

WHATCOM COUNTY
Planning & Development Services
5280 Northwest Drive
Bellingham, WA 98226-9097
360-778-5900, TTY 800-833-6384
360-778-5901 Fax



Mark Personius, AICP
Director

Surface Mining Advisory Committee

LOCATION

**Hybrid Meeting: Zoom (details below) and
Northwest Annex Conference Room
Whatcom County Planning and Development Services
5280 Northwest Drive, Bellingham, WA 98226**

**Date: October 23rd, 2024
Time: 3:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)**

Whatcom County PDS is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Individuals who require special assistance to participate in the meetings are asked to contact Lucas Clark Lclark@whatcomCounty.us at least 96 hours in advance.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81887836179?pwd=aGhoalpCM2luVUNnSndKbXFmRktDUT09>

Meeting ID: 818 8783 6179

Passcode: 427243

One tap mobile

+12532158782,,81887836179#,,,,*427243# US (Tacoma)

+12532050468,,81887836179#,,,,*427243# US

Dial by your location

• +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 818 8783 6179

Passcode: 427243

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kc3sH1CrHH>

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Mark Personius, AICP
Director

TO: Surface Mining Advisory Committee
FROM: Lucas Clark, Planner
DATE: October 23, 2024
SUBJECT: Meeting Agenda

1. Roll call/Determination of Quorum
2. Agenda Review & Approval
3. Review/Approval of Summary from 7/24/24 & 9/25/24
4. Open Public Session
5. Old Business
 - a. Discussion of meeting dates for November and December
6. New Business
 - a. (possible) review draft comp plan.
7. Adjourn

Attachments:

1. Meeting summary from 7/24/24
2. Meeting summary from 9/25/24

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Attachment 1

Planning & Development Services
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Director

TO: Surface Mining Advisory Committee
FROM: Lucas Clark, Planner
DATE: July 24, 2024
SUBJECT: Meeting Agenda

8. Roll call/Determination of Quorum
9. Agenda Review & Approval
10. Review/Approval of Summary from 5/22/2024
11. Open Public Session
12. Old Business
 - a. Discussion of Ag memo to the SMAC
 - b. Discussion of Policy 8L-7 and a reasonable, prescriptive approach to Policy 8R.
13. New Business
 - a. Discussion of the cancellation of the August meeting.
14. Adjourn

Attachments:

1. Meeting Summary
2. TBD

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Meeting Summary

Date: July 24, 2024

Location: Zoom and Northwest Annex Conference Room @ Whatcom County Planning and Development Services office at 5280 Northwest Dr, Bellingham, WA 98226

Start Time: 3:05

Quorum: Yes No

Attendees – Members	Affiliation	Present	Absent (Excused?)
Vacant	Civil or geotechnical engineer with no direct or indirect financial business ties to the industry		
Ryan Devries (Chair)	Surface mining material user	√	
Vacant	Geologist		
Vacant	Citizen who lives in close proximity to active mining or mineral overlay areas		
Brent Cowden	Member of the surface mining industry	√	
Brad Davis (Vice Chair)	Member of the surface mining industry		
Kathleen Greenbaum	Forestry	√	
Carl Isom-McDaniel	Potable domestic groundwater supply		
Vacant	Ecologist		
Vacant	Environmental Consultant		
Vacant	Agriculture		
Quorum Present			
Electeds		N/A	
	County Council		
Staff			
Lucas Clark		√	
Andy Weiser			
Steve Roberge			
Public			
Alan Chapman			

Meeting Summary

I. Announcements, roll call and agenda.

Roll call was taken and a Quorum was present Yes No

II. Agenda Review

Approved

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IV. Open Public Comments and Member Announcements

No public comments were made

VI. Discussion of Subcommittee Discussion.

Clark led a discussion on the review of the agenda, policy 8 I. 7, and the proposed cancellation of the August meeting. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Devries and seconded by Cowden, with all members in favor. The next item on the agenda was the approval of the meeting summary from the previous meeting, which was approved without any changes. Lastly, Clark brought up the discussion of forming a subcommittee to meet with the Ag committee, with Kathleen's involvement noted.

Subcommittee Formation and August Meeting Cancellation

The committee decided to form a subcommittee with Greenbaum and McDaniel and Carl. The subcommittee would follow once McDaniel, who was initially interested returned. The committee also decided to cancel the August meeting, as they anticipated not having a report from a consultant by then. Clark would update the committee if any draft comprehensive elements came back from the consultant before the September meeting.

VII. Future Agenda Topics

Sub-Committee Report

Consultant draft Comp Plan

VIII. Time Adjourned

3:15PM

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Attachment 2

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Mark Personius, AICP
Director

Surface Mining Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda and Summary

September 25th, 2024

3:00-5:00 P.M.

15. Roll call/Determination of Quorum
16. Agenda Review & Approval
17. Review/Approval of Summary from 7/24/2024
18. Open Public Session
19. Reports (15 minutes)
 - Sub Committee report
20. Old Business
 - None
21. New Business (15 minutes)
 - Discussion of November and December meeting dates
22. Adjourn

Attachments:

3. Meeting Summary
4. Sub Committee comments to the SMAC

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Whatcom County Surface Mining Area Committee (SMAC)

Meeting Summary

Date: September 25, 2024

Location: Zoom and Northwest Annex Conference Room @ Whatcom County Planning and Development Services office at 5280 Northwest Dr, Bellingham, WA 98226

Start Time:

Quorum: Yes _____ No _____

Attendees – Members	Affiliation	Present	Absent (Excused?)
Vacant	Civil or geotechnical engineer with no direct or indirect financial business ties to the industry		
Ryan Devries (Chair)	Surface mining material user	√	
Vacant	Geologist		
Vacant	Citizen who lives in close proximity to active mining or mineral overlay areas		
Brent Cowden	Member of the surface mining industry	√	
Brad Davis (Vice Chair)	Member of the surface mining industry	√	
Kathleen Greenbaum	Forestry	√	
Carl Isom-McDaniel	Potable domestic groundwater supply		
Vacant	Ecologist		
Vacant	Environmental Consultant		
Vacant	Agriculture		
Quorum Present		Yes	
Electeds		N/A	
	County Council		
Staff			
Lucas Clark		√	
Andy Weiser		√	
Public			
Alan Chapman		√	

Meeting Summary

II. Announcements, roll call and agenda.

Roll call was taken and a Quorum was present Yes No

III. Agenda Review

Yes

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IV. Approval of Meeting Summary:

Yes No

IV. Open Public Comments and Member Announcements

No public were present. Alan Chapman from the Ag committee joined a few minutes after we started.

V. Kathleen Greenbaum gave a report on the subcommittee action.

Sub-Committee Report summary

The sub-committee discussed the need for performance measures and enforcement in their documents, with a focus on land use planning and the potential for conflicting goals in agricultural and mining areas. They also discussed the lack of specificity in the comprehensive plan and the need for a strategic plan to achieve goals, as well as the need for clear definitions and boundaries in land use planning to avoid shortchanging any group. The meeting also highlighted the need for balancing various interests such as agriculture, forestry, mining, and wildlife conservation, and the importance of performance-based budgeting, reporting, and continuous improvement. The sub-committee report discussed the need for a more definitive definition of prime agricultural lands and the potential for mining activities in agricultural zones. The discussion revolved around the zoning and mining regulations in Whatcom County. The participants debated the lack of clear guidelines on balancing agricultural lands with mining activities, particularly in the foothills area. They also discussed the absence of specific maps or terminologies for prime agricultural lands and mineral resource overlays. The conversation highlighted the need for a unified source that could clearly delineate these areas and their respective zoning. The participants acknowledged the inherent conflict between agricultural and mining interests, but agreed on the necessity of finding a fair resolution to meet everyone's needs.

The sub-committee discussed the need for balancing aggregate construction needs with agricultural soil protection, emphasizing the importance of performance-based budgeting, reporting, and continuous improvement.

IX. Old Business

None

X. New Business

Discussion of November and December meeting dates moved to October meeting. No report back from the consultant yet. Staff will update SMAC in October meeting.

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XI. Time Adjourned
3:37pm

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