

Whatcom County Business and Commerce Committee
August 16, 2021, 11-1230pm

Via Zoom

Dial by your location
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
Meeting ID: 966 8428 5613
Passcode: 692089

Find your local number: <https://portofbellingham.zoom.us/j/ab1hw4BY71>
Contact jennifern@portofbellingham.com if you would like an invite sent to you.

This is the same Zoom information as the Outlook recurring calendar invite.

Agenda

Call meeting to order (5 mins)

Introductions / Comments from the Public (5 mins)

Administrative business (5 min)

- Approve minutes from July 2021 meeting
- Open voting member positions: food processing & manufacturing
- Proposal to form a subcommittee to bring forward recommendations for alternatives to legal adjudication for water rights holders in the Nooksack River basin

Presentation: Kate Stafford / Erika Lautenbach – Whatcom County Health Dept

- Community Health Impact Assessment Report: (20 min)
 - Whatcom County data on 5 key determinates of social and economic health
 - Kindergarten readiness
 - Child care
 - Housing security
 - Homelessness
 - Behavioral health
- Question and Answer session with committee members (15 mins)

Presentation: Guy Occhiogrosso – Bellingham Chamber of Commerce

- Financial and operational impact of ‘People’s First Bellingham’ Initiative to Bellingham based businesses (15 min)
- Question and Answer session with committee members (10mins)

County Council Update: Councilor Rud Browne (10 min)

- Affordable Child Care proposal
- Cherry Point Agreement

Close

Next meeting: Date/Time of September 2021 meeting pending results of survey.

Planned Presentation: Salmon recovery proposal - Rich Focht – San Juan Area Sea Life

Potential Future Meeting Topics:

- *All Sectors: Near term business impacts of the on-going labor shortage (brief update from 4 sectors with +40 employees)*
- *Water Rights in Whatcom County – Presentation from PUD*
- *American Rescue Plan relief dollars in Whatcom County*
- *Status of Permanent Affordability of Child Care in Whatcom County*
- *Status of Affordable Housing in Whatcom County*
 - o *Related to annexations, Buildable Lands, EDI program, COB Planning Director search*
- *Status of Worker Housing in Whatcom County – Updates from POB Economic Development*
- *Presentation on Bellis Fair Mall Repurpose/ Redevelopment*
- *Updates on County financials and budgets, economic resiliency of the County*