



Memorandum

TO: SATPAL SIDHU, COUNTY EXECUTIVE

FROM: Joshua Leinbach, WCHCS EH Supervisor
Anna Mostovetsky, WCHCS EH Specialist

DATE: JULY 10, 2025

RE: WISER LAKE LCMP PRESENTATION TO COUNCIL

Whatcom County Health and Community Services (WCHCS) received public interest in developing a Lake Cyanobacteria Management Plan (LCMP) in response to recurring harmful algal blooms (HABs) in Wiser Lake. WCHCS applied for and was subsequently awarded two 2-year grants from WA Department of Ecology. The first grant, received in 2022, funded the development of a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) and a year of field data collection. The second grant, received in 2024, funded the development of the LCMP by a contracted water management consulting firm, Aquatic Insight, LLC, using the data collected in 2023-2024. The LCMP was completed by Aquatic Insight in May, 2025.

The recommendations outlined in the LCMP include both short-term and long-term lake management options. Examples include phosphorous reduction treatment, continued septic inspections and upgrades, and working with the conservation district to reduce fertilizer and manure applications in the watershed. To be successful, the efforts described in the LCMP will require the participation of lake residents, the agriculture community, the conservation district, lake users, Whatcom County, and future partners invested in the safety of Wiser Lake. The LCMP recommends the formation of a Lake Management District (LMD) or Lake Association (LA), necessary to fund HAB reduction activities. An LMD or LA could help ensure funding long term for the continuation of lake improvement projects.

Please call Joshua Leinbach at ext. 6113 or Anna Mostovetsky at ext. 6065, if there are any questions.
Thank you.