

Proposed Council Changes to Comprehensive Plan

Chapter 7 - Economics

Page and line numbers reflect Planning Commission Recommended Draft dated 1/14/16 (<http://wa-whatcomcounty.civicplus.com/DocumentCenter/View/15156>). To improve clarity of Councilmember requested changes, previous edits (i.e. staff and Planning Commission) are included, but not show as edits.

1) p. 7-8; line 41, new subsection: Whatcom Futures

In 2012, more than 90 leaders and representatives from businesses, local governments, not-for-profit organizations and the public helped shape the visions that constitute Whatcom Futures which compliments and is partially incorporated within the CEDS report. It helps capture the economic vision and values of various segments of the community.

Whatcom Futures includes many thoughtful observations, the following are quotes from the report:

“Whatcom County’s lower commercial real estate costs compared to those in B.C. – as well as the enhanced access to the U.S. market that a Canadian company enjoys with a U.S. location – has resulted in significant Canadian business investment in the County.”

“Bellingham Technical College’s Engineering and Advance Manufacturing programs offer degrees that are in demand by industries in Whatcom – and nationwide – with starting salaries for new graduates in excess of \$50,000 a year”.

“The economic value of Whatcom’s natural resources manifests itself in numerous ways. For instance, the County is the top producer of raspberries in the U.S. and a leading producer of other types of berries as well as dairy products, fish and shellfish”.

“However, it is important to note that a single resource will often have value to more than one economic sector. For instance, the presence of timberland supports eco-tourism as well as the forest products industry. The same can be said of farmland – which in addition to the produce it generates also facilitates agri-tourism – as well as the region’s fisheries, which support both commercial and sport fishing.”

“The ability to receive a quality education from Pre-K through post graduate

study greatly enhances the quality of life in the County and is an important asset in recruiting businesses to come to the region. Indeed, strong public schools and the availability of higher education are among the principal attributes that prospects look for when considering relocation.”
(Browne)

2) p. 7-9; line 27, new subsection: **Current County Economic Development Activities**

In recent years Whatcom County has delegated job creation activities to the Port of Bellingham which serves as the County’s “Associate Development Organization” (ADO). The Port of Bellingham’s mission statement is: “To fulfill the essential transportation and economic development needs of the region, while providing leadership and maintaining Whatcom County’s overall economic vitality through the development of comprehensive facilities, programs, and services”. Whatcom County currently provides about \$100,000 and the Port contributes \$200,000 per year to support county-wide Economic Development programs. (Browne)

3) p. 7-9; lines 32-40: Quality of life is an essential component in many people’s choice to live in Whatcom County. A fundamental aspect of “quality of life” characteristics is a strong and diversified economy that remains resilient through business cycles, and that can provide family-wage employment, affordable housing, discretionary income, tax base, and sponsors for worthy causes. Such an economy should provide for all segments of society with a geographic distribution that, in accordance with the land use plan, spreads the jobs and tax base throughout the area.

We need to continue our focus on retaining the diverse base of manufacturing and other family wage firms already here, as well as prepare for future opportunities by:

- (i) **working with our workforce development partners to ensure we focus on the skills enhancement needed for existing and future industries;**
and
- (ii) **maintaining an adequate supply of shovel-ready land to support the buildings and infrastructure companies will require.**

The wage and job prospects in the service sector vary widely based on the nature of the employment. Retail positions offer relatively low wages and limited prospects for job growth in part due to the trend of retail sales shifting away from traditional storefronts to the internet. Conversely computer programming and cyber-security positions offer entry level wages that are typically well above the national average with some artificial intelligence positions attracting stratospheric starting salaries in other areas of the country.

As the developed world evolves away from a resource-based and high-volume/low-value-added manufacturing economy, most of the new generation of family wage jobs will likely come from knowledge intensive industries such as computer software and high-value-added specialty manufacturing.

The CEDS and Whatcom Futures reports are valuable contributions to the challenge of the improving the Whatcom County economy and Whatcom County has much to offer prospective employers as indicated by our latest informational resource www.ChooseWhatcom.com. But in business it is not enough to have a great vision, product, or service. These must be augmented with a professional sales and marketing plan that identifies competitive advantages, target markets and the likely profile of prospective customers. The successful execution of any such plan largely depends on the entrepreneurial skills of the organization's leadership and the professional sales staff employed. (Browne)

- 4) p. 7-11; Policy 7A-3: Employ innovative techniques to attract a mix of diversified industries for a broader economic base starting with the creation of a new economic development organization to be funded at a minimum rate of \$5 per head of population per year, ideally with monies collected under RCW 82.14.370. This organization will be governed by a sunset provision whereby it will automatically terminate after seven years if it was not able to document its efforts were contributing to an equal or greater number of new jobs for the money invested in it, compared to other economic development projects funded by the community. (Browne)
- 5) p. 7-11; Policy 7A-3: In addition to stimulating family-wage **jobs employment** and jobs in diverse sectors, ~~plan for ensure we retain entry level and~~ service-related jobs such as those necessary to support tourism, recreation, ~~and~~ retailing, ~~as well as those that relate to and other~~ industries. (Browne)
- 6) p. 7-11; Policy 7A-7: Foster an adequate amount of preferred housing supply for all income levels as a prerequisite for a healthy economy. (Brenner)
- 7) p. 7-11; Policy 7A-8: Enhance the environment for resource-based **and knowledge-based** industries **and the growing service industry** with an emphasis on attracting employment to the communities in eastern Whatcom County. (Browne)
- 8) p. 7-12, line 4: In the late 1970s, Whatcom County and its communities were suffering economically. Reliance on natural resource harvesting and export to drive employment growth was insufficient to generate the jobs that were required. A work group of community leaders, local governments, and the private sector was convened, and the Stanford Research Institute was hired to assess opportunities. Their report emphasized:

- a. Selling the State of Alaska on relocating the southern terminus of its ferry from Seattle to Bellingham;
- b. Marketing to BC businesses interested in a foothold in the U.S. market;
and
- c. Promoting Whatcom County's potential as a regional service center for Northwest Washington and the lower BC mainland, including retail, healthcare and manufacturing entrepreneurs

The community rose to the challenge and the Alaska Ferry terminal was relocated to Bellingham and more than 3,000 primarily manufacturing jobs were added at a time when the county's population was about half of what it is today.

The community recognizes both the global and local economy have changed significantly since the Stanford report was commissioned in the 1970s and the report itself is out of date. Nonetheless the community remains confident our history proves that with updated research, and an intelligent, focused approach, we can again bring much needed family-wage jobs to our community. Our success will depend on leveraging the significant expertise of our business community and our willingness to allocate sufficient financial resources for our economic development initiatives to have a meaningful impact.

New employers have traditionally emerged from three primary sources:

- i. Canadians looking for skilled labor and cheaper industrial land than can be found in BC and/or access to the US market;
- ii. Home grown entrepreneurs who have chosen to remain headquartered in the county as their businesses have grown; and
- iii. Established business owners who have relocated because they are attracted to the county's superior quality of life.

Recognizing that in order to attract jobs, a new market research and outbound sales element will be needed to augment our economic outreach initiatives. To address this need, the County shall create a new Whatcom County Economic Development Organization (WEDO).

WEDO shall be governed by a 17 member board. Eleven shall be members of the business community, preferably either entrepreneurs or senior management within companies that either relocated to or were founded in Whatcom County and therefore understand firsthand what would motivate others to do the same. The remaining six members shall consist of one unelected, senior representative from each of the following: the Whatcom County government, the City of Bellingham, the Port of Bellingham, the Small Cities Caucus, Western Washington University, and one of the local colleges.
(Browne)

- 9) p. 7-12; Policy 7B-1: The Port of Bellingham, serving as the ADO, will work with the cities, the County, Chambers of Commerce, educational institutions and other groups to assist retention and expansion of existing local businesses and to attract appropriate businesses to Whatcom County. Work with the Partnership for a Sustainable Economy, Chambers of Commerce, the Port of Bellingham, the ECD, and the Convention and Visitor Bureau and other groups to attract sustainable industry to Whatcom County and to assist expansion and retention of local businesses. **Prior to the current ADO contract with the Port expiring in July 2017, the ADO's performance shall be evaluated by surveying the members of the other organizations and private companies the ADO has been working with to promote economic development. (Browne)**
- 10) p. 7-12; Policy 7B-2: Continue to work **in informal meetings of informally meeting with** staff from all **the** entities and jurisdictions involved with economic development to discuss issues of interest on a periodic basis. **(Brenner)**
- 11) p. 7-12; Policy 7B-4: Identify, develop, and match funding opportunities with the economic development projects contained within the CEDS. Funding sources could include the Economic Development Administration (EDA), Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB), Rural Sales Tax (also known as the Economic Development Initiative or EDI fund), USDA Rural Development, **and other types of** grants, **and** loans, private investment, local match, and many other federal, state, and local sources. **(Brenner)**
- 12) p. 7-12; **New Policy 7B-6: Through the development of a forward focused marketing strategy and a professional outbound sales program, WEDO shall solicit inward investment from targeted industry sectors that are forecast to provide growth in type of family wage jobs that the community is well positioned to support. (Browne)**
- 13) p. 7-12; **New Policy 7B-7: Provide these leads to organizations such as the Port, non-profits, and private sector partners that offer the best fit based on the nature of the lead and the partners commitment to continuously demonstrate/verify high levels of responsiveness and customer satisfaction. (Browne)**
- 14) p. 7-12; **New Policy 7B-7: Ever mindful that leads related to economic development must at all times be responded to promptly and professionally, should the volume of leads increase beyond our partner organizations capacity to respond to them, then we must ensure adequate funding is available for resources necessary for our partners to succeed. (Browne)**

- 15) p. 7-13; lines 24-26: The Planning Unit, representing various stakeholders, is designated to address; ~~through local government~~; water resource planning needs from a watershed perspective through local government. (Brenner)
- 16) p. 7-15; Policy 7D-3: Integrate and simplify regulations using the "Federal Plain Language Guidelines" available at www.plainlanguage.gov to make them more understandable and user-friendly. (Browne)
- 17) p. 7-16; Policy 7D-6: Streamline and coordinate the permit process and sustain a supportive customer service approach towards permitting. Benchmark the County's regulatory and permitting performance against itself and other comparable jurisdictions. Develop and publish quarterly reports on these key performance metrics. (Browne)
- 18) p. 7-16; Policy 7D-8: Use ~~information~~ technology ~~and improve the Internet web site~~ so the public can receive information on the status of projects, latest drafts of documents, and access to general resources via the Internet. (Browne)
- 19) p. 7-17; lines 1-3: A more positive aspect of the proximity to Canada is the opportunity for job creation through BC to provide for Canadian companies ~~who want to looking for a great location to~~ expand or relocate in the United States ~~to broaden their market~~ or enjoy other economic advantages. (Browne)
- 20) p. 7-17; Policy 7E-1: Support attractions for Canadians and other visitors so they will remain in the ~~community county~~ longer and distribute their spending throughout the community. Some of the examples would include support for such items as the following:
- Events such as the "Ski to Sea" race and festival;
 - The Whatcom Museum, Mount Baker Theater, other historic and cultural centers, and community revitalization efforts;
 - Parks and open spaces;
 - The Bellingham Festival of Music;
 - The Mount Baker outdoor recreation area;
 - Farmers markets and other natural resource based activities; and
 - Projects, events, and activities of unincorporated areas such as Point Roberts, Birch Bay and East County. (Brenner)
- 21) p. 7-18; Policy 7F-1: Support existing businesses in the community locally as the major contributors of job creation and regeneration and afford them every opportunity to continue their success in the community. (Brenner)
- 22) p. 7-19; lines 8-9: The fishing and shellfishing industries are particularly dependent on ~~water~~, good water quality, and habitat. (Brenner)

23) p. 7-19; Policy 7G-1: Recognize the natural environment as a major asset and manage environmental resources accordingly. **Always be mindful that we must have both economic prosperity and environmental sustainability or we will have neither.** (Browne)

24a) p. 7-19; Policy 7G-4: Encourage sustainability by:

- Supporting waste reduction, re-use, recycling and the processing of used and waste resources into economically viable products.
- Supporting renewable energy, state-of-the-art technologies and conservation techniques to minimize demands on resources such as water, energy, and other natural and developed resources.
- **Support revisiting restrictions on wind energy development to determine whether there are new technologies that adequately protect public health and safety, and could potentially warrant more locations for wind energy than what was determined during the comprehensive plan's last review.** (Brenner)

24b)

- **Pursuing energy resiliency and self-sufficiency by establishing renewable energy overlay zones identified in Policy 5H-6, and by revisiting restrictions on the development of wind energy systems as discussed in Policy 5H-5.** (Mann)

25) p. 7-20; lines 6-8: Natural resource **based** industries are agriculture, forestry, fishing, and mining. While accounting for less than 5% of the total county employment, resource based industries are still major components of the economy. (Brenner)

26) p. 7-21; Policy 7H-2: Work with **other** agencies, Tribal governments, and **other** groups to improve the condition of the fishery resource, including habitat maintenance and enhancement, especially for habitats utilized by threatened and endangered fish species. (Brenner)

27) p. 7-21; Policy 7H-1: **Agriculture is one of Whatcom County's largest economic drivers. Whatcom County holds the most agricultural and farming land within western Washington, according to the 2014 Whatcom Futures Report. Additionally, according to U.S. Department of Agriculture's 2012 Census of Agriculture, 1,483 Whatcom County farms produced a market value of \$326 million in crops and livestock that year. Locally produced milk produced in 2013 reached an all-time high market value of \$246.1 million. Raspberries and blueberries combined for a record market value of \$123.6 million in 2014.** Ensure that sufficient agricultural land, support services, and skills are available to encourage a healthy and diversified agricultural economy. (Brenner)

- 28) p. 7-21; **New Policy 7H-8: Develop and support more programs to promote ag-tourism and ag-education to increase public awareness of the nutritional and economic value of agriculture and quality food production. (Brenner)**
- 29) p. 7-22; Goal 7J: **In an economic strategy for Whatcom County, ~~A~~address unemployment and underemployment as important issues and continue the effort to increase family wage jobs. (Brenner)**
- 30) p. 7-23; Policy 7J-3: **Focus on absorbing and retraining displaced and discouraged workers and addressing the skills gap through grants, training by the Northwest Workforce Development Through grants, training by the Northwest Workforce Development Council, Bellingham Technical College, Whatcom Community College, and Northwest Indian College, and other opportunities ~~focus on absorbing and retraining displaced and discouraged workers and addressing the skills gap.~~ (Brenner)**
- 31) p. 7-24; **New Policy 7K-11: Recognize that high speed Internet and cellular coverage are essential for all regions of our economy to succeed. (Browne)**
- 32) p. 7-24; **New Policy 7K-12: Encourage, and if necessary provide incentives, for high speed Internet and cellular infrastructure to be deployed in areas of the County such as the Columbia Valley that are likely better suited for communications-based businesses rather than transportation intensive industries. (Browne)**
- 33) p. 7-24; **New Section: Local Food System**
- Whatcom County is home to a robust agricultural production industry, marine harvest industry, as well as an associated local consumption industry. To maintain and advance the quality and quantity of food produced in Whatcom County, consideration must be given to interconnected sectors which support a thriving food system, including land, water, fishing, farming, labor, processing, transportation, consumption, aquaculture and waste. A vibrant local food system is a community asset to be protected, strengthened, planned for and celebrated. (Weimer)**
- 33a) **New Goal 7L: Strengthen the local food system and take steps to improve conditions for a healthy, resilient, and prosperous food economy. (Weimer)**
- 33b) **New Policy 7L-1: Encourage government, institutions, and local businesses to purchase food produced within Whatcom County when available. (Weimer)**
- 33c) **New Policy 7L-2: Encourage local farmers and producers to sell their products to local markets. (Weimer)**
- 33d) **New Policy 7L-3: Support development plans and zoning changes that increase access to healthy and locally grown food products. (Weimer)**

- 33e) **Move and renumber Policy 7K-10 as Policy 7L-4:** Support **food outlets such as** grocery stores, **convenience stores**, and local food markets that provide fresh, healthy foods in underserved areas. (Weimer)
- 33f) **Move and edit Policy 7K-7 as 7L-5:** Support efforts and/or organizations seeking to achieve economic ~~agricultural~~ diversity **within the food system** such as:
- Niche markets for local **agricultural** products;
 - ~~Technical assistance or educational programs:~~
 - Farmer's markets;
 - Value-added or innovative **agricultural** products or services;
 - ~~Other product outlets~~
 - **Farm-to-school and farm-to-institution;**
 - **Agricultural diversity;**
 - **Food access and affordability; and**
 - Community ~~education and information dissemination~~ gardens. (Weimer)
- 33g) **New Policy 7L-6:** **Support efforts to protect water quality and quantity, soil health, and best management practices as related to the food system.** (Weimer)
- 33h) **New Policy 7L-7:** **Encourage communication and collaboration across and within all sectors of the food system and support efforts/organizations working to build common understanding and to facilitate better collaborative effort toward an equitable, sustainable, and healthy food system for all.** (Weimer)
- 33i) **New Policy 7L-8:** **Support establishment of community-wide food system development plans.** (Weimer)
- 33j) **New Policy 7L-9:** **Support healthy and safe working conditions as well as healthy and safe living conditions for farmworkers.** (Weimer)
- 33k) **New Policy 7L-10:** **Work towards a fair and equitable food system that honors and supports the people working within it.** (Weimer)
- 33l) **New Policy 7L-11:** **Support organizations that provide technical assistance, educational programs, and general support to people and businesses within the local food system.** (Weimer)
- 33m) **New Policy 7L-12:** **Consider food waste systems that reduce food waste and capture food waste nutrients.** (Weimer)

Passed May 17

- 1) p. 7-1; lines 17-20: Economic vitality depends on job retention, job creation, job training programs, public and private capital investment, and business and community capacity-building to allow businesses or community groups to do the job themselves. **(Brenner)**
- 2) p. 7-2; line 19-23: Examples include: recognition of the need for a healthy economy; the emphasis on coordination and cooperation among jurisdictions and public/private partnering; coordination with environmental quality; and the desire to maintain the resource-based industries and recreation as we move toward a more diversified economy. **(Brenner)**
- 3) p. 7-8; lines 24-39: The CEDS incorporates three vision statements relating to the County's preferred economic future:
 - Whatcom County values its business community, which is principally responsible for the continued growth in jobs and incomes in the region;
 - Whatcom County and its constituent communities have vibrant and dynamic economies where the region's abundant natural resources are cherished and protected; **and**
 - Whatcom County has an outstanding quality of life where all residents have opportunities to thrive and the support they need to seize those opportunities.The CEDS also identifies infrastructure and other projects that support economic development; and includes economic data. **(Brenner)**
- 4) p. 7-9; lines 33-36: A fundamental aspect of "quality of life" characteristics is a strong and diversified economy that remains resilient through business cycles, and **that** can provide family-wage employment, affordable housing, discretionary income, tax base, and sponsors for worthy causes. **(Brenner)**
- 5) p. 7-11; Policy 7A-4: In addition to stimulating family-wage jobs and jobs in diverse sectors, plan for service-related jobs such as those necessary to support tourism, recreation, and retailing, as well as those that relate to industry. **(Brenner)**
- 6) p. 7-11; Policy 7A-8: Enhance the environment for resource-based industries and the growing service industry with an emphasis on **the** communities in eastern Whatcom County. **(Brenner)**
- 7) p. 7-11; Policy 7A-10: Establish a competitiveness review of policies, taxes/fees, processes, and other influences that impact county businesses. **(Brenner)**
- 8) p. 7-11; lines 37-39: Cooperation and coordination by businesses, jurisdictions, and other entities are essential components to achieve a strong economy. The CEDS states that one of

its purposes is communication and outreach that encourages local goal setting, public engagement, and a commitment to cooperation among the different levels of government, the business community, and the not-for-profit sector.

(Brenner)

- 9) p. 7-11; line 46 - p. 7-12 line 3: The Port of Bellingham was designated as the Associate Development Organization (ADO) in Whatcom County by the County Executive in 2012. An ADO is intended to serve as a point of contact for local economic development activities; **by** supporting business retention, expansion of existing businesses, and new business development. **(Brenner)**
- 10) p. 7-12; Policy 7B-1: The Port of Bellingham, serving as the ADO, will work with the cities, the County, Chambers of Commerce, educational institutions, and other groups to assist retention and expansion of existing local businesses and to attract appropriate businesses to Whatcom County. **(Brenner)**
- 11) p. 7-13; Policy 7B-5: Encourage utilization of current technology and efficient communications tools to disseminate information. **(Brenner)**
- 12) p. 7-14; Policy 7C-2: Encourage the provision of adequate transportation infrastructure, including roads to all industrial sites. **(Brenner)**
- 13) p. 7-14; Policy 7C-4: Encourage location of industrial areas, especially where sewer and water service and all weather access can be readily provided when necessary. **(Brenner)**
- 14) p. 7-14; Policy 7C-5: Support the efforts of **the** PUD #1 and area communication and cable companies to get a fiber optic network throughout Whatcom County. **(Brenner)**
- 15) p. 7-14; Policy 7C-6: Participate in the ongoing; implementation and operation of the countywide water resources management body (WRIA #1) for Whatcom County. **(Brenner)**
- 16) p. 7-15; lines 8-11: Ample land is needed with proper zoning to ensure a wide range of choices and preclude excessive land prices. Such lands should be located in areas suitable for development, thus minimizing the need for regulatory controls. **(Brenner)**
- 17) p. 7-15; lines 16-20: One step toward addressing this issue is a land capacity analysis, which includes an inventory of the supply and availability of industrial and commercial properties in the county and a forecast of future demands. **(Brenner)**
- 18) p. 7-15; Goal 7D: Consistent with other goals of the county, strive for balanced, clear, and predictable overall policies, practices and regulations which do not unnecessarily or inadvertently prevent, confuse, delay, or create costly hurdles restricting effective and desirable economic development. **(Brenner)**

- 19) p. 7-16; Policy 7D-7: Use information technology and improve the Internet web sites so the public can receive information on the status of projects, latest drafts of documents, and access to general resources via the Internet. **(Brenner)**
- 20) p. 7-16; lines 28-30: The large Canadian consumer population has created a large retail sector in Whatcom County, increasing jobs, retail sales, taxes, and traffic. Over time, the impacts of Canadian consumer activity ~~has~~ **have** fluctuated greatly, primarily in relationship to the value of the Canadian dollar and increased security issues. **(Brenner)**
- 21) p. 7-16; line 39: Retail jobs tend to be low-wage, frequently part-time, and without benefits. **(Brenner)**
- 22) p. 7-17; lines 1-3 A more positive aspect of the proximity to Canada is the opportunity to provide for Canadian companies who want to expand or relocate in the United States to broaden their markets or enjoy other economic advantages. **(Brenner)**
- 23) p. 7-17; Goal 7E: Enhance the economic trade, tourism, and industrial siting advantages of the county's location adjacent to the Canadian border. **(Brenner)**
- 24) p. 7-17; Policy 7E-2: Work cooperatively with jurisdictions in the Lower Mainland of British Columbia, along with US and Canadian national governments, to facilitate the development of economic, transportation, and environmental initiatives. **(Brenner)**
- 25) p. 7-17; Policy 7E-4: Continue to provide assistance and ~~the~~ **opportunities** for Canadian companies to relocate or set up a second plant in Whatcom County, while at the same time encouraging our companies to explore and develop markets in Canada. **(Brenner)**
- 26) p. 7-18; lines 6-8: A local company with national or international interests, or a national firm with major local investment can provide substantial support to local causes, ~~and~~ educational and cultural activities, and the tax base. **(Brenner)**
- 27) p. 7-18; Policy 7F-3: Encourage firms to contribute financially as ~~a~~ **partners** with the public sector in sharing ~~the~~ costs for civic and cultural needs of the community-at-large. **(Brenner)**
- 28) p. 7-18; Policy 7F-4: Enhance opportunities for increased resource-based (agricultural, forest, fisheries, and mining products) value added industries. **(Brenner)**
- 29) p. 7-18; Policy 7F-5: Encourage utilization of existing and future resources available through local agencies, entities, and organizations, such as information from the Western Washington University Center for Economic and Business Research. **(Brenner)**

- 30) p. 7-19; lines 13-14: Conversely a strong economy that provides **wellgood**-paying jobs allows the leisure time and the resources to focus on environmental protection. **(Brenner)**
- 31) p. 7-19; Goal 7G: Coordinate economic development with environmental, resources, and other comprehensive plan land use and open space policies and measures to enhance the community's overall quality of life. **(Brenner)**
- 32) p. 7-19; Policy 7G-4: Encourage sustainability by:
- Supporting waste reduction, re-use, recycling, and the processing of used and waste resources into economically viable products; **and**
 - Supporting renewable energy, state-of-the-art technology, and conservation techniques to minimize demands on resources such as water, energy, and other natural and developed resources. **(Brenner)**
- 33) p. 7-19; Policy 7G-6: Address environmental issues on a county-wide basis so that areas like the Cherry Point Industrial **aArea** or public access areas such as marinas or the airport can expand as necessary using mitigation banking or other appropriate mitigation measures. **(Brenner)**
- 34) p. 7-19; lines 12-14: Additionally, almost \$11 million was paid to fishermen for salmon, ground-fish, and shellfish at Whatcom County ports in 2012 (Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife). Farming, forestry, fishing, and mining are important to the economic health of the County. **(Brenner)**
- 35) p. 7-21; Goal 7H: To promote economic diversity, continue to support **the** resource industries as significant elements of the local economy including the employment base. **(Brenner)**
- 36) p. 7-21; Policy 7H-1: Ensure **that** sufficient agricultural land, support services, and skills are available to encourage a healthy and diversified agricultural economy. **(Brenner)**
- 37) p. 7-21; Policy 7H-4: As part of a broad-based economy, foster productive timber, agriculture, and fisheries industries in a sustainable manner. **(Brenner)**
- 38) p. 7-21; Policy 7H-5: Support mining, which is compatible with other land use and environmental policies, including surface mining of sand, gravel, and rock and subsurface mining of other minerals found in Whatcom County, such as gold and silver. **(Brenner)**
- 39) p. 7-21; Policy 7H-7: Encourage growth of tourism, **and** recreational activities, and businesses that provide for diversity of the natural resource industry, provided **that** they comply with County regulations and, when located in a rural area, preserve the rural character. **(Brenner)**
- 40) p. 7-22; lines 17-23: Measurable statistics are not available to monitor this issue but should be considered as the employment base of Whatcom County shifts from being a

resource-based economy to one of services-producing employment. Cottage industry and home-based businesses, also minimally measured, have an impact on the employment base. Graduates from Western Washington University, area high schools, and the community and technical colleges desiring to remain in the area are another sector of the population that is underutilized. **(Brenner)**

41) p. 7-23; Policy 7J-2: Support economic development that recognizes and respects the needs, concerns, rights, and resources of a diversity of cultural groups, and allow them every opportunity to participate and benefit in this process in full partnership with the community-at-large. **(Brenner)**

42) p. 7-23; lines 19-21: This is where the majority of the population lives and works, **and** the infrastructure is available, and where most of the jobs should continue to be located. **However,** people from smaller communities located throughout the County generally have longer commutes, creating greater impacts on the road system. Also, **there is it creates** additional need for more income for travel costs. **(Brenner)**

43) p. 7-23; lines 19-21: These and other area-specific issues have spurred three communities to focus efforts on economic development: Point Roberts, Birch Bay, and East County. Each has successfully developed an area Economic Development Plan and has a **Sub-Area** plan. The ongoing work of these groups is crucial to addressing the most urgent and long-range planning needs in these areas, such as loss of family-wage jobs and tax-base revenues, and **the** increased demand for services by a growing residential population. **(Brenner)**

44) p. 7-24; Policy 7K-5: Support the implementation of land use concepts as defined in Chapter Two **by** seeking grants to provide technical support and complete necessary programmatic environmental analysis to facilitate reduced time frames and duplication in the SEPA process. **(Brenner)**

45) p. 7-24; Policy 7K-6: Support long-term employment efforts in the unincorporated areas of the county, such as those stated in the Point Roberts, Birch Bay, and east County Economic Development Plans and Sub-Area Plans. **(Brenner)**

46) p. 7-24; Policy 7K-7: Support efforts and/or organizations trying to achieve agricultural diversity, such as:

- niche markets for local products;
- technical assistance or educational programs;
- farmers' markets;
- value-added or innovative ag products or services;
- other product outlets; **and**
- community education and information dissemination. **(Brenner)**

- 47) p. 7-24; Policy 7K-8: Support agriculture, agricultural processing, and manufacturing as a high priority in future allocations of water rights. **(Brenner)**
- 48) p. 7-2; lines 15-23: This chapter specifically addresses Goal #5 of the Growth Management Act, which encourages economic development and economic opportunity for all citizens of the state. The County-Wide Planning Policies also have a section on economic development, which this chapter specifically addresses. Examples include recognition of the need for a healthy economy; the emphasis on coordination and cooperation among jurisdictions and public/private partnering; coordination with environmental quality; and the desire to maintain the resource based industries and recreation as we move toward a more diversified economy. **This chapter recognizes the best path towards economic prosperity will likely be found through promotion of the county's existing strengths, such as our unique position to accommodate Canadian companies looking to expand and access the US market, our extensive recreational infrastructure, and the skilled workforce produced by our excellent educational institutions.** **(Browne)**
- 49) p. 7-8; line 20, new subheadings:
Community Wide Strategic Planning Efforts

Whatcom County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (Browne)
- 50) p. 7-8; lines 21-25: The Whatcom County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) **was** updated in 2015. The principal purpose of the CEDS is to facilitate the retention and creation of living-wage jobs and to foster a stable and diversified regional economy, thereby improving the quality of life in the region. **Its intent is to bring together the public and private sectors in the creation of an "economic roadmap" to diversify and strengthen the regional economy by integrating the region's human resources and capital-improvements planning in the service of economic development.** The CEDS incorporates three vision statements relating to the County's preferred economic future. **(Browne)**
- 51) p. 7-8; lines 38-39: **The CEDS also identifies infrastructure and other projects that support economic development, and includes economic data. The CEDS report has primarily directed sales tax revenue collected under RCW 82.14.370 be used to fund infrastructure.** **(Browne)**