

Whatcom County Council Public Works & Health Committee

COUNTY COURTHOUSE
311 Grand Avenue, Ste #105
Bellingham, WA 98225-4038
(360) 778-5010



Committee Minutes - Draft Minutes

Tuesday, April 14, 2026

1 PM

Hybrid Meeting - Council Chambers

HYBRID MEETING - MAY END LATE - ADJOURNS BY 1:30 P.M. (PARTICIPATE
IN-PERSON, SEE REMOTE JOIN INSTRUCTIONS AT
www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil, OR CALL 360.778.5010); AGENDA
REVISION 4.13.2026

COUNCILMEMBERS

Elizabeth Boyle
Barry Buchanan
Ben Elenbaas
Kaylee Galloway
Jessica Rienstra
Jon Scanlon
Mark Stremmler

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Cathy Halka, AICP, CMC

Call To Order

Committee member Mark Stremmler called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. in a hybrid meeting.

Roll Call

Present: 6 - Barry Buchanan, Ben Elenbaas, Kaylee Galloway, Jessica Rienstra, Jon Scanlon, and Mark Stremmler

Absent: 1 - Elizabeth Boyle

Announcements

Special Presentation

1. [AB2026-289](#) Presentation from the Child and Family Well Being Task Force on the 2026 Healthy Children's Fund Report Card

The following people presented:

- Tilda Doughty, Task Force Co-Chair
- Christina Jackson, Child and Family Well-Being Task Force
- Sallye Quinn, Task Force Co-Chair

Doughty introduced the 2026 Healthy Children's Fund Report Card, thanked Health and Community Services staff, and spoke about significant developments since the last report card in the spring of 2025.

Jackson spoke about concerns around continued fund deployment and contracting delays, and findings of the independent audit which also acknowledged those. She spoke about community awareness, and stated the task force recommended stronger communication and greater transparency with the public in the March 2025 report card and that same concern also surfaced in the independent audit. She spoke about progress being made on that front.

Quinn spoke about updated task force recommendations regarding the gift of public funds and that the County take a clear position that the use of the Healthy Children's Funds constitutes a fundamental public purpose, communication and the launch of a new dedicated website, childcare capacity expansion and remaining strong in support of subsidies, use of some of the administrative funds for expanding capacity in other County departments such as the Finance Department and legal, publishing a draft contract with requests for proposal (RFPs), raising the threshold for contracts requiring council approval, and helping early learning and care

workforce expansion by developing a network for professional and career development.

Councilmembers and Quinn discussed how they might solve the issue of gifting of public funds, including getting the Attorney General's opinion on the issue or drafting a resolution passed by the Council that acknowledges the public purpose of the fund, and if the task force gets members of the community expressing concerns or challenges with the implementation of the Healthy Children's Fund.

This agenda item was PRESENTED.

Committee Discussion

1. [AB2026-279](#) Discussion of an ordinance adopting Whatcom County Code Chapter 16.38 Source Control of Existing Development to require the use of best management practices for stormwater pollution prevention within the Whatcom County Washington Phase II Municipal Stormwater Permit Area

Stremler stated there is a substitute ordinance in the related file (**AB2026-281**) which is scheduled for introduction.

Sue Sullivan, Health and Community Services, stated they are introducing this ordinance and code establishing a long source control program for existing development in order to comply with the requirements in the Western Washington phase two municipal stormwater permit issued by the Department of Ecology. She briefed the councilmembers on the ordinance (see Staff Memo on file) and discussed with them if there was consultation with advisory groups or impacted parties when writing this new code and if they should reach out to outside groups and those impacted for their input before the public hearing, that they intend to develop a communication strategy before conducting inspections, a concern that programs like this take more from people than what is mandated by the law, and that the preferred version of the ordinance is the substitute which has a different title.

This agenda item was DISCUSSED.

Items Added by Revision

There were no agenda items added by revision.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:38 p.m.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

Cathy Halka, Council Clerk

Elizabeth Boyle, Committee Chair

Meeting Minutes prepared by Kristi Felbinger