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WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL  
**Natural Resources Committee**

August 7, 2019

**CALL TO ORDER**

Committee Chair Todd Donovan called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers, 311 Grand Avenue, Bellingham, Washington.

**ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Todd Donovan, Barry Buchanan, and Satpal Sidhu  
**Absent:** None  
**Also Present:** Barbara Brenner, Rud Browne, Tyler Byrd, and Carol Frazey

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

**1. AB2019-351 REPORT FROM WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION**

Sue Blake, Washington State University Extension, submitted and read from a presentation (*on file*) and answered questions.

Chris Benedict, Washington State University Extension, answered questions.

Councilmembers and staff discussed translating educational materials to other languages for non-English speaking farmers; business training that would help expand options for value-added products in agricultural areas; making a commercial kitchen available in Lynden; and City and County coordination on stormwater efforts.

**COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL**

**1. AB2019-383 ORDINANCE AMENDING WHATCOM COUNTY CODE CHAPTER 11.32, BOATING AND SWIMMING, SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS, RELATING TO TWO-STROKE ENGINE POWERED WATERCRAFT**

Steve Hood, Department of Ecology, submitted a handout and gave a staff report on benzene levels since 2000 in the City of Bellingham water intake. He answered questions on the location of the intake pipe, whether there is monitoring on Lake Samish, and exhaust going into the water.

Councilmembers discussed the community meeting at Lake Samish, and the number of older 2-stroke engines that actually boat on the lakes.

***Buchanan moved*** to amend the effective date from November 2019 to November 2020.

The motion carried by the following vote:

**Ayes:** Donovan, Buchanan, and Sidhu (3)  
**Nays:** None (0)

***Buchanan moved*** to recommend approval as amended to the full Council.

1 The motion carried by the following vote:

2 **Ayes:** Donovan, Buchanan, and Sidhu (3)

3 **Nays:** None (0)

4  
5 **2. AB2019-424 REVIEW AND APPROVE SCOPING DOCUMENT FOR THE 2020**  
6 **SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN (SMP) PERIODIC UPDATE 2020**

7  
8 The following Planning and Development Services Department staff gave a staff  
9 report and answered questions:

- 10 • Cliff Strong  
11 • Ryan Ericson

12  
13 Councilmembers and staff discussed the schedule for a more comprehensive update;  
14 the list of issues not recommended because they are already in the Washington  
15 Administrative Code (WAC); examining the issue of no net loss of ecological function;  
16 Whatcom County's policy goal of knowing what land use changes would cause a net loss of  
17 ecological function; the possibility of redoing the ecological baseline in this update;  
18 considering issues with rising sea levels; measuring if there has been a no net loss since the  
19 previous baseline done in 2007 versus the 2019 baseline; and whether policy language  
20 should be in the SMP or the Comprehensive Plan.

21  
22 ***Buchanan moved*** to hold and request staff and the consultant to provide as soon  
23 as possible an estimate for creating a baseline of ecological function as shown in item 28,  
24 including cost and timing, as would be required to be done in a comprehensive update.

25  
26 The motion to hold carried by the following vote:

27 **Ayes:** Donovan, Buchanan, and Sidhu (3)

28 **Nays:** None (0)

29  
30 Councilmembers and staff continued to discuss gravel bar mining and studying at  
31 what distance back from the river it may make sense to remove gravel from dry uplands  
32 and washes.

33  
34 **OTHER BUSINESS**

35  
36 There was no other business.


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38 **ADJOURN**

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40 The meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

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43 ATTEST:  
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48 Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

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53 Jill Nixon, Minutes Transcription

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

  
Todd Donovan, Committee Chair