

**WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL AGENDA BILL**

**NO.** 2017-318

<b>CLEARANCES</b>	<b>Initial</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Date Received in Council Office</b>	<b>Agenda Date</b>	<b>Assigned to:</b>
Originator:	CE	10/23/2017	<p>RECEIVED</p> <p>OCT 31 2017</p> <p>WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL</p>	11/8/17	Introduction
Division Head:	WP	10-23-17		11/21/2017	Nat Res / Council
Dept. Head:	GER	10-23-17			
Prosecutor:	RL	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.

**COMMITTEE ACTION:**

11/21/2017: Amended and forwarded to Council for approval

**COUNCIL ACTION:**

11/8/2017: Introduced 7-0  
 11/21/2017: Substitute amended and adopted 6-1, Brenner opposed, Ordinance 2017-068

**Related County Contract #:**

**Related File Numbers:**

**Ordinance or Resolution Number:**

Ord. 2017-068

**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](http://www.co.whatcom.wa.us/council).

1 PROPOSED BY: Planning

2 INTRODUCTION DATE: November 8, 2017

3  
4 **ORDINANCE NO.** 2017-068

5  
6 **AMENDING WHATCOM COUNTY CODE 2.118, REACTIVATING THE WHATCOM**  
7 **COUNTY WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

8  
9 **WHEREAS**, the Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA) requires  
10 Whatcom County to engage in comprehensive land use planning; and

11  
12 **WHEREAS**, the GMA indicates that Whatcom County's comprehensive land use  
13 planning efforts should foster land use patterns and develop a local vision of rural  
14 character that will be compatible with the use of the land by wildlife and for fish and  
15 wildlife habitat; and

16  
17 **WHEREAS**, goal nine (9) of the GMA, in Revised Code of Washington (RCW)  
18 36.70A.020, is to retain open space, enhance recreational opportunities, conserve fish  
19 and wildlife habitat, increase access to natural resource lands and water, and develop  
20 parks and recreation facilities; and

21  
22 **WHEREAS**, in RCW 36.70A.160, the GMA directs local governments to identify  
23 open space corridors within and between urban growth areas useful for recreation,  
24 wildlife habitat, trails and connections between critical areas; and

25  
26 **WHEREAS**, habitat conservation areas must be identified, designated and  
27 protected through the use of best available science, according to RCW 36.70A.172; and

28  
29 **WHEREAS**, goal eleven (11) of the GMA is to encourage the involvement of  
30 citizens in the planning process and ensure coordination between communities and  
31 jurisdictions to reconcile conflicts; and

32  
33 **WHEREAS**, Whatcom County citizens have expressed to the County Council their  
34 desire for the County to incorporate wildlife management and conservation planning for  
35 fish and wildlife habitat into the Whatcom County land use planning process; and

36  
37 **WHEREAS**, the Whatcom County Council would benefit from the advice and  
38 recommendations of those with background and technical expertise, including but not  
39 limited to, in wildlife management, conservation science, and wildlife biology, when  
40 making land use policy decisions, and

41  
42 **WHEREAS**, the County Council acknowledges the community has finite resources  
43 requiring good fiscal and environmental stewardship, and the community would benefit  
44 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.

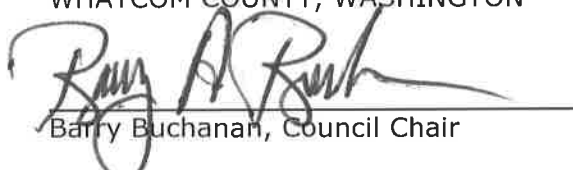
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17 ATTEST:

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22 Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council  
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25 APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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28 \_\_\_\_\_  
29 Civil Deputy Prosecutor  
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WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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36 Barry Buchanan, Council Chair

WHATCOM COUNTY EXECUTIVE  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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39 \_\_\_\_\_  
40 Jack Louws, County Executive

41  Approved      ( ) Denied

42 Date Signed: November 28, 2017

# EXHIBIT A

## Chapter 2.118 WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### Sections:

- 2.118.010 Established
- 2.118.020 Purpose
- 2.118.030 Function
- 2.118.040 Qualifications
- 2.118.050 Membership
- 2.118.060 Term of Office
- 2.118.070 Organization – Meetings
- 2.118.080 Committee Staffing

#### 2.118.010 Established.

The Wildlife Advisory Committee is hereby established.

#### 2.118.020 Purpose.

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

#### 2.118.030 Function.

- A. The committee will provide recommendations on integrating wildlife management and protection issues relative to fulfilling goal nine (9) of the Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA): 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. The full committee shall provide a recommendation on the need for an ongoing wildlife advisory committee.
- B. Each committee recommendation will consist of
  - i. Identified issue or constraint
  - ii. Discussion of ecological process, function or species addressed
  - iii. Range of solutions considered
  - iv. Preferred solution
  - v. Cost of implementation. A cost benefit analysis is required when an existing industry recognized method is available; at a minimum a discussion of project costs and positive or adverse impacts where community and ecological uses intersect.
  - vi. Cited and reviewed references

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

- 3  
4 i. ~~Prior to the end of 2015, develop the~~Continue to provide periodic  
5 updates to the Ecosystem Report that includes initial inventory,  
6 characterization, and assessment, which includes an analysis of  
7 risk, of existing ecosystem conditions (Existing Condition Report),  
8 and to make management recommendations using best available  
9 science that will provide appropriate habitat conditions for local  
10 species, with an emphasis on biodiversity and healthy ecosystem  
11 processes and functions. This may include recommendations  
12 regarding wildlife corridors, landscape ecological planning, wildlife  
13 management, avoiding human/wildlife conflict.
- 14  
15 ii. ~~Continue to provide periodic updates to the Existing Condition~~  
16 ~~Report or to~~A address technical questions from the Whatcom  
17 County Council, Whatcom County staff, or the Wildlife  
18 Management Committee.

19  
20 **2.118.040 Qualifications.**

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

25  
26 **2.118.050 Membership.**

- 27  
28 A. The committee shall consist of 11 members.
- 29  
30 B. Seven of the 11 members will have technical expertise in wildlife  
31 and habitat management or current or past professional experience  
32 such as, but not limited to, at least one of the following: wetlands  
33 manager, wildlife biologist, population biologist, natural resources  
34 manager, watershed scientist, conservation specialist, forestry  
35 protection, and tribal representative. Agriculture or land  
36 development representatives are encouraged to apply for at least  
37 two of the remaining four positions.
- 38  
39 C. The County Council will appoint the voting committee members.  
40 Member terms will be four years.
- 41  
42 D. The committee members shall serve without compensation.

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44 **2.118.060 Term of Office.**

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46 The committee shall serve until ~~July 31, 2016~~December 31, 2022.

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48 **2.118.070 Organization – Meetings.**

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50 A. Meetings of the committee shall be open and accessible to the  
51 public and shall be subject to the Open Public Meetings Act.

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- B. The committee shall ~~determine its own meeting schedule, but shall meet at least bimonthly~~ meet as needed to address wildlife related planning needs.
- 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.