

**WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL AGENDA BILL**

NO. 2009-067

<i>CLEARANCES</i>	<i>Initial</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Date Received in Council Office</i>	<i>Agenda Date</i>	<i>Assigned to:</i>
Originator: C. Dean Martin	CJM	1/2/2009	RECEIVED  JAN 06 2009  WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL	January 13, 2009	Introduction
Division Head:				1/27/09	Nat Res / Council
Dept. Head: David Stalheim	DS	1-2-09			
Prosecutor:	LS	1-2-09			
Purchasing/Budget:					
Executive:	PK	1-6-9			

**TITLE OF DOCUMENT:**

Agricultural Advisory Committee, code amendment (WCC 2.34).

**ATTACHMENTS:** Memo and Ordinance w/Exhibit:

Exhibit A: Proposed ordinance changes.

SEPA review required? ( ) Yes ( X ) NO  
 SEPA review completed? ( ) Yes ( X ) NO

Should Clerk schedule a hearing? ( ) Yes ( ) 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.)

The intent is to update and revise the language that established the Agricultural Advisory Committee (WCC 2.34).

The changes include adding, a "citizen with expertise in agricultural programs" to the committee; capping the number of members at 13 instead of specifying that there be 13 members; and adding a non-voting FFA youth member as a non-voting member. Language was removed that stated one of the committee's functions was to "Establish, promote and implement a comprehensive agricultural protection/preservation program..." This function is beyond the scope of an advisory committee.

**COMMITTEE ACTION:**

1/27/2009: Amended and forwarded to Council for approval

**COUNCIL ACTION:**

1/13/2009: Introduced  
 1/27/2009: Council Amended & Adopted 7-0  
 Ord. 2009-002

**Related County Contract #:**

**Related File Numbers:**

**Ordinance or Resolution Number:**

Ord. 2009-002

**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](http://www.co.whatcom.wa.us/council).

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**SPONSORED BY:** Consent  
**PROPOSED BY:** Planning  
**INTRODUCTION DATE:** 1/13/09

**ORDINANCE NO. 2009-002**

**AMENDING WHATCOM COUNTY CODE 2.34,  
AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**WHEREAS,** Whatcom County government recognizes agriculture as a major contributor to the local economy and a high quality of life for Whatcom County citizens; and

**WHEREAS,** the Agricultural Advisory Committee was established by the Whatcom County Council in 2001 through Ordinance 2001-036; and

**WHEREAS,** the Agricultural Advisory Committee has provided valuable service to the County Council and to the people of Whatcom County regarding agricultural issues; and

**WHEREAS,** the Agricultural Advisory Committee will continue to provide valuable input into the Urban Growth Area review and the Whatcom 2031 comprehensive planning process; and

**WHEREAS,** members of the Agricultural Advisory Committee met on November 19, 2008, and requested changes to the code to enable the committee to be more effective; and

**WHEREAS,** certain language in the code establishing the Agricultural Advisory Committee is outdated;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Whatcom County Council that the Whatcom County Code be amended as shown in the attached exhibit to this ordinance.

ADOPTED this 27th day of January, 2009.

ATTEST:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Civil Deputy Prosecutor

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

\_\_\_\_\_  
Seth Fleetwood, Council Chair

WHATCOM COUNTY EXECUTIVE  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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Pete Kremen, County Executive

(  ) Approved (  ) Denied

Date Signed: 2-9-09

**EXHIBIT A**

**CHAPTER 2.34 - AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Sections:

2.34.010 Established.

2.34.020 Purpose.

2.34.030 Function.

2.34.040 Membership – Term of office.

2.34.050 Organization – Meetings.

2.34.060 Committee staffing.

**2.34.030 Function.**

To report directly to county council or other appropriate advisory boards, commissions and committees as necessary to carry out the following functions:

A. Review and provide recommendations on zoning, comprehensive plans, subarea plans, regulations and annexation issues, and of proposals which directly affect lands or agricultural activities in or adjacent to the agricultural district, or the agricultural protection overlay district, or other lands of agricultural significance; and

B. Assist the County and make recommendations in the effort to establish, promote and implement a comprehensive agricultural protection/preservation program; and

C. Analyze and develop recommendations that will assist the county in addressing other issues which affect agriculture at the county, regional, state and federal levels; and

D. Assist, upon request of the director of planning and development services, that department by providing review and comment on comprehensive planning and zoning related issues in or adjacent to the agricultural district, the agricultural protection overlay district, or other lands of agricultural significance. (Ord. 2001-036).

**2.34.040 Membership – Term of office.**

A. The committee shall consist of no more than 13 voting members consisting of one member from the Whatcom County conservation district board, one representative from Whatcom Farm Friends, one representative from the agricultural processing industry, one citizen representing consumers of agricultural products, and one citizen with expertise in agricultural programs.

The remaining voting positions are to include agricultural producers representing both large and small scale producers of the various agricultural commodities produced in Whatcom County. A quorum shall consist of at least half of the appointed voting members.

In addition to the voting members, a representative of Washington State University Extension, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Whatcom County conservation district, FFA youth, and Whatcom County department of planning and development services will serve on the committee in an ex-officio capacity.

B. The county executive will appoint the voting citizen committee members with final confirmation by county council. Citizen member terms will be four years. (Ord. 2001-036).

**2.34.050 Organization – Meetings.**

Meetings of the committee shall be open and accessible to the public and shall be subject to the Open Public Meetings Act. The committee shall determine its own meeting schedule, but shall meet at least four times per year. At every meeting, the committee will schedule an open session to take public comment on agricultural issues. Written records of meetings, resolutions, findings and recommendations shall be kept and such records shall be public. The committee shall adopt its own rules and procedures for the conduct of business. The committee shall elect a chairperson from among its members who shall preside at its meetings. (Ord. 2001-036).