

Whatcom County Council Special Committee of the Whole

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



Action Summary

**Tuesday, May 5, 2026
10:15 AM**

Hybrid Meeting - Council Chambers

**HYBRID MEETING - LUNCH BREAK FROM 12:00 P.M. TO 1:00 P.M. -
ADJOURNS BY 4:30 P.M. (PARTICIPATE IN-PERSON, SEE REMOTE JOIN
INSTRUCTIONS AT www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil, OR CALL
360.778.5010)**

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**Roll Call**

Present: 7 - Elizabeth Boyle, Barry Buchanan, Ben Elenbaas, Kaylee Galloway, Jessica Rienstra, Jon Scanlon, and Mark Stremler

Announcements**Public Comment (Comprehensive Plan)**

1. [AB2026-304](#) Public comments on the draft Preface to the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan

RECEIVED

Committee Discussion (Comprehensive Plan)

1. [AB2026-273](#) Discussion and preliminary Council direction on the Preface to the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan

DISCUSSED AND MOTION(S) APPROVED

MOTION 1:

Motion approved to amend the first sentence of the land acknowledgement statement (Item 1 in the Revised Chart of Proposed Council Changes for 5.5.2026) to read as follows:

Whatcom County Government acknowledges that present day Whatcom County is located on the traditional and ancestral homelands of the Lummi Nation and Nooksack Indian Tribe, as well as other Coast Salish peoples who have lived in and stewarded this land since time immemorial.

MOTION 2:

Motion approved to include the land acknowledgement statement as amended.

MOTION 3:

Motion approved to amend the labor acknowledgement (Item 2 in the Revised Chart of Proposed Council Changes for 5.5.2026) so that it includes the following:

We recognize immigrant communities with their wisdom and skills to develop agriculture lands which remains a vital part of Whatcom County's economy.

MOTION 4:

Motion approved to hold until May 19 (Special Committee of the Whole).

2. [AB2026-249](#) Discussion regarding schedule for Council review of the comprehensive plan update

DISCUSSED

Committee Discussion (Other)

3. [AB2026-314](#) Council Operational Planning with the Health and Community Services Department

DISCUSSED

4. [AB2026-316](#) Facilitated discussion regarding 2026 Council strategic planning

DISCUSSED

Items Added by Revision

Other Business

Adjournment