

ORDINANCE 2023-06-015

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM, WASHINGTON DISSOLVING THE LAKE WHATCOM WATERSHED ADVISORY BOARD, REPEALING BELLINGHAM MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 2.90

WHEREAS, Bellingham Ordinance No. 2000-09-058 authorized increased water use rates to fund land acquisition and other land preservation measures in the Lake Whatcom Watershed as codified in BMC 15.08.250 and further authorized establishment of the Watershed Advisory Board to provide citizen advice and oversight to the Mayor, City Council and City staff regarding potential land acquisition and preservation measures within the watershed to protect and improve the quality of the City's water supply, as codified in Chapter 2.90 to the Bellingham Municipal Code; and

WHEREAS, The Board was established over twenty two years ago as part of the City's efforts to protect the drinking water source for the residents of Bellingham and parts of Whatcom County; and

WHEREAS, The Board played an integral role in the development of policies and programs to address declining water quality in Lake Whatcom with a specific focus on land acquisition and preservation; and

WHEREAS, since the formation of the Board the City has added numerous staff to implement and continue to refine said policies and programs including the development of the Lake Whatcom Management Program in partnership with Whatcom County and the Lake Whatcom Water and Sewer District; and

WHEREAS, the ten program areas within the Lake Whatcom Management Program include the City's Watershed Property Acquisition Program; and

WHEREAS, the City has clear policy and budget authority to pursue and purchase properties in the Lake Whatcom watershed with a goal of protecting water quality; and

WHEREAS, the need for advisement from the Board on development of new policies and programs has diminished over time as the Lake Whatcom Management Program partners have scaled up programs, staffing, and funding across all areas to protect Lake Whatcom water quality; and

WHEREAS, The Board has approved all properties brought before the Board and has not advised the City to refrain from buying any property under consideration; and

WHEREAS, the duties of the Board have become largely redundant to the duties of staff as much of the original duties have been accomplished and are institutionalized within City and County structure; and

WHEREAS, establishing and maintaining a Watershed Advisory Board is not a requirement of Washington State law; and

WHEREAS, the Watershed Advisory Board has reviewed and approved its proposed dissolution; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to dissolve the Lake Whatcom Watershed Advisory Board and repeal Chapter 2.90 of the Bellingham Municipal Code.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM DOES HEREBY ORDAIN THAT:

Section 1. Bellingham Municipal Code Chapter 2.90 is hereby repealed.

Section 2. The Lake Whatcom Watershed Advisory Board is dissolved.

PASSED by City Council this 5th day of June, 2023.



Council President

APPROVED by me this 13th day of June, 2023.




Mayor

ATTEST:



Finance Director

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Office of the City Attorney

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Ordinance WAB Repeal (2)

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