

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL AGENDA BILL

NO. 2017-318

CLEARANCES	Initial	Date	Date Received in Council Office	Agenda Date	Assigned to:
Originator:	CE	10/23/2017	RECEIVED OCT 31 2017 WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL	11/8/17	Introduction
Division Head:	WIP	10-23-17		11/21/2017	Nat Res / Council
Dept. Head:	GER	10-23-17			
Prosecutor:	AL	10-23-17			
Purchasing/Budget:					
Executive:	TKS	10/30/17			

TITLE OF DOCUMENT:
Reactivation of the Wildlife Advisory Committee

ATTACHMENTS:
Memo, Draft Ordinance

SEPA review required? () Yes () NO SEPA review completed? () Yes () NO	Should Clerk schedule a hearing? () Yes () NO Requested Date:
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SUMMARY STATEMENT OR LEGAL NOTICE LANGUAGE: *(If this item is an ordinance or requires a public hearing, you must provide the language for use in the required public notice. Be specific and cite RCW or WCC as appropriate. Be clear in explaining the intent of the action.)*

Proposal to reactivate the Wildlife Advisory Committee to continue working on wildlife related issues and opportunities.

<p>COMMITTEE ACTION:</p> <p>11/21/2017: Amended and forwarded to Council for approval</p>	<p>COUNCIL ACTION:</p> <p>11/8/2017: Introduced 7-0 11/21/2017: Substitute amended and adopted 6-1, Brenner opposed, Ordinance 2017-068</p>
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Related County Contract #:	Related File Numbers:	Ordinance or Resolution Number: Ord. 2017-068
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Please Note: Once adopted and signed, ordinances and resolutions are available for viewing and printing on the County's website at: www.co.whatcom.wa.us/council.

PROPOSED BY: Planning

INTRODUCTION DATE: November 8, 2017

ORDINANCE NO. 2017-068

AMENDING WHATCOM COUNTY CODE 2.118, REACTIVATING THE WHATCOM COUNTY WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, the Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA) requires Whatcom County to engage in comprehensive land use planning; and

WHEREAS, the GMA indicates that Whatcom County's comprehensive land use planning efforts should foster land use patterns and develop a local vision of rural character that will be compatible with the use of the land by wildlife and for fish and wildlife habitat; and

WHEREAS, goal nine (9) of the GMA, in Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 36.70A.020, is to retain open space, enhance recreational opportunities, conserve fish and wildlife habitat, increase access to natural resource lands and water, and develop parks and recreation facilities; and

WHEREAS, in RCW 36.70A.160, the GMA directs local governments to identify open space corridors within and between urban growth areas useful for recreation, wildlife habitat, trails and connections between critical areas; and

WHEREAS, habitat conservation areas must be identified, designated and protected through the use of best available science, according to RCW 36.70A.172; and

WHEREAS, goal eleven (11) of the GMA is to encourage the involvement of citizens in the planning process and ensure coordination between communities and jurisdictions to reconcile conflicts; and

WHEREAS, Whatcom County citizens have expressed to the County Council their desire for the County to incorporate wildlife management and conservation planning for fish and wildlife habitat into the Whatcom County land use planning process; and

WHEREAS, the Whatcom County Council would benefit from the advice and recommendations of those with background and technical expertise, including but not limited to, in wildlife management, conservation science, and wildlife biology, when making land use policy decisions, and

WHEREAS, the County Council acknowledges the community has finite resources requiring good fiscal and environmental stewardship, and the community would benefit from achievable wildlife management recommendations, and;


1 **WHEREAS**, the County Council recognizes people are part of the landscape and
2 within a watershed diverse uses interact and depend on limited resources, requiring
3 balanced wildlife management recommendations which provide visible community and
4 ecological services, and;

5
6 **WHEREAS**, the County Council authorizes Planning and Development Services
7 Department to fund a .25 FTE to staff the wildlife advisory committee.

8
9 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Whatcom County Council that
10 Whatcom County Code 2.118, creating the Whatcom County Wildlife Advisory
11 Committee, is hereby established as outlined in Exhibit A of this ordinance.

12
13 **ADOPTED** this 21st day of November, 2017.

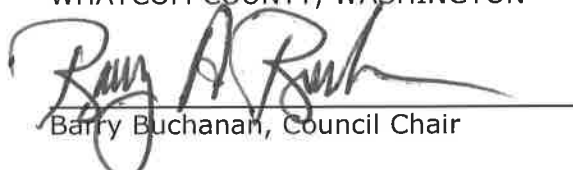
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17 ATTEST:

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22 Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council

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24
25 APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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27 
28 Civil Deputy Prosecutor

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

29 
Barry Buchanan, Council Chair

WHATCOM COUNTY EXECUTIVE
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

30 
Jack Louws, County Executive

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32 Approved () Denied

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35 Date Signed: November 28, 2017

EXHIBIT A

Chapter 2.118 WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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6 **Sections:**

- 7 **2.118.010 Established**
8 **2.118.020 Purpose**
9 **2.118.030 Function**
10 **2.118.040 Qualifications**
11 **2.118.050 Membership**
12 **2.118.060 Term of Office**
13 **2.118.070 Organization – Meetings**
14 **2.118.080 Committee Staffing**
15

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17 **2.118.010 Established.**

18 The Wildlife Advisory Committee is hereby established.
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20 **2.118.020 Purpose.**

21 The committee will advise the Whatcom County Planning and
22 Development Services Department staff and the Whatcom County Council
23 on the value of wildlife and habitat management issues as they relate to
24 the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan, with the goal of integrating
25 wildlife management and protection into the community planning process.
26

27 **2.118.030 Function.**

- 28 A. The committee will provide recommendations on integrating wildlife
29 management and protection issues relative to fulfilling goal nine (9) of
30 the Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA): to retain open
31 space, enhance recreational opportunities, conserve fish and wildlife
32 habitat, increase access to natural resource lands and water, and
33 develop parks and recreation facilities. The full committee shall provide
34 a recommendation on the need for an ongoing wildlife advisory
35 committee.
36
- 37 B. Each committee recommendation will consist of
38 i. Identified issue or constraint
39 ii. Discussion of ecological process, function or species addressed
40 iii. Range of solutions considered
41 iv. Preferred solution
42 v. Cost of implementation. A cost benefit analysis is required when an
43 existing industry recognized method is available; at a minimum a
44 discussion of project costs and positive or adverse impacts where
45 community and ecological uses intersect.
46 vi. Cited and reviewed references
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48

1 C. The Technical Advisory sub-committee, as defined in Section
2 2.118.050(B), will:

- 3
4 i. Continue to provide periodic updates to the Ecosystem Report that
5 includes inventory, characterization, and assessment, which
6 includes an analysis of risk, of existing ecosystem conditions
7 (Existing Condition Report), and to make management
8 recommendations using best available science that will provide
9 appropriate habitat conditions for local species, with an emphasis
10 on biodiversity and healthy ecosystem processes and functions.
11 This may include recommendations regarding wildlife corridors,
12 landscape ecological planning, wildlife management, avoiding
13 human/wildlife conflict.
14
15 ii. Address technical questions from the Whatcom County Council,
16 Whatcom County staff, or the Wildlife Management Committee.
17

18 **2.118.040 Qualifications.**

19 To qualify for County Council appointment to fill any vacancy on a board,
20 committee, or commission, a person shall be a qualified registered voter
21 and be a member or employee of the agency or group he or she is
22 appointed to represent.
23

24 **2.118.050 Membership.**

- 25 A. The committee shall consist of 11 members.
26
27 B. Seven of the 11 members will have technical expertise in wildlife
28 and habitat management or current or past professional experience
29 such as, but not limited to, at least one of the following: wetlands
30 manager, wildlife biologist, population biologist, natural resources
31 manager, watershed scientist, conservation specialist, forestry
32 protection, and tribal representative. Agriculture or land
33 development representatives are encouraged to apply for at least
34 two of the remaining four positions.
35
36 C. The County Council will appoint the voting committee members.
37 Member terms will be four years.
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39 D. The committee members shall serve without compensation.
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41 **2.118.060 Term of Office.**

42 The committee shall serve until December 31, 2022.
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44 **2.118.070 Organization – Meetings.**

- 45 A. Meetings of the committee shall be open and accessible to the
46 public and shall be subject to the Open Public Meetings Act.
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48 B. The committee shall meet as needed to address wildlife related
49 planning needs.
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- C. The committee shall be responsible for taking complete and accurate written records.
- D. Whatcom County staff shall be responsible for assuring the meetings are audio recorded.
- E. Written and audio recordings of meetings, resolutions, findings, and recommendations shall be kept, and such records shall be public.
- F. The committee shall comply with Whatcom County Code 2.03 – Boards and Commissions.
- G. The committee shall adopt its own rules and procedures for the conduct of business.
- H. The committee shall elect a chairperson from among its members who shall preside at its meetings.

2.118.080 Committee Staffing.

- A. The Whatcom County Planning and Development Services Department and Whatcom County Public Works Department shall provide geographic information system (GIS) data and other information to the committee as requested.
- B. The Whatcom County Planning and Development Services Department and the Whatcom County Public Works Department shall provide technical assistance and assist with meeting coordination.