



Whatcom County

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

Agenda Bill Master Report

File Number: AB2026-478

File ID:	AB2026-478	Version:	1	Status:	Approved
File Created:	06/10/2026	Entered by:	LTemplet@co.whatcom.wa.us		
Department:	Planning and Development Services Department	File Type:	Resolution		
Assigned to:	Council Planning and Development Committee			Final Action:	06/23/2026
Agenda Date:	06/23/2026	Enactment #:	RES 2026-027		
Related Files:					

Primary Contact Email: ltemplet@co.whatcom.wa.us

TITLE FOR AGENDA ITEM:

Resolution authorizing grant application submission and signing authority for Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office Farmland Preservation grants for the Steensma, Jensen, and Cloud Mountain Farm Center applications

SUMMARY STATEMENT OR LEGAL NOTICE LANGUAGE:

See attachments

HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE FILE

Date:	Acting Body:	Action:	Sent To:
06/23/2026	Council Planning and Development Committee	RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL Aye: 7 Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremier Nay: 0	
06/23/2026	Council	APPROVED Aye: 7 Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremier Nay: 0	

Attachments: Staff Memo, Proposed Resolution

PROPOSED BY: PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
INTRODUCED: JUNE 23, 2026

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-027

**AUTHORIZING GRANT APPLICATION SUBMISSION AND SIGNING AUTHORITY FOR
WASHINGTON STATE RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE WASHINGTON
WILDLIFE AND RECREATION PROGRAM - FARMLAND PRESERVATION GRANTS FOR
THE STEENSMA, JENSEN, AND CLOUD MOUNTAIN FARM CENTER APPLICATIONS**

Projects

26-1633A - Steensma Farm Conservation Easement

26-1684A - Jensen Farm Conservation Easement

26-1723A - Cloud Mountain Farm Center Conservation Easement

WHEREAS, this resolution/authorization authorizes the person(s) identified below (in Section 2) to act as the authorized representative/agent on behalf of Whatcom County and the Whatcom County Conservation Easement Program (hereinafter "Our Organization") and to legally bind Our Organization with respect to the above Project(s) for which we seek grant funding assistance managed through the Recreation and Conservation Office (Office).

WHEREAS, grant assistance is requested by Our Organization to aid in financing the cost of the Project(s) referenced above; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Whatcom County Council that Our Organization has applied for or intends to apply for funding assistance managed by the Office for the above Project(s); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Whatcom County Council that Our Organization authorizes the following persons or persons holding specified titles/positions (and subsequent holders of those titles/positions) to execute the following documents binding Our Organization on the above projects:

The Conservation Easement Program Administrator is authorized to sign for (1) grant application (submission thereof) and (2) project contact (day-to-day administering of the grant and communicating with the RCO).

Whatcom County Executive is authorized to sign for (1) RCO Grant Agreement; (2) Agreement Amendments; and (3) Authorizing property and real estate documents (Notice of Grant, Deed of Right or Assignment of Rights if applicable). These are items that are typically recorded on the property with the county.

The above persons are considered an "authorized representative(s)/agent(s)" for purposes of the documents indicated. Our Organization shall comply with a request from the RCO to provide documentation of persons who may be authorized to execute documents related to the grant.; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Whatcom County Council that Our Organization have reviewed the sample RCO Grant Agreement on the Recreation and Conservation Office's WEB SITE at:
<https://rco.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/SampleProjAgreement.pdf>. We understand

and acknowledge that if offered an agreement to sign in the future, it will contain an indemnification and legal venue stipulation and other terms and conditions substantially in the form contained in the sample Agreement and that such terms and conditions of any signed Agreement shall be legally binding on the sponsor if our representative/agent enters into an Agreement on our behalf. The Office reserves the right to revise the Agreement prior to execution.; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Whatcom County Council that Our Organization acknowledges and warrants, after conferring with its legal counsel, that its authorized representative(s)/agent(s) have full legal authority to act and sign on behalf of Our Organization for their assigned role/document.; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Whatcom County Council that Grant assistance is contingent on a signed Agreement. Entering into any Agreement with the Office is purely voluntary on our part; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Whatcom County Council that Our Organization understands that grant policies and requirements vary depending on the grant program applied to, the grant program and source of funding in the Agreement, the characteristics of the project, and the characteristics of our organization.; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Whatcom County Council that Our Organization further understands that prior to our authorized representative(s)/agent(s) executing any of the documents listed above, the RCO may make revisions to its sample Agreement and that such revisions could include the indemnification and the legal venue stipulation. Our Organization accepts the legal obligation that we shall, prior to execution of the Agreement(s), confer with our authorized representative(s)/agent(s) as to any revisions to the project Agreement from that of the sample Agreement. We also acknowledge and accept that if our authorized representative(s)/agent(s) executes the Agreement(s) with any such revisions, all terms and conditions of the executed Agreement shall be conclusively deemed to be executed with our authorization.; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Whatcom County Council that Any grant assistance received will be used for only direct eligible and allowable costs that are reasonable and necessary to implement the project(s) referenced above.; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Whatcom County Council that Our Organization acknowledges that if it receives grant funds managed by the Office, the Office will pay us on only a reimbursement basis. We understand reimbursement basis means that we will only request payment from the Office after we incur grant eligible and allowable costs and pay them. The Office may also determine an amount of retainage and hold that amount until all project deliverables, grant reports, or other responsibilities are complete; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Whatcom County Council that Our Organization acknowledges that any property acquired with grant assistance must be dedicated for the purposes of the grant in perpetuity unless otherwise agreed to in writing by our organization and the Office. We agree to dedicate the property in a signed "Deed of Right" for fee acquisitions, or an "Assignment of Rights" for other than fee acquisitions (which documents will be based upon the Office's standard versions of those documents), to be recorded on the title of the property with the county auditor. Our Organization acknowledges that any property acquired in fee title must be immediately made available to the public unless otherwise provided for in policy, the Agreement, or authorized in writing by the Office Director.; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Whatcom County Council that this resolution/authorization is deemed to be part of the formal grant application to the Office; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED by the Whatcom County Council that Our Organization warrants and certifies that this resolution/authorization was properly and lawfully adopted following the requirements of our organization and applicable laws and policies and that our organization has full legal authority to commit our organization to the warranties, certifications, promises and obligations set forth herein.

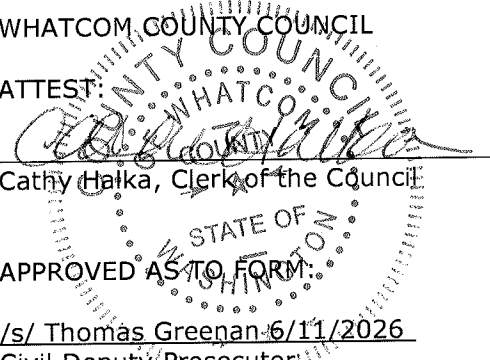
APPROVED this 23rd day of June, 2026

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL

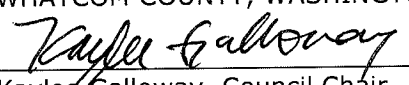
ATTEST:


Cathy Halka, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


/s/ Thomas Greenan 6/11/2026
Civil Deputy Prosecutor

WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON


Kaylee Galloway, Council Chair