



**DISCLAIMER: This document contains the Whatcom County Council or Committee minutes, as approved. However, unless an attested signature page is attached, they are not the final approved minutes.**

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1           **McShane moved** to remove from the preliminary draft Watershed  
2 Management Plan reference to exploring the feasibility of importation of water  
3 from the Skagit River in Appendix J.3.  
4

5           **Motion carried 4-2 with Brenner and Crawford opposed.**  
6

7           **Fleetwood moved** to remove from the preliminary draft Watershed  
8 Management Plan reference to evaluate the feasibility of trans-basin importation  
9 from British Columbia in Appendix J.4.  
10

11           Caskey-Schreiber stated that until they're willing to have another jurisdiction  
12 look to Whatcom County for exporting water, Whatcom County shouldn't engage in  
13 speculation about importation being a viable solution. Manage the resources they  
14 have. The whole point of this plan is to use what they have wisely. It's hypocritical  
15 to look to others to solve their problem when they won't offer up local water to  
16 solve other people's problems.  
17

18           Fleetwood stated there is a question of whether or not there are distinctions  
19 between the two locations. The reasoning for the two locations is the same. Is  
20 there good reason to not import from Skagit County, then there is good reason to  
21 not import from British Columbia. It was on that basis he supported not importing  
22 from British Columbia.  
23

24           McShane stated the issues are different. The Skagit River basin is a closed  
25 basin. It's foolish to consider Baker Lake as a long-term source, which is at great  
26 risk. It would be a really expensive approach.  
27

28           Whatcom County has water that flows into British Columbia and from British  
29 Columbia into Whatcom County. In the case of this project, the advocate is the  
30 City of Sumas. It may make sense for them to want to have water brought in from  
31 Canada for agricultural purposes. He wouldn't want to remove that possibility.  
32 Blake stated the request from the City of Sumas is just to compile the information  
33 they learned about the possibility for future decision-making purposes.  
34

35           Roy stated she agreed with Councilmember Caskey-Schreiber. They first  
36 have to use the resources they have locally. At some future date, after they have  
37 figured out everything else, it may be the time to consider it.  
38

39           McShane stated the Surface Mining Advisory Committee is meeting. Some of  
40 those members own land in that area. There will be some who will push for the  
41 County to allow mining in that area, and Sumas can get its water from elsewhere.  
42 It will be good to have that information from the City of Sumas within the WRIA  
43 plan on what it will cost and what it will take to do that. Given the concentration  
44 the City has made on protecting its water source, it has probably already looked at  
45 it and is really worried about mining in that area for that reason. It would be good  
46 to have that information available.  
47

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1 Caskey-Schreiber stated that expense should be borne by the City of Sumas.  
2 It allocated an enormous amount of water to Sumas Energy I and Sumas Energy II.  
3 It has created its own situation. The County should not be responsible for providing  
4 a backup plan.

5  
6 ***Motion failed 3-3 with Crawford, McShane, and Brenner opposed.***

7  
8 ***McShane moved*** to approve section three as amended.

9  
10 ***Motion carried unanimously.***

11  
12 Blake submitted a handout (*on file*). At the next Natural Resource  
13 Committee work session, Dr. Roll will go over section four regarding  
14 implementation and governance, long-term monitoring, and adaptive management.

15  
16  
17 **OTHER BUSINESS**

18  
19 Roy stated she wants to add an agenda item to the May 4 regular County  
20 Council meeting. Schedule the Birch Bay Subarea Plan on the evening agenda for  
21 the full Council meeting. She wants to make amendments. The plan is scheduled  
22 on the Planning Committee agenda that day. She would like the opportunity at the  
23 full Council meeting to offer any amendments to the full Council.

24  
25 McShane stated that can happen.

26  
27 ***McShane moved*** to schedule the Birch Bay Subarea Plan on the May 4,  
28 2004 regular County Council meeting.

29  
30 ***Motion carried unanimously.***

31  
32  
33 **ADJOURN**

34  
35 The meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

36  
37  
38  
39 \_\_\_\_\_  
Jill Nixon, Minutes Transcription

40  
41 The Council approved these minutes on May 18, 2004.

42  
43 ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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1 Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

Dan McShane, Council Chair