

**From:** "ChairKathy" <chairkathy@birchbayinfo.org>  
**To:** "PlanComm Whatcom" <PDS\_Planning\_Commission@co.whatcom.wa.us>  
**CC:** "Peter Gill" <PGill@co.whatcom.wa.us>, "Doralee Booth" <doraleeb@comcast...>  
**Date:** 5/12/2011 5:00 AM  
**Subject:** PLN2011-12 Birch Bay Watershed

May, 12, 2011

To: The Whatcom County Planning Commission

From: Kathy Berg  
7585 Sterling Ave., Birch Bay 98230

RE: Birch Bay Watershed Action Plan, File # PLN2011-00012

These proposed changes to Title 20 and the Critical Areas Ordinance are the culmination of 11 years of work and desire on the part of the Birch Bay community to find meaningful and flexible ways to balance the need to protect and restore our most precious asset, the Bay itself, with the man-made development that has already occurred and will continue, whether we like it or not.

Since water flows downhill, it just makes so much more sense to deal with stormwater management and water quality protection on a watershed scale. Recognizing that not all wetlands are created equal and offering the ability to apply what is learned from past experience makes so much more sense than trying to apply the same strict specific remedy to every situation.

I am especially appreciative to Peter Gill for his patience with, sensitivity to and adeptness at pulling together the needs of all concerned in this effort: the collaborate group of local, state and federal agencies, the citizens of Birch Bay, developers, builders and the Planning Commission.

This program is an exciting opportunity to creatively and most effectively mitigate flooding and water quality problems in the Birch Bay watershed.

Thank you all for your concern and help in this effort.