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WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL  
**Finance and Administrative Services Committee**

February 27, 2007

Committee Chair Sam Crawford called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m. in the Council Chambers, 311 Grand Avenue, Bellingham, Washington.

Present:

L. Ward Nelson  
Dan McShane

Absent:

None

Also Present:

Carl Weimer

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

**1. PRESENTATION OF THE BELLINGHAM-WHATCOM COUNTY TOURISM BUREAU'S 2006 ANNUAL REPORT AND 2007 PROJECTS (AB2007-117)**

John Cooper, Bellingham-Whatcom County Tourism Bureau President and CEO, submitted its 2007 Business and Marketing Plan (*on file*) and stated the Council received by mail its annual report.

Nationally, visitors spend \$600 billion per year. That is an eight percent growth in 2006. A similar level of growth is expected for 2007. There are seven billion jobs in the industry. International travelers spend more than \$94 billion in the United States. That generates taxes for State and local governments. Without those taxes, each U.S. household would have to pay an additional \$924 in more taxes.

At the state level, tourism is a \$13 billion industry. About 146,000 jobs are generated directly. Over 46 percent of the jobs are in the rural county areas. About 94 percent of all the business have 50 or fewer employees.

In Whatcom County, the latest figures are for 2005. Visitors spend over \$396 million per year in this county. Whatcom County is ranked fifth of the 39 counties in terms of visitor spending. There are over 6,600 direct jobs in the tourism industry, which is about six percent of the workforce. Another 3,600 jobs are in support industries. The average wage of those jobs is about \$40,000. The industry is locally grown and owned, including the ski resort, boat operators, and franchise hotels and restaurants.

He projects that they generated over \$7 million in new visitor spending in 2006, as a result of the agency's activities. They placed bids that will bring in about 4,400 room nights. Bids are when they ask conferences and associations to bring their business to town. The off-season marketing program called Best Buy generated close to 4,000 room nights. That was an increase of 15 percent. The special promotion for the City of Bellingham promoted the arts and heritage of the community. Through the various visitor service channels, they served over 45,000 people. That includes emails, walk-ins, and written enquiries. They also serve over 10,000 local residents who walk in to the visitors centers. Their membership includes over 340 businesses that look to the agency for leadership and development of educational programs on improving business.

1 In 2006, they recycled a donated van from the Hampton Inn to be used as a  
2 traveling information center used at different festivals and events. They continue successful  
3 off-season road trip programs. They have been successful in generating off-season visits.  
4 In the summer, they did a mid-week summer gas promotion when they were concerned  
5 about gas prices. The promotion generated over 523 stays with a gas card rebate to  
6 visitors who stayed through the reservation program.  
7

8 Every few years, they survey the visitors to find out about who they are. Two-thirds  
9 stay at least one night. The average length of stay is about four nights. They have a higher  
10 disposable household income. The average income of the visitors is about \$60,000. They  
11 like to do a variety of urban and rural activities. The average age is 47, and the average  
12 household size is 2.5 people per household. Twenty percent of the visitors are families. At  
13 least one person in the household has a college degree. They use mainly personal  
14 transportation, however there is growth in the use of other means of transportation, such as  
15 air, rail, and commercial coaches. Most will stay in commercial lodging, even though a  
16 number stay with families and friends or in lodges and inns during the winter. The visitor  
17 profile matches the local residents.  
18

19 When they launched the brand in 2003, they focused on the geo-tourists, whose  
20 values are aligned to the community's values. The community tries to communicate seven  
21 key concepts for the area, which is that the area is authentic, unspoiled, accessible, relaxed,  
22 has challenging and exhilarating things to do, and has fresh produce at farms they can visit.  
23 These are the types of things that geo-tourists and residents both want to have. The  
24 branding effort includes a destination promise that the community is dedicating to  
25 preserving and presenting those types of activities, attractions, and events in a clean and  
26 unspoiled environment.  
27

28 The internet has become a major force in how people gather travel information.  
29 Nearly half the people who travel online will visit a destination website. They will make  
30 some critical improvements to their website this year. They have implemented a program  
31 for destination planning, called the Destination Product Enhancement Committee (DPEC).  
32 This committee will look at their strengths and weaknesses to the visitor in terms of outdoor  
33 recreation. Their strongest tourism market opportunity is outdoor recreation. They hired a  
34 consultant to facilitate this program. An advisory committee includes professionals from the  
35 Forest Service, American Alpine Institute, Fairhaven Runners, the County Parks Department  
36 Director, retailers, and others. They will help guide the process. They are using a  
37 recreation class at Western Washington University to do surveys of visitors to gauge their  
38 interests in outdoor recreation. By the end of the year, they hope to have an overall  
39 analysis of the opportunities, weaknesses, strengths, and concerns. Both the public and  
40 private sector can use that analysis to meet needs.  
41

42 They are also looking at some outdoor activities so they can look at outdoor  
43 marketing and position Bellingham as a gateway to outdoor adventures. Ads are running in  
44 certain publications this spring and summer to generate interest in outdoor activities.  
45

46 The 2010 Winter Olympic games are coming up, so they are planning on the State  
47 and local level to take advantage of opportunities and mitigate any issues that come up.  
48 They will continue their off-season efforts and encourage visits to rural areas.  
49

50 They continue to research and solicit group visits that have meetings. The goal is to  
51 get a ten percent success rate for recruitment. They are also focusing the next two years  
52 on sporting events. The State high school golf championship is coming this May. They are

1 working with the Bellingham Parks Department to get the track and field event in two years.  
2 Youth sporting events are important and popular.  
3

4 Nelson stated this organization has always done good work. He appreciates it. He  
5 asked if any work has been done with the agricultural community to facilitate awareness of  
6 fresh commodities. Cooper stated they work with the agricultural community and  
7 Sustainable Connections. His agency was one of the original sponsors of the farm map.  
8 They continue to be an advertiser. They have met with the farm community, specifically  
9 those who are interested in reaching out to the visitors. A number of farms who, for liability  
10 or other reasons, don't want visitors. They work with those who do. Another project they'd  
11 like to advance in the future is improved signage to help people get to and from the various  
12 facilities that are interested in having visitors. Also, there is an interest in having crop  
13 identification signs.  
14

15 Nelson stated one major resort area comes up in Whatcom County all the time, in  
16 Birch Bay. Birch Bay is becoming a highlight for a tourist destination. Also, stay tied in with  
17 the developing Parks Plan process.  
18

19 Crawford asked when they are going to redo the visitor profile. Cooper stated they  
20 anticipate repeating it in 2008.  
21

22 Crawford stated motorcycle tourism is exploding. That group of people is mostly  
23 coming through and bypassing Whatcom County. Cooper stated there are bike runs that go  
24 along Chuckanut Drive, which they don't necessarily encourage because of the noise to the  
25 residents. Mt. Baker Highway is also another popular run for the bike groups.  
26  
27

## 28 **COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL**

### 29 30 **1. ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2007 WHATCOM COUNTY BUDGET, SECOND** 31 **REQUEST, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$712,630 (AB2007-109)** 32

33 Dewey Desler, Deputy Administrator, stated a summary of the changes is in the  
34 Council packet. He gave a staff report of the supplemental request.  
35

36 Nelson asked the age of the housing units in Point Roberts. Desler stated one is  
37 about 20 years old, and the other is about seven years old.  
38

39 Crawford asked why they didn't budget that cost. Desler stated they budgeted for  
40 replacement for one of the homes. They have not been able to complete that project. The  
41 cost of replacing one of these homes, which is dilapidated and worn out, isn't justified in the  
42 bids that have come in. They've rejected the bids. The cost today, because of Homeland  
43 Security requirements and other legal requirements increases the cost of putting in a  
44 manufactured home by a factor of two to two and a half times. That's unacceptable. They  
45 need to do some more exploratory work. In the meantime, they've placed the deputy and  
46 family into a rental home in Point Roberts. At the end of 2006, the Sheriff's Office did not  
47 re-budget the money for that home for the 2007-2008 budget. The Sheriff's Office decided  
48 to rent a home for a deputy in 2007, instead of using the second home. The Council  
49 approved that rental lease, and they have to budget the money to pay for that rental cost.  
50 In the meantime, the administration is considering how to address housing costs for  
51 deputies in the future.  
52

1 Nelson stated the problem is equitability for the two deputies in Point Roberts.  
2 Desler stated the current property is one or two acres, and includes the two manufactured  
3 homes and a small, dilapidated, concrete office and cell.  
4

5 Nelson asked if this is a capital facility. It should be. It's not in the Capital Facilities  
6 Plan. Desler stated he would check to see if it's in the plan. They've anticipated addressing  
7 this issue.  
8

9 Nelson stated it might be appropriate to fund it through the jail construction  
10 program, put together a program for the entire property, and include it in a mechanism like  
11 the equipment revolve and rental (ER&R) fund for replacement. Consider everything  
12 needed in that area for the operation of County services in Point Roberts. Desler stated  
13 administrative staff are gathering information for a recommendation to the Council on one  
14 of five options. The administration is reticent to build another jail facility in Point Roberts.  
15 The federal government has agreed to let the County use its facility. Transport issues  
16 normally occur over water. It's a complicated place to serve people. The federal U.S.  
17 government and the Canadian National government have made things even more  
18 complicated than they used to be.  
19

20 ***Crawford moved*** to recommend approval to the full Council.  
21

22 Weimer asked if the ferry dock relocation study looks at the entire realm of dock  
23 relocation. He understands that the Lummi Tribe has a plan already. He hopes the County  
24 is coordinating with the Tribe.  
25

26 Ken Richardson, Public Works Department, stated the scope is to look at the  
27 feasibility of any relocation and any options for location. The scope has been worked out  
28 jointly with the Tribe. When the contract is issued, the Tribe will again review the contract.  
29 The total cost of this project is about \$300,000. Of that, \$229,000 comes from the federal  
30 government through the State as a grant. The rest is part of the County's budget. It was  
31 originally intended to be approved as a project-based budget. It was not put forward that  
32 way. They had to appropriate funds this year for this project, which will carry over to next  
33 year.  
34

35 Crawford stated there was thought that the parking lot could be relocated to co-  
36 locate with the Whatcom Transit Authority (WTA) pickup area and closer to the Lummi  
37 community building. Richardson stated one of the sites they will consider is the Little Bear  
38 Creek area, near the Stommish Grounds, below the school. That area is capable to  
39 accommodate a tremendous amount of more parking.  
40

41 ***Motion carried unanimously.***  
42  
43

44 **COUNCIL "CONSENT AGENDA" ITEM**  
45

- 46 **1. REQUEST APPROVAL TO PURCHASE LIGHT BARS AND RELATED EQUIPMENT**  
47 **TO BE INSTALLED ON THE NEW SHERIFF'S VEHICLES USING A**  
48 **WASHINGTON STATE CONTRACT (VENDOR MCLOUGHLIN EARDLEY**  
49 **COMPANY) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$51,410.79 (AB2007-120)**  
50

51 ***Nelson moved*** to recommend approval to the full Council.  
52

53 ***Motion carried unanimously.***

- 1  
2 **2. REQUEST APPROVAL TO PURCHASE A WIDE AREA MOWER TO BE USED BY**  
3 **THE PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT USING A WASHINGTON STATE**  
4 **CONTRACT (VENDOR JOHN DEERE COMPANY/NORTH WASHINGTON**  
5 **IMPLEMENT) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$45,394.52 (AB2007-121)**  
6

7 *Crawford moved* to recommend approval to the full Council.  
8

9 Nelson asked the reason for the new equipment.  
10

11 Mike McFarlane, Parks and Recreation Department Director, stated they can mow  
12 quicker. They will use the smaller mower on smaller sites and on smaller jobs. This will be  
13 used for places such as Silver Lake and Hovander, where they have acres to mow. This will  
14 save staff time. This item is included in the budget for this year.  
15

16 *Motion carried unanimously.*  
17

- 18 **3. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**  
19 **CONTRACT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY CASCADE VOCATIONAL SERVICES**  
20 **TO PLACE INDIVIDUALS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES IN**  
21 **INTEGRATED PAID JOBS AND LONG-TERM VOLUNTEER EMPLOYMENT IN**  
22 **TYPICAL COMMUNITY BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS, IN THE AMOUNT**  
23 **OF \$18,000 (AB2007-122)**  
24

25 *McShane moved* to recommend approval to the full Council.  
26

27 *Motion carried unanimously.*  
28

- 29 **4. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**  
30 **CONTRACT AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND ANCHOR**  
31 **ENVIRONMENTAL, LLC TO DELINEATE WOOD DEBRIS DISTRIBUTION AT**  
32 **CLIFFSIDE BEACH, INVESTIGATE HISTORIC WOOD DEPOSITION TRENDS,**  
33 **IDENTIFY POTENTIAL REMOVAL AND RESTORATION OPTIONS, AND**  
34 **ESTIMATE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH TWO REMOVAL AND RESTORATION**  
35 **OPTIONS, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$60,000 (AB2007-123)**  
36

37 *McShane moved* to recommend approval to the full Council.  
38

39 Nelson asked the reason for this contract. This will be tough to explain to  
40 constituents.  
41

42 Atina Casas, Public Works Department, stated this project is identified as a priority  
43 site through different studies, including the Shoreline Management Program and the  
44 Bellingham Bay Pilot. It's an important project for numerous agencies, including the State  
45 Department of Ecology, State Department of Natural Resources, Puget Sound Action Team,  
46 and Marine Resources Committee (MRC). The funding partners came together. The MRC  
47 decided to focus on this project. They want to see what's out there and whether there is a  
48 continual source input before making a decision on whether there is an ecological benefit to  
49 removing the wood. The beach is in the Fort Bellingham reach.  
50

51 Nelson read from the scope of work. The wood is coming from either the ocean or  
52 the river. He isn't sure what they're trying to accomplish. He asked if the point is to  
53 remove certain portions of the wood, to add more wood, or to protect the wood. Casas

1 stated those questions will be answered by this contract. This task will be to identify the  
2 historical sources and see if they are no longer sources and determine the accumulation  
3 rates. They want to find out where the wood has come from, whether there is still a source,  
4 whether removing the wood would improve the ecological benefit of that beach, and which  
5 is identified as a habitat beach. The beach is being smothered now by the wood debris.  
6

7 McShane stated the issue is whether this is a legacy of past management of wood  
8 waste and wood material within the Sound, or lack thereof. A question is whether the wood  
9 has caused damage that will last a long time.

10  
11 Nelson stated another question is whether there is a benefit to removing the wood.  
12 Casas stated those are the questions they want to answer.  
13

14 McShane stated there may be a natural source of wood that is continuing to drop  
15 wood at the beach. It's suspected that's not the case, but they don't know yet. This  
16 location has been identified by the MRC. This cost of this assessment does seem high, but  
17 that's the nature of the consulting world. They are also getting significant grants for this  
18 study.  
19

20 Nelson stated this is the first he's heard of wood debris being a problem. Casas  
21 stated the problem is the amount of wood debris. The fine particles are smothering the  
22 beach. These questions have been on the table, and no one has taken the lead to answer  
23 the questions. Finally, four agencies have agreed to go forward with the first study.  
24

25 Crawford asked about the next item on the agenda, and the total cost of this project.  
26 Casas stated the Puget Sound Action Team wasn't able to commit by the time they needed  
27 to get this request for proposals (RFP) going. The MRC also had \$15,000 earmarked for this  
28 project. They moved forward with the RFP at a cost of about \$65,000. Then, the Puget  
29 Sound Action Team confirmed that it would provide funds for the project. The MRC decided  
30 to shift more funds to this project. They have about \$25,000 extra for phase one. That will  
31 be the State Department of Ecology's money. Because of the grant cycles, they need to  
32 draw down the MRC and State Department of Natural Resources funds first, by June 30.  
33 The Puget Sound Action Team and Ecology funds are good to the end of the calendar year.  
34 After June 30, they will evaluate the results of phase one and decide whether or not to do  
35 any more work on this project.  
36

37 McShane stated the Shoreline Master Program background update restoration plan  
38 includes this work.  
39

40 ***Motion carried unanimously.***  
41

- 42 **5. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO AN**  
43 **INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND THE**  
44 **DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, PUGET**  
45 **SOUND ACTION TEAM AND WHATCOM COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES**  
46 **COMMITTEE FOR THE CLIFFSIDE BEACH WOOD DEBRIS REMOVAL PHASE I,**  
47 **IN THE AMOUNT OF \$85,000 (AB2007-124)**  
48

49 *(Clerk's Note: Discussion of this item occurred during discussion of the previous*  
50 *Consent Agenda item.)*  
51

52 **McShane moved** to recommend approval to the full Council.  
53

1 **Motion carried unanimously.**

- 2  
3 **6. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO AN**  
4 **AMENDMENT TO THE JOINT FUNDING AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM**  
5 **COUNTY AND THE UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY (USGS) FOR**  
6 **OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF STREAM FLOW GAUGING AT BERTRAND**  
7 **CREEK TRIBUTARY TO INCLUDE FIXED COSTS INADVERTENTLY OMITTED BY**  
8 **USGS IN THE ORIGINAL AGREEMENT, IN THE AMOUNT \$3,820, FOR A TOTAL**  
9 **AMENDED AGREEMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$15,070 (AB2007-125)**

10  
11 **Nelson moved** to recommend approval to the full Council.

12  
13 **Motion carried unanimously.**

- 14  
15 **7. REQUEST APPROVAL FOR THE WHATCOM COUNTY HOUSING ADVISORY**  
16 **BOARD COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUNDING REPAIR AND**  
17 **RETENTION RFP #06-103, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$150,000 (AB2007-126)**

18  
19 *(Clerk's Note: End of tape one, side A.)*

20  
21 **McShane moved** to recommend approval to the full Council.

22  
23 Nelson asked about windows replacement.

24  
25 Gary Williams, Health Department, stated the cost of the fire alarm system was  
26 much more expensive than they thought. They will attend to the fire alarm system first,  
27 and any extra dollars can go to windows. The total award amount has not changed.

28  
29 Nelson asked about a note made to the contract about replacement light fixtures not  
30 being allowed in this request. Williams stated this is for the next agenda item for  
31 operations, not repair and retention. The operations funding allows for costs of utilities,  
32 insurance, and ongoing costs. It doesn't provide for major repairs or things of that sort.  
33 That item couldn't be considered in the application. It would not be included as a billable  
34 item in the actual contract.

35  
36 **Motion carried unanimously.**

- 37  
38 **8. REQUEST APPROVAL FOR THE WHATCOM COUNTY HOUSING ADVISORY**  
39 **BOARD COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS TO AMEND THE EXISTING 2006-**  
40 **2060 OPERATIONS CONTRACTS FOR A ONE-YEAR EXTENSION (AB2007-127)**

41  
42 *(Clerk's Note: Discussion of this item occurred during discussion of the previous*  
43 *Consent Agenda item.)*

44  
45 **McShane moved** to recommend approval to the full Council.

46  
47 **Motion carried unanimously.**

- 48  
49 **9. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO AN**  
50 **INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND LAKE**  
51 **WHATCOM WATER & SEWER DISTRICT FOR THE DESIGN AND**  
52 **RECONSTRUCTION OF AN EXISTING WATER MAIN PROJECT IN**

1 **CONJUNCTION WITH THE CABLE STREET RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT, IN**  
2 **THE AMOUNT OF \$368,410 (AB2007-128)**

3  
4 *Nelson moved* to recommend approval to the full Council.

5  
6 *Motion carried unanimously.*

- 7  
8 **10. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO AN**  
9 **INTERLOCAL COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY**  
10 **PARKS AND RECREATION AND SKAGIT COUNTY FOR THE SKAGIT COUNTY**  
11 **SHERIFF DEPARTMENT'S USE OF THE PLANTATION RIFLE RANGE FOR THE**  
12 **TERM JANUARY 1, 2007 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2007, IN THE AMOUNT OF**  
13 **\$9,067.50 (AB2007-129)**

14  
15 *Crawford moved* to recommend approval to the full Council.

16  
17 *Motion carried unanimously.*

- 18  
19 **11. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO AN**  
20 **INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND THE CITY OF**  
21 **BELLINGHAM FOR TECHNOLOGY BUSINESS PROMOTION AND EDUCATION**  
22 **IN WHATCOM COUNTY, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$48,000 (AB2007-130)**

23  
24 *McShane moved* to recommend approval to the full Council.

25  
26 Dewey Desler, Deputy Administrator, stated this supports a new group who is  
27 promoting technology and technology-based business in Whatcom County. The City of  
28 Bellingham and Whatcom County have proposed to jointly contract with a group to provide  
29 for a scope of work, included in the Council packet.

30  
31 Nelson stated he will support this request. A concern from people who go into  
32 technology industries is that they cannot locate here because the job market isn't available.  
33 Evaluate the clean technology industry to see if they can enhance Whatcom County's  
34 marketability. He asked if that is the intent. Desler stated it is.

35  
36 Crawford asked if the City will do this. Desler stated the County will contract with  
37 the City of Bellingham through an interlocal agreement. The City will nearly match the  
38 funds. The City will be the contractor with the entity. The City will administer the contract.

39  
40 Crawford asked if this is the TAG group. Desler stated this is the TAG group.

41  
42 McShane stated this funding was included in the budget. He wants to make sure it  
43 was included in the budget. Desler stated they need to go through a fair bid process. It's  
44 not officially designated as TAG money.

45  
46 Crawford asked if the TAG group would be a respondent. Desler stated they would  
47 be the most effective respondent.

48  
49 *Motion carried unanimously.*

50  
51  
52 **COMMITTEE DISCUSSION**

1 **1. DISCUSSION WITH DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR DEWEY DESLER REGARDING**  
2 **LOBBYING PRIORITIES IN PREPARATION FOR THE UPCOMING NACO**  
3 **LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON D.C. (AB2007-118)**  
4

5 Crawford read the additional information received (*on file*) regarding the  
6 administrative priorities for federal funding.  
7

8 Dewey Desler, Deputy Administrator, stated he is preparing applications to the  
9 Congressional members for each one of these items. Each Congressional member has a  
10 separate format and separate set of questions. He will summarize each and let the  
11 councilmembers discuss these matters with the Congressional members. He will finalize  
12 these summaries for the councilmembers.  
13

14 Crawford asked about the issue of no more earmarks. Desler stated that may be the  
15 new method that Congress will use. If there are no earmarks, then people will have to work  
16 with the relevant federal agency and administrative branch of government on individual  
17 efforts fitting into national programs. In some cases, some of these requests will fit.  
18

19 Over the last five or six years, Congress has increased the Congressional members'  
20 control of federal fund appropriations. Before, they used to have to work with the  
21 administration and various federal agencies by writing more competitive grant applications.  
22 Congressional staff and Congressional members will have a lot of influence over what  
23 happens in the national government.  
24

25 Crawford asked if the result of the upcoming trip to Washington D.C. will be nothing.  
26 Desler stated men and women don't get elected to office if they don't provide services and  
27 respond to problems in the community. The Congress people will figure out how to work  
28 with the leadership of the community.  
29

30 Crawford asked if there is confidence that the trip will be effective. Desler stated  
31 every other community and federal agency is doing the same thing. That's the way the  
32 system works. They're trying to show a change between the previous, Republican-held  
33 Congress and the new regime in Congress. Go talk to them about their new way of doing  
34 things to contribute to the solutions needed back home.  
35

36 McShane stated that Congressman Rick Larsen made a comment that there will still  
37 be earmarks, but they will no longer be anonymous. People have to attach their names to  
38 the earmarks. That's been the issue. Earmarks have gone in, and no one knew where they  
39 came from. Now, there has to be accountability and responsibility. Nothing will slip  
40 through anymore. All of these requests are within a broader context of national policy.  
41 They are not asking for a specific amount of money for a local perk. The requests are tied  
42 to national border issues, environmental issues, and health and safety issues.  
43

44 Nelson stated he will address the national prescription drug program to the Congress  
45 people. There are Medicaid and medical access issues.  
46

47 **Crawford moved** to recommend that the full Council support the list of items from  
48 the administration.  
49

50 Nelson stated he will bring forward the healthcare issues that he will address  
51 individually later.  
52

1 McShane stated that, regarding Lake Whatcom, target phosphorus specifically, not  
2 priority pollutants. There is a list of priority pollutants, and phosphorus is not one of them.  
3 Regarding Swift Creek, request federal assistance to cut through the bureaucracies of the  
4 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Army Corps of Engineers, and  
5 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Support the Chamber of Commerce's efforts on  
6 border issues and the identification (ID) card. Send the message that they have a lot of  
7 concern about border constraints and its effects on the local economy. Attach the Council's  
8 resolution of support of this effort.  
9

10 Crawford stated there is a resolution before National Association of Counties (NACo)  
11 to cancel out the entire Real ID program.  
12

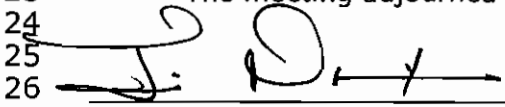
13 ***Motion carried unanimously.***  
14


15  
16 **OTHER BUSINESS**  
17

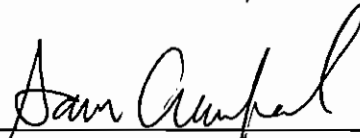
18 There was no other business.  
19  
20

21 **ADJOURN**  
22

23 The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:30 p.m.  
24

25   
26 \_\_\_\_\_  
27 Jill Nixon, Minutes Transcription  
28  
29

30 ATTEST  
31   
32  
33  
34  
35 Dana Brown, Council Clerk  
36

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON  
  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sam Crawford, Committee Chair