 690, Division 086 (effective December 23, 2018) within **Ten (10) years and no later than October 12, 2032**.

**Progress Report Schedule:**

3. The City of Gearhart shall submit a progress report containing the information required under OAR 690-086-0120(4) by **April 12, 2028**.

**Other Requirements for Plan Submittal:**

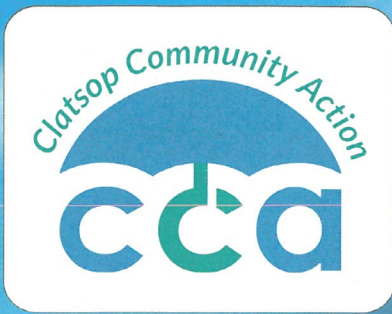
4. The deadline established herein for the submittal of an updated Water Management and Conservation Plan (consistent with OAR Chapter 690, Division 086) shall not relieve the City of Gearhart from any existing or future requirement(s) for submittal of a Water Management and Conservation Plan at an earlier date as established through other final orders of the Department.

Dated at Salem, Oregon this day APR 12 2023

  
Lisa J. Jaramillo, Transfer and Conservation Section Manager for  
DOUGLAS E. WOODCOCK, ACTING DIRECTOR  
Oregon Water Resources

Mailing date: APR 13 2023

**Notice Regarding Service Members:** Active-duty service members have a right to stay these proceedings under the federal service members Civil Relief Act. For more information, contact the Oregon State Bar at 800-452-8260, the Oregon Military Department at 503-584-3571 or the nearest United States Armed Forces Legal Assistance Office through <http://legalassistance.law.af.mil>. The Oregon Military Department does not have a toll-free telephone number.



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## WE CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!

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As we navigate through challenging times, many in our community are struggling to meet their basic living needs.

Clatsop Community Action is here to help. Our mission is to support individuals and families in need, providing them with access to housing, food, and other essential services.

With your support, we can continue to make a difference in the lives of those who need it most. Last year, support from donors like you made it possible for us to provide Clatsop County with:

### FOOD

- We distributed more than 1,000,000 pounds of food throughout the county. That's enough food for over 850,000 meals to our county's seniors, families, workers, children, and homeless individuals.

### HOUSING

- We provided close to 2,000 overnight shelter stays--keeping hundreds of people off the street during the coldest nights of the year.
- We provided emergency rental assistance to more than 700 households.
- Our energy assistance programs kept the lights on and the heat running for more than 3,000 Clatsop residents.
- More than 600 people relied on our Personal Care Pantry for access to basic hygiene needs.

### VETERAN SERVICES

- Our Veteran Service Office supported more than 500 Veterans, helping them to file claims and access the benefits they are entitled to.

[ccaservices.org/how-you-can-help/donate/](https://ccaservices.org/how-you-can-help/donate/)





## Donate Today

Together, we can make a difference.

Your generosity can help put food on the table for a family that's struggling to make ends meet, provide a warm place to sleep for someone who's experiencing homelessness, or offer critical support services to individuals and families facing difficult times.

Sincerely,

Clatsop Community Action

## Thank You for Your Support

P.S. Your gift can make a significant impact on the lives of those in our community. Every dollar contributed will stay in Clatsop County and provide critical services to those in need.



**Checks can be mailed to:**  
Clatsop Community Action  
364 9th Street  
Astoria, OR 97103

[ccaservices.org/how-you-can-help/donate](https://ccaservices.org/how-you-can-help/donate)



Krysti Ficker <krysti@cityofgearhart.com>

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## Form submission from: Contact Us

1 message

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**City of Gearhart Oregon** <gearhart-or@municodeweb.com>  
Reply-To: City of Gearhart Oregon <info@cityofgearhart.com>  
To: krysti@cityofgearhart.com

Tue, Apr 18, 2023 at 9:54 AM

Submitted on Tuesday, April 18, 2023 - 9:54am

Submitted by anonymous user: 73.25.20.88

Submitted values are:

First Name Sally

Last Name Miller

Email [millerpetesal@gmail.com](mailto:millerpetesal@gmail.com)

Question/Comment

My name is Sally Miller and I am writing in response to the issue of pickleball that has come before the Gearhart City Council: changing of the hours and increasing the number of courts. Our house is right across the street on Pacific Way. The address is 321 Pacific Way. We are very aware of pickleball because of the noise it creates. Those courts were originally built for tennis not pickleball. I firmly believe one court should always be available for tennis players. Also I don't care to hear the pinging of the ball after 6:00. There is an upper deck at our house and we love to sit out there in the early evening sipping our cocktails. I hope the city council leaves the courts the way they are now. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Sally Miller

The results of this submission may be viewed at:

<https://www.cityofgearhart.com/node/7/submission/25509>

Safety Bay . 669 B Street . Gearhart  
April 22, 2023 . Earth Day

Dear Mr. Sweet,

I beg the favor of your consideration for the letter attached.  
I have loved Gearhart since childhood, and I considered it a great blessing when we were able to make our home here forty some years ago.

The town and its surroundings are incredibly beautiful and special, with attributes which make it like no other on the coast. I want to continue being proud of Gearhart and so I feel a responsibility to speak for those "other families" living here who are worthy of defending but have no voice of their own.

Very truly yours,

*Rae Marie Zimmerling*  
Rae Marie Zimmerling

RECEIVED  
APR 27 2023  
BY:            (KD)

669 B Street

Gearhart, Oregon 97138

Mr. Chad Sweet, Gearhart City Manager

Post Office Box 2510

Gearhart, Oregon 97138

Dear Sir,

I carefully read The Astorian's March 25 article about the proposed elk management plan. Interested parties include a mind-boggling number of individuals and groups. Some, as reported, have considerable wealth behind them. There are various plans included in the proposed program, some of which I applaud. Examples include a crack-down on violators of city ordinances which prohibit feeding the elk, educating the public on elk safety, improved signs, and possible recognition technology to prevent elk/vehicle collisions on the roads. All of these creative and constructive ideas come under the comprehensive objective of training humans to peacefully co-exist with our wildlife.

On the lower end of the "solution" spectrum is a plan to cull the herds, destroying from (an estimated) 80 to 350 elk. This is a turn in the wrong direction. A few years ago, Oregon Public Broadcasting's "Oregon Field Guide" called the elk majestic and beautiful. Now, an alarming number of people want these stunning and magnificent animals to join the list of expendable wild creatures because their natural habitat is shrinking and they have become inconvenient.

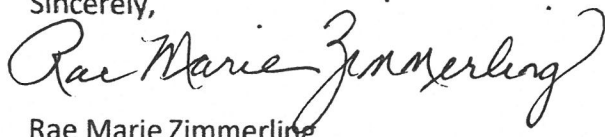
On the other hand, many North Coast residents care deeply about animals and about conserving our wildlife and natural environment. Visitors to the coast love catching sight of the herds. Traffic slows as some pull over, phone cameras in hand, and for a brief interlude, wonder and awe take hold of human hearts. Most of the residents in my neighborhood who observe the herd placidly moseying among us feel they have been visited by a many-splendored grace.

American essayist and poet Wendell Berry reminds us "our country's attitude toward progress or development is that anything superabundant or inexhaustible can be treated as dispensable."

Our Oregon coast is a delightfully unique corner of the universe. There is little delight in the greater managed world, and the human race is experiencing so much loss of the natural world. I fervently hope we humans can learn to share the land and be creative custodians of our wild beauty rather than its plunderers.

Still another wise trustee of our irreplaceable earth-home writes, "Let us celebrate our kinship with other living beings and spare ourselves the unbearable loneliness of their vanishing."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rae Marie Zimmerling". The signature is fluid and connected, with a large initial "R" and a long, sweeping tail on the "g".

Rae Marie Zimmerling

P. S. Also see suggestion by Judith and Joe Huck in April 11 Daily Astorian, "Letters to the Editor," re: PZP elk contraceptive. Perhaps some of the financial help offered could be earmarked for a program such as this.



Krysti Ficker <krysti@cityofgearhart.com>

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## Fwd: Watts city blog - Planning Commission

1 message

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Justine Hill <jhill@cityofgearhart.com>  
To: Krysti Ficker <krysti@cityofgearhart.com>

Thu, Apr 27, 2023 at 8:02 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: <goodmule@aol.com>

Date: Thu, Apr 27, 2023, 7:41 PM

Subject: Watts city blog - Planning Commission

To: peter@peterowattspc.com <peter@peterowattspc.com>

Cc: councilordevareaux@cityofgearhart.com <councilordevareaux@cityofgearhart.com>, councilorsmith@cityofgearhart.com <councilorsmith@cityofgearhart.com>, councilorgould@cityofgearhart.com <councilorgould@cityofgearhart.com>, councilorfackerell@cityofgearhart.com <councilorfackerell@cityofgearhart.com>, chadsweet@cityofgearhart.com <chadsweet@cityofgearhart.com>, jhill@cityofgearhart.com <jhill@cityofgearhart.com>

It has been brought to my attention late this afternoon that your city blog addressing accusations and statements implying unethical behavior on social media regarding the recent denial of the Morey rezoning application had a level of sensitivity not clear to us in your writings.

At no time did we think or intend to accuse the Planning Commission of unethical behavior in their final decision. We used the word ...bias...not in the context of ethics but, rather to point out certain contradictions and our disagreement with some of the fact findings. In various postings we provided public acknowledgements that while we disagreed with the final decision the Commission, in fact, acted within their authorities; they asked pertinent questions and made clear observations regarding the applicants zoning request.

In order to address your public concerns regarding social media commentary, we have directed an impartial third party to take inventory of any social media posts using the terms bias or unethical along with any commentary which may enforce or some how imply unethical decision making and to delete this commentary immediately.

Please instruct this correspondence to be entered into Gearhart's public record.

Thank you.

Jack Zimmerman

cc: Russon esq.

Dear Mayor Smith, Councilors, and City Staff,

Effective today April 11<sup>th</sup>, I resign my position as City Councilor. It's been an honor and joy serving the City of Gearhart for this short duration. When former Mayor Paulina asked me to fill the vacant seat over a year ago, I had full intentions of staying on and finishing out my term. I'm not someone who quits when they commit to something, but life has given me more than I can ask for in this moment in time. So with respect to the well-being of my growing family as well as the citizens' of Gearhart it's in the best interest that I step away from City government.

I hope in the future to stay involved and support the leadership in our City. Gearhart is a wonderful place and I hope we can continue to keep it that way.

Thank you!

*Austin Tomlinson*  
Austin Tomlinson

RECEIVED

APR 11 2023

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

KT



Chad Sweet <chadsweet@cityofgearhart.com>

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## April 20 Planning Meeting

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**Kathy Wolfard** <gimrewolf@aol.com>

Tue, Apr 18, 2023 at 2:08 PM

To: "chadsweet@cityofgearhart.com" <chadsweet@cityofgearhart.com>

Chad

Would you please give this letter to both members of the planning commission and city council?

Please let me know.

Thank you.

Kathryn Gimre Wolfard 503 780 83

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 **Apr23 Gearhart Zone Change.pdf**  
21K



To Gearhart Planning Commission for April 20, 2023 Consideration

8+ acres should be enough space to serve a public and a private interest. The Moreys have done great job in building gardens, painting the school and fencing the property. They have been good stewards of the property. (Just imagine homeless campers in the field and school). Thank goodness for the Moreys!

It is ridiculous to think high end housing would be built backing up to commercial properties bordering Hwy 101. The argument against short term rentals was that there was not enough affordable housing in Gearhart. Just let the Moreys build apartments, condos, townhouses, or single family dwellings.

A zone change is only positive as it will employ carpenters, electricians, plumbers, suppliers, realtors, gardeners, housekeepers and many more people. The end result is more housing for permanent residents. The school can be used for community meetings or rented to anyone in the public field. Empty ball fields are not needed. How many times in the past 10 years did you see teams using all those fields? The Sons of Norway field can be used for baseball. Basketball, tennis and pickle ball courts exist. Two parks and beach are available to play soccer, throw a football or frisbee.

Some Gearhart residents do not want a zone change because they miss children playing on the ball fields. Since the school is permanently closed and the City declined to buy the property and/or pay for liability insurance on the fields, using these fields are no longer possible. Also, the city council can make decisions for today or for the future. In perhaps 10 years or less, those kids who played on the ball fields may be looking to rent their first apartment or condo or even buy their first home. Will an opportunity exist in Gearhart or will they have to move out of the area to afford rent or a mortgage? Plan for the future, not just for today.

Gearhart has many people who want to micromanage and control private property owners. The City of Gearhart has an image problem by being opposed to improvements or anti business by denying proposed changes from local businesses. This is an opportunity to begin to change that image by approving the zone change and developing much needed homes for rent or purchase.

There is room in Gearhart to serve both permanent housing and community needs. A zone change is positive in employing people, bringing \$\$\$ to the area and improving Gearhart. Gearhart needs more housing, has 8+ empty acres and a developer who wants to foot the bill. Please approve this zone change.

Kathryn Gimre Wolfard  
April 18, 2023