

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 Central Conference Room
Whatcom County Planning and Development Services
5280 Northwest Drive, Bellingham, WA 98226**

Date: June 26th, 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>

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Passcode: 427243

One tap mobile

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

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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: June 26, 2024
SUBJECT: Meeting Agenda

1. Roll call/Determination of Quorum
2. Agenda Review & Approval
3. Review/Approval of Summery from 5/22/2024
4. Open Public Session
5. Old Business
 - a. Discussion of Ag memo to the SMAC
 - b. Discussion of Policy 8L-7 and a reasonable, prescriptive approach to Policy 8R.
6. New Business
7. Adjourn

Attachments:

1. Meeting Summary
2. TBD

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Whatcom County Surface Mining Area Committee (SMAC)

Meeting Summary

Date: May 22, 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		
Candice Leonard	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		√	
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

Addition of comments from Assistant Director Steve Roberge.

II. Approval of Meeting Summary: April 24th, 2024

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The committee approved the meeting summaries for April 24th, 2024

Yes No

IV. Open Public Comments and Member Announcements

The Chair of the Ag Committee Alan Chapman sought feedback regarding the letter from the Ag committee to the Surface Mining Area Committee asking to consider forming sub committees. The letter was originally scheduled to be discussed after voting on the items to forward to the Consultant. It was moved up on the agenda to be respectful of Alan's time. The Surface Mining Area Committee discussed the formation of a subcommittee, deciding on a three or less members and agreeing to delay the decision until a suitable meeting time was established.

Steve Roberge gave the committee a Comprehensive Plan update and suggested timeline for when the SMAC will have further duties to review suggested changes from the consultant.

Steve Roberge read the Item 7 of the business rules of the SMAC, where under item 7. Quorum -Decision Making, the rules state (...) "Decision-making will be by majority vote, with a minimum of the majority of currently appointed members votes' required to pass."

V. Discussion, deliberation, and decision-making vote on which comments to forward to the consultant

Chapter 8 Review and Voting Discussion

There was a discussion on where Naturally Occurring Asbestos (NOA) will be addressed in the comp plan. Roberge lead the discussion of the process of the Scoping and the Draft EIS. There were questions concerning the NOA where in the process it would be addressed. Staff relayed they would clarify at a later date where the NOA would be addressed in the Draft EIS.

Issue 1 #Yes 1 #No 4

There was a discussion on where Naturally Occurring Asbestos (NOA) will be addressed in the comp plan. Roberge lead the discussion of the process of the Scoping and the Draft EIS. There were questions concerning the NOA where in the process it would be addressed. Staff relayed they would clarify at a later date where the NOA would be addressed in the Draft EIS.

Issue 2 #Yes 0 #No 5

There was discussion on the purpose of the mineral resource section, and the two parts to the addition of 8s.

Issue 3 #Yes 0 #No 5

There was a short discussion.

Issue 4 #Yes 5 #No 0

There was a discussion of aggregate and aggregate reserves. It was discussed that this item is a good item for the consultant to review at and address.

Issue 5 #Yes 0 #No 5

There was a short discussion.

Issue 6 #Yes 0 #No 5

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There was discussion of how much aggregate is exported, and how monitoring of that would be challenging.

Issue 7 #Yes 5 #No 0

There was discussion of the good neighbor code (WCC 14.02.010.B), land disclosure, and resource overlay disclosure. The new proposed language was thought to be more specific.

Issue 8 #Yes 0 #No 5

There was a short discussion.

Issue 9 #Yes 5 #No 0

Some language was added to Policy 8D-5 to refine and specific it.

Issue 10 #Yes 0 #No 5

There was a short discussion.

Issue 11 #Yes 0 #No 5

There was discussion of reclamation bonds and the DNR formula to determine how much a bond should be.

Issue 12a #Yes 5 #No 0

Changing all MRLs to MROs

Issue 12b #Yes 0 #No 0

There was general discussion of MRL vs MRO, the county wide study of expansion within 1/2 mile of existing. It was generally agreed that the consultant should look at the language around policy 8L-7 and 8R. Andy and Lucas are going to look at it and bring something back to the group.

Issue 13 #Yes 0 #No 5

There was a short discussion.

Issue 14 #Yes 5 #No 0

There was discussion of most of the items being public record.

Issue 15 #Yes #No Andy and Lucas to address.

Issue 16 #Yes 5 #No 0

There was a discussion of Prime or high-quality farmland.

Issue 17 #Yes 4 #No 1

There was a discussion about the potential establishment of asphalt plants and rock crushers in the area. Concerns were raised about the environmental impact of mixing rocks and petroleum products for concrete production, with a suggestion to have gravel pits situated near the plants instead. The benefits of having the plants themselves, such as better containment control and reduced transportation needs, were also highlighted. The possibility of authorizing applications for mineral processing facilities, such as gravel and concrete plants, was proposed, and the idea of reclaiming and reusing materials from concrete plants was emphasized, while the difficulties of dealing with petroleum products from asphalt plants were noted. The importance of considering the final reclamation of sites was also stressed.

Issue 18 #Yes #No Andy and Lucas to address.

VI. Discussion of Ag Committee letter.

See sections IV.

VII. Future Agenda Topics

Discussion of Ag Sub committee.

Review Staff Suggestions regards Issues 15 and 18.

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VIII. Time Adjourned

5:00pm

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