

2021 WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL COMMITTEES

**Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee
Council Meeting – Tuesdays**

**Finance and Administrative Services Committee
Council Meeting - Tuesdays**

**Natural Resources Committee
Council Meeting - Tuesdays**

**Planning and Development Committee
Council Meeting - Tuesdays**

**Public Works and Health Committee
Council Meeting - Tuesdays**

Behavioral Health Advisory Committee

Meets quarterly on the 2nd Monday of every third month– (January 11, April 12, July 12, and October 11, 2021) from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. (meetings held virtually until further notice)

Purpose: To fund a county wide infrastructure for behavioral health programs and services, emphasizing expansion or new development, which will benefit citizens who are impacted by mental illness and chemical dependency. The goal is to promote their resilience and their recovery from mental illness and chemical dependency, and to reduce their need to utilize costly and less effective interventions of emergency services and the criminal justice system.

Bellingham International Airport Advisory Committee (BIAAC)

Meets quarterly on the 2nd Thursday at 4 p.m. Meeting Dates January 14, April 8, July 15 (3rd Thursday) and October 14, 2020 (Meetings to be held via tele/video conference until further notice)

Purpose: The BIAAC serves as the advisory committee to the Commission of the Port of Bellingham to provide input from aviation professionals and the community about the airport. The members of the committee serve to provide both technical input and a community perspective to the Commission about airport operations, development, community partnerships, services and impacts.

Bellingham Regional Chamber of Commerce

Meets approximately nine times a year on the 2nd Thursday of the month (excluding May, August, and December) from 3:30pm-5:30pm. In addition to the nine meetings, there are usually a summer and winter social. Contact Guy Occhiogrosso at guy@bellingham.com for meeting information.

Purpose: This is a non-voting ex-officio position on the Board of Directors for the Bellingham Regional Chamber of Commerce. The mission of the Chamber

is to provide a unified business voice to promote a healthy community economy

Business and Commerce Advisory Committee (non-voting member) Meets monthly. Meeting information is on the County's Boards and Commissions website <https://wa-whatcomcounty.civicplus.com/2889/Business-and-Commerce-Advisory-Committee>

Purpose: The committee will advise the Whatcom County Council on issues, including regulations and policies that could impact local businesses, industry, or economic development. The committee will report directly to the County Council as necessary to carry out the following functions: Review and provide recommendations on comprehensive plans, regulations, economic development efforts and on proposals which directly impact business and economic conditions in Whatcom County. Assist the county and provide recommendations on efforts to improve business conditions, environment and infrastructure. Assist and develop recommendations for comprehensive economic development efforts of Associate Development Organizations (ADO) and other issues impacting business in Whatcom County. Develop recommendations and strategies for ensuring the county applies a client-focused approach to support businesses with regulations, permitting, and planning.

Child and Family Well-being Task Force

Meeting times – TBD

Purpose: Continually review Whatcom governmental impact on children and families and make specific recommendations for improvements for all departments.

County Finance Committee (The Council Chair is automatically a member of this committee)

Meets quarterly – Specific days and times will be available the beginning of 2021. Please contact KBThomas@co.whatcom.wa.us to verify meeting dates and location. Meetings held via Zoom until further notice.

Purpose: RCW [36.48.070](#) County finance committee—Approval of investment policy and debt policy—Rules. The county treasurer, the county auditor, and the chair of the county legislative authority, ex officio, shall constitute the county finance committee. The county treasurer shall act as chair of the committee and the county auditor as secretary thereof. The committee shall keep a full and complete record of all its proceedings in appropriate books of record and all such records and all correspondence relating to the committee shall be kept in the office of the county auditor and shall be open to public inspection. The committee shall approve county investment policy and a debt policy and shall make appropriate rules and regulations for the carrying out

of the provisions of RCW [36.48.010](#) through [36.48.060](#), not inconsistent with law.

Developmental Disabilities Board

Meets every other month – 4th Monday at 4:30 p.m. starting January 25, 2021). May meeting occurs on the third Monday. (Meetings are held virtually until further notice. Please contact jilee@co.whatcom.wa.us to verify meeting dates and log-in information.

Purpose: The Board shall serve in an advisory capacity to the Health Department. The Board plans and coordinates services for individuals with developmental disabilities. Members shall include but not be limited to representatives of public, private, or voluntary agencies, representatives of local government units and citizens knowledgeable about developmental disabilities.

Drayton Harbor and Portage Bay Shellfish Protection District Advisory Committees (meet together)

Meets Quarterly on the last Wednesday of January, April, July, and October from 3 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Planning and Development Services conference room (location may change to Public Works at the Civic Center for 2020)

****The Birch Bay Shellfish Protection District is not currently meeting and was dissolved in 2019.**

Purpose: Members must be property owners that reside within the Shellfish Protection District or have a direct interest from one of the following groups: Commercial Shell fishing, Agriculture, Ports, Fish Processing, Recreational Boating, Blaine City Council, or Drayton Harbor Management Committee. The board's duties are to advise the County Council on the proposed actions and operations relating to the restoration of water quality in the Drayton Harbor watershed, the Portage Bay Watershed and to re-open or maintain rear-round shellfish harvesting.

EMS (Emergency Medical Services) Oversight Board

Meets Quarterly on the second Wednesday of the month from 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. (Anticipated meeting dates are March 10, June 9, Sept. 8 and Dec. 8, 2020) in Conference Room 514

Purpose: The Board shall with the active advise and participation of the Technical Advisory Board, make recommendations to the Whatcom County and the Cities and Fire Districts of Whatcom County regarding administration, operations, levels of service, and EMS budgets and financial reporting. The Board will be the primary organization responsible for framing the ongoing vision of an integrated and coordinated EMS system. The Board will meet at least four meetings per year (quarterly) to review the status of emergency medical services in Whatcom County and to develop recommendations.

Flood Control Zone Advisory Committee

Meets every month – 2nd Thursday at 7 p.m. (Meetings held virtually - UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED)

Purpose: Committee assists and makes recommendations to the Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors in performing flood damage repairs, maintenance and improvements, and minimizing future flood damage through prevention and management on the Nooksack River, its watershed and the other watersheds within Whatcom County. Serves as an Ex-Officio member (non-voting).

Homeless Strategies Workgroup

Meets every two weeks. Subcommittees meet on an as-needed basis, and subcommittee participation is voluntary. Meetings are currently held remote-only via zoom. Meeting information can be found at <https://whatcomcounty.us/2748/Homeless-Strategies-Workgroup-Meeting-In>.

Purpose: The purpose of the Homeless Strategies Workgroup (HSW), is to identify additional temporary winter shelters, added capacity for year-round shelters, and additional opportunities to address the needs of the county's homeless population, as well as create a communication network for organizations to work together better. Six subcommittees (membership voluntary) include: Unsheltered, Winter/Severe Weather, Youth, Families, Funding Strategies, and Communications. HSW membership includes two (2) Whatcom County Councilmember positions.

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force

Meets monthly. Subcommittees meet monthly or every other month. Meetings are currently held remote-only via zoom. Meeting information can be found at <http://wa-whatcomcounty.civicplus.com/2188/Task-Force-Meeting-Information>

Purpose: The purpose of the Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force is to continually review Whatcom County's criminal justice and behavioral health programs and make specific recommendations to safely and effectively reduce incarceration of individuals struggling with mental illness and chemical dependency, and minimize jail utilization by pretrial defendants who can safely be released.

Intergovernmental Tribal Relations Committee

Meets on an as-needed basis

This committee consists of two County Councilmembers along with an unspecified number of tribal delegates serving on an as-needed basis as a liaison committee between the Whatcom County Council and either or both

\\prod-netapp-gm-as-fsas.tops.gdi\insite_data_prod\files\WHAT\Attachments\fcc1fa9c-e8b8-441a-a1ac-48dde39766b2.doc

of the two Native American governments in Whatcom County. Meetings are not regularly scheduled, but can be requested by either or both tribal governments, or by the County Council. Committee members shall merely act in a representative capacity, and all final decisions on behalf of Whatcom County shall be made by vote of the entire County Council as provided in the Whatcom County Charter.

LEOFF Board

Meets Monthly - 2nd Wednesday at 9 a.m.

(Meetings held via Zoom until further notice)

Purpose: Per RCW 41.26 Whatcom County administers the Whatcom County Law Enforcement Officers' and Firefighters' Plan (LEOFF) 1 Disability Board. This board has jurisdiction over the police and fire agencies in Whatcom County, excluding the City of Bellingham Police and Fire Departments. The Leoff Board reviews and approves all eligible disability and medical claims submitted by Leoff 1 members. The Rules and Procedures that govern their actions follow State Retirement System laws.

Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)

Meetings are being held virtually through GoTo or Zoom. Meeting dates for 2021 are January 26, April 27, September 28 and November 23 from 1:30 – 3:30

Purpose: The LEPC was created in 1987 to fulfill local hazardous materials responsibilities designated by congress in the Superfund Amendment Reauthorization Act (SARA) Title III. The State of Washington implemented the congressional mandate with the adoption of WAC 118.

Also known as the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA), the legislation requires LEPCs to develop a local hazardous materials response plan and to maintain public files that show chemical inventories of facilities regulated by the Act. The Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Management and the City of Bellingham Office of Emergency Management facilitate the activities of the LEPC. The Chair of the Committee is elected annually.

It was the legislative intent of the Act that LEPCs be composed of a broad cross-section of the community including: state and local elected officials, response organizations, health officials, community groups, environmental organizations, and regulated businesses and industries.

Lummi Island Ferry Advisory Committee (LIFAC)

Work Sessions and Meetings are generally held on the second Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m. Meeting dates are subject to change with appropriate notice. Meetings are held via on-line until further notice.

One councilmember will be a designated, non-voting attendee as per the 1/28/2014 Public Works Committee Meeting. Need two alternates.

Purpose: The Committee provides review and recommendations to the Whatcom County Council and Executive on issues that affect the ongoing operations and infrastructure of ferry service to Lummi Island. The committee also provides a forum for those who depend upon Lummi Island ferry service to voice their ideas and concerns about the ferry service.

Marine Resource Committee

**Meets Monthly – 1st Thursday of the month from 5pm-7pm.
(meetings held at the Civic Center Building - Garden level Conference Room unless otherwise noted)**

Purpose: The Whatcom County marine resource committee will address local marine issues and recommend remedial action to local authorities. The committee will build local awareness of issues, and gather support for remedies consistent with the benchmarks for performance as established in the August 20, 1998 report to the conveners by the Murray-Metcalf northwest straits citizens' advisory commission.

North Sound Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization Board of Directors

Meets Monthly - 2nd Thursdays starting at 12:30 p.m. - Governance & Operations Committee (12:30-1:30 p.m.), Regular Board of Directors Meeting (1:30-3 p.m.) (meetings held at 2021 College Way, Suite 110 in Mt. Vernon)

Purpose: North Sound Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization oversees Crisis Services (mental health and substance use disorder) for the non-Medicaid system.

Mission Statement of NSBHO

Empowering individuals and families to improve their health and well-being.

Vision of the North Sound BHO

A system of care that is shaped by the voices of our communities, and people using behavioral health services. The people who work in this system are competent, compassionate, and empowering and supportive of personal health and wellness.

Northwest Clean Air Agency

Meets Monthly - 2nd Thursday at 1:30 p.m. (will not meet January and July) (meetings held via Zoom until further notice)

Purpose: The Northwest Clean Air Agency's seven member Board of Directors establishes policies and oversees agency operations. The Board is comprised of a representative from each of the three counties, a representative from each of the three largest cities -- Bellingham, Mount Vernon and Oak Harbor -- and a Member-at-Large selected by the other six members.

Northwest Regional Council

Meets three times a year – Thursdays at 10 a.m. generally in April, July or August, and December (meetings held via GoTo Meeting)

\\prod-netapp-gm-as-fsas.tops.gdi\insite_data_prod\files\WHAT\Attachments\fcc1fa9c-e8b8-441a-a1ac-48dde39766b2.doc

Purpose: The Northwest Regional Council (NWRC) has been serving the people of Island, San Juan, Skagit and Whatcom Counties since 1971. They are governed by a board of directors that is composed of two elected officials from each member county. Efforts are concentrated in funding and/or providing community-based programs to help elders, people with disabilities, and people living with behavioral health disorders live in their own homes and communities for as long as possible, postponing or eliminating the need for institutional care.

Opportunity Council (OC)

Meets Monthly – 4th Thursday at 4 p.m. (November & December are generally combined into one meeting, and the board does not generally meet in July)

Purpose: The Opportunity Council (OC) creates innovative, collaborative solutions and partnerships to meet the needs of disadvantaged person in our communities. Development and Executive staff provide technical assistance, planning, strategic development, financial and organizational direction, leadership on agency-wide systems, and the political and institutional relationships vital to the future of the agency and communities.

The OC plays a key role in the development and ongoing operations of many local, state and national groups that improve the lives of low-income, homeless and disadvantaged persons.

Public Defense Advisory Committee

Meets once per year

Purpose: The Committee shall submit its observation of the public defender system to the Executive and the County Council not less than annually.

Public Health Advisory Board

Meets January 7th 2021, then the 1st Thursday of every other month at 7 a.m. Meetings are held at the Health Department Administrative Conference Room, 509 Girard Street

Purpose: The Board shall serve in an advisory capacity to the Health Board and the Health Department Director on all issues related to the County Health Department and its programs. Members are residents of the county, and appointed by the Executive, subject to the County Council confirmation; except that one member is appointed by County Council for a term of one calendar year.

Reserve Officers Board of Trustees

Meets: Thursday, September 16, 2021 at 3:00 PM in the Sheriff's Office conference room. Special meetings may also be called as needed during the year.

Purpose: A municipality that adopts appropriate legislation extending the relief provisions of this chapter to its reserve officers shall create a reserve officer board of trustees to administer this chapter composed as follows: (1) A county reserve officer board of trustees shall consist of the following five members: (a) **Two members of the county legislative authority** (b) the county auditor, or their designees; (c) the sheriff; and (d) one reserve officer who is elected by reserve officers of the county for an annual one-year term.

Solid Waste Advisory Committee

Meets Quarterly – 4th Thursday of the first month of each quarter unless otherwise notified (2021 dates are January 28, April 22, July 22 and October 28) from 5:30-7:00 p.m. (meetings held in the downstairs Garden Room at the Civic Center, at 322 North Commercial St., Bellingham.)

Purpose: As per RCW 70.95 and WCC 2.78, the Solid Waste Advisory Committee is established to be comprised of a county-wide group of representatives of citizens, public interest groups, business, the waste management industry, and local elected public officials to provide for coordination and information exchange between the groups about solid waste issues and to provide ongoing public input and advice to Whatcom County on solid waste management issues to prevent land, air, and water pollution and conserve the natural, economic, and energy resources.

Whatcom Council of Governments (WCOG)

Note: The councilmember chosen to be the Executive Pro-Tempore may not serve as the representative on this board since that person may have to fill in for the Executive in his role with WCOG.

Meets every other month – typically 2nd Wednesday at 3:30 p.m. (Two representatives from County Council – Both will serve on the Council Board and one of the two will also serve on the Executive Committee & Transportation Policy Board, neither can be the County's Executive Pro-Tempore) First meeting scheduled January 20, 2021. (meetings held at 314 E. Champion)

Purpose: Whatcom Council of Governments is a body of representatives, mostly elected officials that act together in reviewing and solving regional issues. They are supported by a small staff. Much of the work accomplished relates to transportation issues of every kind.

The Washington State Governor has reposed special trust in the WCOG by designating it as both the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and the Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO). Local elected officials make decisions about roads and other transportation topics as members of this organization.

WSAC Board Member as Alternate

(Washington State Association of Counties Board of Directors)

Meets generally four times each year (usually February, May, September, and November)

For 2021:

Date	Day	Tentative Time(s)	Location
February 3, 2021	Wednesday	1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Virtual Meeting
May 5, 2021	Wednesday	5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	TENTATIVE:
Planning Meeting May 6, 2021	Thursday	9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Alderbrook
May 7, 2021	Friday	8:00 a.m. – Noon	Mason County Union, Washington
September 16, 2021	Thursday	8:30 a.m. – Noon	TENTATIVE:
			Hal Holmes Center Kittitas County Ellensburg, Washington
November 16, 2021	Tuesday	Noon – 3:00 p.m.	WSAC Annual County Leaders Conference Davenport Grand Spokane County Spokane, Washington

Purpose: The Washington State Association of Counties’ Board of Directors is charged with the “general supervision over the affairs of the Association...” WSAC bylaws provide for the following representation on the WSAC Board of Directors: “(e) *One representative and an alternate, who is an Active Member, from each county of 180,000 population or greater.*” The Association bylaws will be provided to the appointed alternate.

WSAC Coastal Counties Caucus

Convenes as issues arise, which has been about 4 times/year with 2 weeks notice.

Purpose: Create a forum of county staff within the 14 Coastal Counties to interact, discuss, engage and recommend WSAC positions on issues relating to the waters of Puget Sound, Hood Canal and the Pacific Ocean.

WSAC Timber Counties Caucus

Typically meets quarterly, no set 2021 dates, 2 weeks notice given

Purpose: Interact, discuss, engage and recommend WSAC positions on issues relating to: Federal land management, BLM and US Forest Service, Dept. of Natural Resources management of state forest lands, Forest Practices Board regulation and their impacts on counties, wildland fire control and management. Maintain open communications and interaction with DNR, Forest Practices Board, The Board of Natural Resources, the US Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management we well as the stakeholders associated with these entities.

WSAC Legislative Steering Committee

(Washington State Association of Counties)

All meetings will be held each Friday, through the end of April, beginning January 8th. 1 hour sessions, 2 hour sessions w/ speakers. All meetings held via Zoom

Purpose: The Legislative Steering Committee is responsible to prepare and recommended a proposed legislative program for consideration of the membership at the Annual Meeting.

The Legislative Steering Committee shall monitor events of each legislative session and shall be empowered to adopt policy relating to legislation, executive branch policies and operation, and the activities of other organizations and associations.

WHAT-COMM/Prospect Communications (911) Administrative Board (The Chair of the Finance Committee is the representative for this board) Meets 3 times per year, on the last Thursday of January, May and September, 1-3pm (location to be announced) and special meetings may occur as needed.

Purpose: The Board is authorized to establish broad policy guidelines for the operation of the What-Comm and Prospect Communication Centers; authorize the financial contributions of the participating user groups; approve new agencies who wish to join; serve as final resolution for policy disputes; and locate and lease facilities for the Centers.

Members include 9 voting members; the Whatcom County Executive; the Whatcom County Sheriff; the City of Bellingham Mayor; the Chairperson of the County Council Finance Committee; the Chairperson of the Bellingham City Council Public Safety Committee; the City of Bellingham Police Chief, one elected mayor or council person to represent the general authority law enforcement agencies of the various county cities, to be selected by the mayors of those cities; one elected fire commissioner to represent all of the rural fire districts, chosen by them; and one Fire Chief from the Whatcom County Fire Chief's Association, to be chosen by them. The City of Bellingham Fire Chief serves as a non-voting member.

Whatcom Transportation Authority (WTA)

Meets Monthly - 3rd Thursday at 8 a.m. (Meetings held via Zoom until further notice)

Executive Committee Meets Monthly - 2nd Thursday at 8 a.m. (will not meet in January) Meetings held via Zoom until further notice

Purpose: The Board concurs and approves all matters pertaining to the running of the WTA. Any item over \$150,000 must be brought to the Board for approval. In addition, the board member attends the Executive Committee meeting **listed above**. The Board discusses the following: route changes; services offered to the public, service planning; major personnel issues; labor negotiation issues; fiscal issues; funding issues; capital expenditures; major purchases; grants and contracts.