

WHATCOM COUNTY
Planning & Development Services
5280 Northwest Drive
Bellingham, WA 98226-9097
360-676-6907, TTY 800-833-6384
360-738-2525 Fax



J.E. "Sam" Ryan
Director

Memorandum

TO: Whatcom County Planning Commission

THROUGH: Mark Personius, Long Range Planning Manager

FROM: Peter Gill, Senior Planner

DATE: June 13, 2013

SUBJECT: Public hearing to amend Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan references to development regulations related to the Lake Whatcom Watershed Overlay District

The Planning Commission held six meetings in early 2012 to review a Zoning code amendment, the Lake Whatcom Watershed Overlay District. This new chapter, WCC 20.51, modifies the stormwater management rules for new development around the lake. The results of this work are now being considered by County Council.

In August of 2012, Whatcom County Ordinance #2012-023 added County development regulations by reference to the rural element section of the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan in order to document adopted measures to protect rural character. Changes to stormwater management regulations in rural zones, e.g., the Lake Whatcom watershed, now require a Comprehensive Plan change.

As required by WCC 2.160.090, Planning Commission must review all Comprehensive Plan text amendments and hold a public hearing to take comments.

In your packet you will find:

- **Staff Report, Findings, and Reason for Action** amending the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan, Land Use chapter.
 - Exhibit D – Comprehensive Plan Amendments to Policy 2DD – 2.C. This amendment is necessary to maintain consistency between the Comprehensive Plan and implementing development regulations. *[There are no Exhibits A – C, (D) was used to maintain consistency with exhibits prepared for County Council]*