

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL AGENDA BILL

NO. 2006 - 322

CLEARANCES	Initial	Date	Date Received in Council Office	Agenda Date	Assigned to:
<i>Originator:</i>	Fleetwood	7/24/2006		7/25/2006	Introduction
<i>Division Head:</i>	DSD	7-24-06		8/08/06	Council
<i>Dept. Head:</i>					
<i>Prosecutor:</i>					
<i>Purchasing/Budget:</i>					
<i>Executive:</i>					

TITLE OF DOCUMENT:

Res. creating a stormwater management plan for Lake Whatcom Watershed.

ATTACHMENTS:

<i>SEPA review required?</i>	() Yes	() NO	<i>Should Clerk schedule a hearing ?</i> () Yes (<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>) NO
<i>SEPA review completed?</i>	() Yes	() NO	

SUMMARY STATEMENT OR LEGAL NOTICE LANGUAGE: *(If this item is an ordinance or requires a public hearing, you must provide the language for use in the required public notice. Be specific and cite RCW or WCC as appropriate. Be clear in explaining the intent of the action.)*

Resolution in support of creating a comprehensive stormwater management plan for the Lake Whatcom Watershed

COMMITTEE ACTION:

COUNCIL ACTION:

7/25/06: Introduced
8/08/06: Council Approved 7-0
Res. 2006-053

Related County Contract #:

Related File Numbers:

Ordinance or Resolution Number: Res. 2006-053

Please Note: *Once adopted and signed, ordinances and resolutions are available for viewing and printing on the County's website at: www.co.whatcom.wa.us/council.*

PROPOSED BY: Fleetwood
SPONSORED BY: Consent
INTRODUCED: July 25, 2006

RESOLUTION NO. 2006-053

**SUPPORTING THE CREATION OF A COMPREHENSIVE STORMWATER
MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE LAKE WHATCOM WATERSHED**

WHEREAS, Lake Whatcom and its associated watersheds are the sole source of drinking water for 90,000 people; and

WHEREAS, the vast majority of the Lake Whatcom watershed lies within the jurisdiction of Whatcom County; and

WHEREAS, the official studies to monitor water quality in the lake for the City of Bellingham by the Institute For Watershed Studies, Western Washington State University have repeatedly documented the high pollutant loadings on creeks and storm drains entering the lake from urbanized areas; and

WHEREAS, those studies have identified significant degradation of water quality in Lake Whatcom as a result of urbanization and stormwater runoff; and

WHEREAS, in 1998, pursuant to section 303(d) of the federal Clean Water Act, Lake Whatcom was listed as an impaired water body for low dissolved oxygen and it's tributary Silver Beach Creek for fecal coliform; and

WHEREAS, in 2004, pursuant to section 303(d) of the federal Clean Water Act, Lake Whatcom was additionally listed as an impaired water body for Dieldrin, PCBs, mercury, and phosphorous; and

WHEREAS, the degradation of Lake Whatcom has led to poorer source water quality including algae, total organic carbon and iron delivered to the City of Bellingham's water treatment plant; and

WHEREAS, these changes in water quality have led to an increased number of particles and regulated disinfection byproducts in the drinking water; and

WHEREAS, development of a comprehensive stormwater management plan to catalog existing infrastructure, identify problem areas, evaluate alternatives, coordinate efforts, prioritize improvements, incorporate adaptive management, set operational standards, and establish a mechanism to finance the system is a necessary component of an overall Lake Whatcom

protection strategy and should be given the highest environmental priority for Whatcom County government; and

WHEREAS, the Whatcom County Executive has recognized the importance of stormwater management and made protection and preservation of our drinking water supply a top priority by emphasizing the need for comprehensive stormwater management in his 2005 State of the County address; and

WHEREAS, the County Council has adopted Resolution 2006-028 which recognizes stormwater management as a high priority; memorializes the County's intention to construct stormwater facilities throughout the Lake Whatcom watershed; and strongly supports the County Executive's efforts to secure federal funds for that purpose; and

WHEREAS, the three governments that form the Joint Lake Whatcom Management Committee, the County, the City of Bellingham, and the Water District, have all given stormwater management the highest priority; and

WHEREAS, development of a comprehensive stormwater management plan will prevent the current piecemeal and ineffective approach to construction of stormwater facilities; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative to develop a comprehensive stormwater management plan as quickly as possible, due to evidence of the continuing decline in water quality under current environmental conditions; and

WHEREAS, delaying the implementation of more effective stormwater treatment will only increase the cost of complying with environmental regulations that require rehabilitation of the lake and its watershed; and

WHEREAS, retrofitting existing urbanized areas with more effective stormwater treatment systems has long been recognized as a necessary component to any effective comprehensive stormwater management plan; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Department of Ecology is currently establishing a Total Maximum Daily Loading standard for phosphorous to deal with the impairments; and

WHEREAS, the County's stormwater discharge permit for Lake Whatcom is scheduled to be issued before the TMDL standard is established and therefore the TMDL requirements will not be addressed until a new stormwater permit is issued in 2012; and

WHEREAS, the stormwater permit may be reconsidered and modified if requested by Whatcom County; and

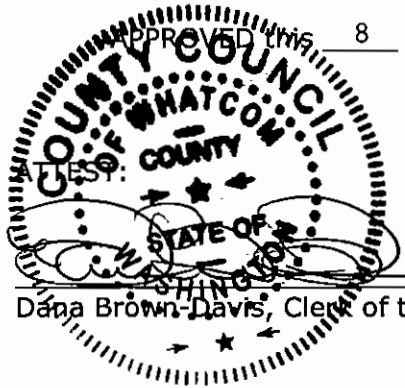
WHEREAS, it is the consensus of the building industry, the regulatory agencies, County and City governments, and environmental groups that comprehensive stormwater management is essential and the highest priority; and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the County to protect public health by protecting water quality in the lake by regulating and treating stormwater to counteract the effects of urbanization; and

WHEREAS, the County currently has no Comprehensive Stormwater Management Plan for the Lake Whatcom watershed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Whatcom County Council that the County executive is hereby requested to develop a Comprehensive Stormwater Management Plan for the Lake Whatcom watershed.

1. The Plan shall include all of the required elements in the Phase II stormwater permit as outlined in the Federal Register.
2. The Plan shall comply with the stormwater policies and standards of the 2000 Puget Sound Water Quality Management Plan.
3. The Plan shall address all existing developed areas on public and private land under County jurisdiction.
4. The Plan shall include:
 - a) an assets inventory to identify the current stormwater collection and treatment facilities, their characteristics and capacities of on both public and private land,
 - b) an operation and maintenance plan with standards to ensure facilities are maintained once they are constructed,
 - c) a prioritized 20 year capital improvement plan so that costs are identified and improvements are made based upon the greatest benefit to water quality, and
 - d) a proposal for financing the Plan, including a proposed first year budget for Council approval.
5. The Plan shall be completed and submitted to the County Council for adoption by December 1, 2007.
6. The County Executive is also requested to work closely with the Washington State Department of Ecology in the development and implementation of the TMDL standard and incorporate its conclusions and recommendations into the Plan, or its updates, as that information becomes available.
7. The Executive shall request that Ecology reopen the stormwater permit when the TMDL is filed so that the permit can incorporate the latest information to protect the lake.



APPROVED this 8 day of August, 2006.

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Laurie Caskey-Schreiber
Laurie Caskey-Schreiber, Council Chair

Dana Brown-Davis
Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Ken Fata
Civil Deputy Prosecutor