

WHATCOM COUNTY
GROWTH MANAGEMENT COORDINATING COUNCIL

<p>Representatives:</p> <p>Whatcom County Pete Kremen, County Executive Sam Crawford, County Council Seth Fleetwood, County Council</p> <p>City of Bellingham Dan Pike, Mayor , City Council</p> <p>City of Blaine Bonnie Onyon, Mayor</p> <p>City of Everson Andy Rowilson, City Council</p> <p>City of Ferndale Gary Jensen, Mayor</p> <p>City of Lynden Jack Louws, Mayor</p> <p>City of Nooksack Scott Bodven, City Council</p> <p>City of Sumas Bob Bromley, Mayor</p> <p>Technical Advisory Group: Planning Directors from each city, county, tribes, Port of Bellingham and Council of Governments meet regularly to provide recommendations to the Coordinating Council.</p> <p>Coordinating Staff: Whatcom County Planning and Development Services 5280 Northwest Drive Bellingham, WA 98226 David Stalheim, Director 360-676-6907 pds@co.whatcom.wa.us</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">AGENDA</p> <p style="text-align: center;">314 East Champion Bellingham, WA 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.</p> <p>I. Welcome and Introductions Pete Kremen</p> <p>II. Council Operating Procedures (15 minutes)</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">a. Elect Chair and Vice Chair b. Adopt Operating Procedures c. Set meeting schedule and location</p> <p>III. County-wide Planning Policies (30 minutes)</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">• Review of existing policies Amy Harksell</p> <p>IV. Consultant Scope of Work (45 minutes) Lisa Grueter, Jones & Stokes</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">• Review scope of work • Discuss public participation strategies</p> <p>V. Future Budget Needs (15 minutes) David Stalheim</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">• Review work needs for 2009 and cooperative effort between jurisdictions</p>
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July 29, 2008

TO: Growth Management Coordinating Council
FROM: David Stalheim
RE: Operating Procedures

On your proposed agenda for August 6th, the Planning Directors have recommended that you consider taking action on three items related to how this new Council would operate:

- a. Elect Chair and Vice Chair
- b. Adopt Operating Procedures
- c. Set meeting schedule and location

The Planning Directors met on July 18th and have forwarded for your consideration the organizational and operating procedures attached to this correspondence.

We also recommend that the new Council set a monthly meeting schedule that begins just prior to Whatcom Council of Governments Executive Board meetings. These meetings are normally scheduled for the second Wednesday of each month. We recommend starting the Growth Management Coordinating Council meetings at 1:30 p.m.

Meeting Time: 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.
Meeting Frequency: Same schedule as Whatcom Council of Governments Executive Board, normally the second Wednesday of each month (next meeting is September 17th)
Meeting Location: Whatcom Council of Governments
314 East Champion
Bellingham, WA

INITIAL ORGANIZATIONAL AND OPERATING PROCEDURES GROWTH MANAGEMENT COORDINATING COUNCIL

Membership:

- 11 members composed of local governments required to plan under the Growth Management Act.
 - Whatcom County (3 representatives)
 - City of Bellingham (2 representatives)
 - Other cities (6 total)
- Each jurisdiction should identify their representative(s) and alternate(s)
- Elected officials recommended, but representative left to choice of the jurisdiction
- Technical committee will continue to advise the Coordinating Council, which will include city, county and tribal planners, as well as WVCOG.

Decision making:

- All decisions are recommendations back to the respective councils or jurisdiction that has authority. Nothing in this organization should be construed to alter the respective land-use powers of cities or Whatcom County.
- Making decisions and recommendation by consensus is encouraged.
- Voting and motions can occur (simple majority).

Staff:

- Whatcom County Planning and Development Services will provide a coordinating role for this effort initially.
- Whatcom Council of Governments will help, particularly with coordination of the transportation element and meeting locations.
- Each jurisdiction will continue to support their planning staff or consultants participation on a Technical committee to provide recommendations to the Coordinating Council.

Meetings:

- The Coordinating Council will set the meeting schedule. A monthly meeting schedule will be encouraged at the beginning.
- Whatcom County will provide legal notice of the time and place of the meetings, keep summary minutes and comply with Open Public Meetings requirements.

Agreements:

- The Coordinating Council will convene as an ad-hoc council, but may wish to later develop formal operating procedures and agreements as needed.

INITIAL FOCUS OF GROWTH MANAGEMENT STEERING COMMITTEE

1. REVIEW AND UPDATE OF THE VISION FOR FUTURE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE REGION.
 - This effort would look at regional growth and development patterns, and ways that adjustments might need to be made to reflect the values and vision of the community.
 - Whatcom County has initiated an effort to develop the public participation part of this effort by utilizing consultant resources through the end of this calendar year.

2. REVIEW AND UPDATE OF THE COUNTY-WIDE PLANNING POLICIES THAT FORM THE FRAMEWORK FOR REVIEW AND AMENDMENT OF CITY AND COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLANS.
 - The Growth Management Act requires city and county comprehensive plans to be consistent with the county-wide planning policies. This effort will enable the cities and county to look at whether the existing policies meet current expectations.
 - The policy review can be based on the work of technical staff (planners, etc.) and on the regional visioning process outlined above.

3. REVIEW OF COUNTY POPULATION FORECASTS AND WAYS TO IMPLEMENT URBAN GROWTH AREAS.
 - Whatcom County is required to designate urban growth areas (UGAs) for twenty years. The existing UGAs were based on the time period of 2002 to 2022. The new planning horizon will be between 2029 and 2031.
 - Whatcom County will be required by the Western Washington Growth Management Hearings Board to accomplish the review and revision of these UGAs in a timely manner. The County has proposed to be finished with this work by June 2009. In order to accomplish this deadline, the county and cities will need to quickly work on coordinating the population forecasts, land supply and demand methodologies and analysis required to meet the requirements of the Growth Management Act.
 - Whatcom County will be hiring a consultant to begin the technical work on this effort immediately, with interim results expected by the end of 2008.

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TO: Growth Management Coordinating Council
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RE: 2009 Budget Considerations

The Planning Directors reviewed the draft scope of work for Jones and Stokes for 2008 being sponsored by Whatcom County. The cost for this scope of work is \$150,000 and includes substantial progress towards meeting Growth Management Act requirements, including:

- updated population and employment forecasts
- methodologies for determining the demand and supply of land needed to accommodate growth

The work will not be finished in 2008, however. Significant work will remain in the coming year that requires additional effort by city and county staff in order to meet GMA deadlines and expectations. Specifically, we expect in 2009 that the following work would be needed:

- allocate population and employment to urban growth areas
- complete analysis of urban areas land demand and supply based on adopted methodologies
- adopt and implement land monitoring methodology
- review and revise county-wide planning policies

Whatcom County is required to review and revise the urban growth areas by June 30, 2009. As a result of this timeline, staff of the various jurisdictions feels that additional support is needed to ensure that this effort is coordinated and collaborative. The Planning Directors recommend that the cities and counties contribute to this effort as set forth below:

Total Cost:	\$60,000
Cost Sharing:	80% Whatcom County and Bellingham 20% Small cities
Consultant:	Consider using WCOG and/or consultant in this effort
Agreement:	Would likely require interlocal agreement for cost sharing