

~~WATER WARS~~

(how to avoid)

***Building the human conditions for
better watershed decisions in Whatcom County***

Whatcom County Council Meeting, June 9, 2026



A person with a long braid, wearing a blue shirt and dark pants, is walking away from the camera on a rocky, uneven path. The path leads towards a bright sunset or sunrise over a body of water. The sky is filled with soft, warm colors, and the water reflects the light. The overall mood is contemplative and serene.

THE MOMENT

The Nooksack is at a turning point

You know the adjudication.

You know the stakes.

Legal process alone won't build the trust needed for durable solutions.

The choices made now,
in relationship and in law,
will shape Whatcom County
for generations.



Art



Food



Film



Nature-connection



Stories



A photograph of four men sitting in a circle outdoors, engaged in conversation. They are wearing casual clothing like jackets and hats. The background shows green foliage. The image is dimmed to serve as a background for the text.

WHY IT MATTERS HERE

“We are not enemies.”

– Jay Julius (Lummi Nation) to Brad Rader (Whatcom Family Farmers)

Collective imagination and durable decisions require trust, not just process.

*We're not asking you to take sides.
We're inviting you into a better conversation.*

Common Waters 2 // Headwaters



Cultivating the Social Soil

A stylized illustration of a landscape. In the foreground, there are several trees with intricate, branching structures. Behind them is a large, rounded rock formation or cave entrance. The background shows dark, rolling hills under a deep blue sky. The overall aesthetic is clean and modern.

Social Systems

Observable and Tangible

Cultivating the Social Soil



Social Systems

Observable and Tangible

Social Soil (Roots)

Quality of Awareness & Relationships

A group of diverse people, including men, women, and children, are sitting in a circle on a rocky shore. They are smiling and talking to each other, creating a warm and collaborative atmosphere. The background shows a body of water and some vegetation, suggesting an outdoor setting like a riverbank or a park. The overall tone is positive and community-oriented.

CULTIVATING THE SOCIAL SOIL

A watershed moment

When people can imagine together,
they can build together.

Q&A



<https://waterwars.info>
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WHAT WE'RE DOING

Story and art as a way of meeting

Creating encounters that formal processes can't.

- **Gatherings, film, photography, fine art, meals, immersive storytelling:** all surfaces of the same relational infrastructure.
- Making it possible for people who don't trust each other to recognize each other first.

