

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL AGENDA BILL

NO. 2006-442A

CLEARANCES	Initial	Date	Date Received in Council Office	Agenda Date	Assigned to:
Originator: Jeff Chalfant	JDC	2/19/07	RECEIVED FEB 20 2007 WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL	2/27/07	Nat Res/Council
Division Head: Robert C. Martin	RCM	2/15/07			
Dept. Head: Hal H. Hart	HHH	2/15/07			
Prosecutor: Royce Buckingham	R/B	2-15-07			
Purchasing/Budget:					
Executive: Pete Kremen	PK	2-20-07			

TITLE OF DOCUMENT:
Resolution supporting the Whatcom County Shoreline Management Program Update – Restoration Plan

- ATTACHMENTS:**
- (1) Proposed Resolution
 - (2) Whatcom County Shoreline Management Program Update – Restoration Plan (Note: A copy is on file with the County Council Office in associated file: AB2006-442)

SEPA review required? () Yes (X) NO	Should Clerk schedule a hearing? () Yes (X) NO
SEPA review completed? () Yes (X) NO	Requested Date:

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.)

A resolution supporting use of the Whatcom County Shoreline Management Program Update – Restoration Plan as a framework for identifying and managing voluntary and cooperative shoreline restoration opportunities throughout Whatcom County.

COMMITTEE ACTION:
2/27/2007: Committee recommended approval of resolution to full Council, but would like to discuss the restoration plan more in-depth in the future. Jeff Chalfant will schedule

COUNCIL ACTION:
2/27/2007: Council: Approved 7-0
Res. 2007-011

Related County Contract #:	Related File Numbers: File #ZON2004-00027	Ordinance or Resolution Number: Res. 2007-011
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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.

Sponsored by: Consent
Proposed by: PDS
Introduction date: 2/27/07

RESOLUTION NO. 2007-011

**SUPPORTING THE WHATCOM COUNTY
SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM UPDATE – RESTORATION PLAN**

WHEREAS, the Washington State Legislature passed the Washington State Shoreline Management Act (RCW 90.58 [SMA]) in June 1971 and it was passed by public initiative in 1972; and

WHEREAS, under the SMA, each county and city is required to adopt and administer a local shoreline management program to carry out the provisions of the Act; and

WHEREAS, the Shoreline Management Program Guidelines (WAC 173-26) are the standards and guidance that have been adopted by the Washington State Department of Ecology that local governments must follow in drafting their local shoreline management programs; and

WHEREAS, in December 2003, the Department of Ecology adopted new, revised Shoreline Guidelines; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to RCW 90.58.080, Whatcom County is required to review and update its existing 1998 Shoreline Management Program (SMP) to ensure conformance with the required elements of the updated 2003 Shoreline Guidelines; and

WHEREAS, the Shoreline Guidelines, at WAC 173-26-201(3)(c) and (3)(d), require Whatcom County to document existing shoreline conditions and present a baseline inventory and characterization of ecosystem-wide processes and shoreline ecological functions; and

WHEREAS, the Shoreline Guidelines, at WAC 173-26-201(2)(f), require Whatcom County to develop a shoreline restoration plan that 1) identifies degraded shoreline areas with impaired ecological functions and sites with potential for restoration, 2) establishes goals and priorities for restoration of degraded areas and functions, 3) identifies existing or planned restoration projects/programs that will contribute to local restoration goals, 4) identifies additional restoration projects/programs to achieve local restoration goals, 5) identifies and establishes timelines and benchmarks for implementation, and 6) provides mechanisms or strategies to ensure implementation according to plans and to appropriately review effectiveness of projects and programs in meeting overall restoration goals; and

WHEREAS, under the Shoreline Guidelines, the objective of restoration is to achieve a net gain in shoreline ecological functions over time by providing for the timely restoration of impaired shoreline ecological functions through a combination of incentive-based, non-regulatory and voluntary public and private programs and actions; and

WHEREAS, Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan Policy 2SS-1 states that Whatcom County should "protect and encourage voluntary restoration of streams, stream corridors, wetlands, natural shorelines, fish habitat and aquifers through education and incentive programs"; and

WHEREAS, Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan Policy 11B-1 states that Whatcom County should “develop, as a primary component of a comprehensive environmental management program, non-regulatory measures that include voluntary activity, education, incentives, restoration, acquisition, mitigation, and intergovernmental coordination”; and

WHEREAS, grant funding from the Washington State Department of Ecology was awarded to Whatcom County for purposes of developing a scientifically based shoreline inventory and characterization and shoreline restoration plan; and

WHEREAS, the Whatcom County Marine Resources Committee (MRC) contributed financial resources to the marine shoreline inventory and characterization and identification of associated restoration opportunities; and

WHEREAS, in May 2004 the Whatcom County Executive appointed an official Citizen’s Advisory Committee (CAC), a citizen-based advisory body that represented the many diverse interests and perspectives on resource management in the county, which contributed hundreds of voluntary hours to the development of the Whatcom County Shoreline Management Program update and associated background documents; and

WHEREAS, in May 2004 the Whatcom County Executive appointed an official Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) that consisted of government and agency representatives who provided Whatcom County with agency/governmental technical and regulatory expertise in the review and update of the Whatcom County SMP and the development of a shoreline inventory and characterization report and restoration plan; and

WHEREAS, a Shoreline Inventory and Characterization report was developed as a companion background document to the Whatcom County SMP update in June 2006; and

WHEREAS, the Shoreline Inventory and Characterization report incorporates evaluation of the best available scientific and technical information relevant to Whatcom County shoreline resources and includes a detailed assessment of landscape-scale and reach-scale conditions, which provide the basis for development of a restoration plan; and

WHEREAS, the Whatcom County Shoreline Management Program Update – Restoration Plan was developed as a companion background document to the Whatcom County SMP update in July 2006; and

WHEREAS, the Whatcom County Shoreline Management Program Update – Restoration Plan complements and does not replace salmon recovery planning, Watershed Planning under RCW 90.82, or other restoration planning efforts in the community; and

WHEREAS, the Restoration Plan builds upon the findings and analysis of the Shoreline Inventory and Characterization report and identifies restoration goals and priority actions to address restoration of impaired shoreline ecological functions and processes that have been identified through the detailed shoreline inventory and characterization review process; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the provisions of the Shoreline Guidelines and the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan, the Restoration Plan creates a framework for fostering shoreline restoration through coordinated planning efforts and voluntary, cooperative and non-regulatory implementation; and

WHEREAS, the Whatcom County Shoreline Management Program Update – Restoration Plan was submitted to the Whatcom County Council for review and consideration as supporting information for the Whatcom County Shoreline Management Program update.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Whatcom County Council hereby supports use of the Whatcom County Shoreline Management Program Update – Restoration Plan, July 2006 [as amended] as a framework for identifying and managing voluntary and cooperative shoreline restoration opportunities throughout Whatcom County.

APPROVED this 27 day of February, 2007.

ATTEST



Dana Brown Davis, Clerk of the Council

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Carl Weimer, Council Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Civil Deputy Prosecutor