

Whatcom County Council Committee of the Whole

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



Action Summary

**Tuesday, April 28, 2026
2:25 PM
Hybrid Meeting - Council Chambers**

**HYBRID MEETING - MAY BEGIN EARLY/LATE - 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 Stremler

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

Special Presentation

1. [AB2026-326](#) Update from Public Works River and Flood staff on Floodplain Integrated Planning (FLIP)

PRESENTED

Committee Discussion

1. [AB2026-186](#) Discussion and preliminary Council direction on Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan Chapter 2, Land Use

DISCUSSED AND MOTION(S) APPROVED

MOTION 1

Motion approved to begin review of Chapter 2 using the Preliminary Council Draft dated 4/28/2026, which is the current version of the chapter with Planning Commission recommendations from January 2026 and additional edits proposed and motions passed by councilmembers as listed in the Chart of Proposed Council Changes 4/28/2026.

MOTION 2– Amendment #129

Motion approved to hold on amendment number 129 until they hear back from Planning and Development Services with suggested language.

MOTION 3– Amendment #135

Motion approved to include amendment number 135 as amended so that Policy 2A-9 would read:

Where heavy industrial zoning is located within urban growth areas adjacent to residential neighborhoods, the County should identify and implement measures that minimize neighborhood exposure to industrial pollution and advance public health and environmental justice, and long-term economic resilience. These measures should be developed with meaningful involvement of affected communities.

MOTION 4- Amendment # 136

Motion approved to include amendment number 136 as amended which amends Policy 2Q-5 so that it reads:

Assist the communities of Birch Bay and Columbia Valley Urban Growth Areas with incorporation when appropriate.

2. [AB2026-250](#) Discussion and preliminary Council direction on Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan Chapter 8, Resource Lands

NOT ACTED UPON

3. [AB2026-261](#) Discussion and preliminary Council direction on Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan Chapter 10, Environment
NOT ACTED UPON
4. [AB2026-262](#) Discussion and preliminary Council direction on Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan Chapter 12, Climate
NOT ACTED UPON
5. [AB2026-263](#) Discussion and preliminary Council direction on Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan Appendices (Appendix A: Glossary, Appendix B: Acronyms, Appendix D: Bibliography, Appendix E: 20-Year Capital Facilities Plan, Appendix G: Airport Overlay Zones, Appendix H: Airport Imaginary Surfaces, Appendix I: Housing Needs Analysis, Appendix J: Subsidized Housing Needs and Funding) and Foothills Subarea Plan Amendments
NOT ACTED UPON
6. [AB2026-249](#) Discussion regarding schedule for Council review of the comprehensive plan update
DISCUSSED

Items Added by Revision**Other Business****Adjournment**