

**Lake Whatcom Stormwater Utility Funding Study
Public Questions and Comments Received July 24 – August 12, 2018**

Date Received	Form	Question/Comment	Response
7/26/2018	Written	<p>Comment received from Nancy Alyanak regarding the ownership map provided at the August 1 advisory committee meeting. The map shows parcels zoned as commercial forestry as an overlay. Comment made that RCW 36.89.080 exempts forest/timberland devoted primarily to growing and harvesting timber. Whatcom County park land zoned as commercial forestry does not meet that criteria.</p>	<p>Forwarded to the Advisory Committee for consideration. Whatcom County staff has reviewed the applicable RCWs and concurs with Ms. Alyanak that forestry land must be devoted to both growing and harvesting timber in order to qualify for the stormwater utility rate exemption.</p>
8/1/2018	Written & Verbal	<p>Comments provided by Nancy Alyanak at the August 1 Advisory Committee meeting with a recommendation to base the stormwater fee on parcel size instead of impervious surfaces.</p>	<p>Forwarded to the Advisory Committee for consideration.</p>
8/1/2018	Verbal	<p>Question from Jeremy Knight: Why do watershed property owners have to bear all of the costs of the mitigation?</p>	<p>Heard by the Advisory Committee. Lake Whatcom watershed property owners are not being asked to pay all of the costs to meet phosphorus reduction requirements. The new stormwater utility will charge property owners in the service area (unincorporated area of the watershed outside of the City of Bellingham) to fill a funding gap for stormwater program services not covered by existing funding sources. Existing funding includes contributions from all City of Bellingham property owners from the city stormwater utility fee and the Lake Whatcom Watershed Land Acquisition and Preservation Program fee. All Whatcom County property owners contribute via the Flood Control Zone District tax. See response dated 4/18/2018 regarding how much city and county residents pay for Lake Whatcom watershed protection.</p>

8/1/2018	Verbal	<p>Comment received from Peg Wendling: Watershed properties that already have land set aside for the sole intent of treating stormwater should be considered for a rate credit.</p>	<p>Heard by the Advisory Committee. Read the Stormwater Rate Credits and Adjustment Issue Paper for more information on this topic.</p>
8/1/2018	Verbal	<p>Comment received by Randy: Would like to see examples of similar situations [stormwater utility charges?] within the state.</p>	<p>Heard by the Advisory Committee. The Municipal Research and Services Center (MRSC) provides examples of different city and county storm and surface water drainage utilities throughout the State of Washington here http://mrsc.org/Home/Explore-Topics/Environment/Water-Topics/Storm-and-Surface-Water-Management/Storm-and-Surface-Water-Drainage-Utilities.aspx.</p>
8/1/2018	Verbal	<p>Additional verbal public comments received at the August 1 Advisory Committee meeting were heard by the committee members. Due to a recording device malfunction, no transcript of these comments is available.</p>	<p>The public is encouraged to provide their comments in writing either at a meeting or submitted to LWStormwaterUtility@co.whatcom.wa.us.</p>