

PROPOSED BY: Weimer and Brenner
SPONSORED BY: Weimer and Brenner
INTRODUCTION DATE: 1/24/2012

ORDINANCE NO. _____

**Establishing the Whatcom County Lummi Island
Ferry Advisory Committee**

WHEREAS, Whatcom County operates the Lummi Island Ferry, which serves as the only public transportation link to Lummi Island; and

WHEREAS, the operations of the Lummi Island Ferry significantly affects the people and community of Lummi Island; and

WHEREAS, the Whatcom County Council believes that those citizens most affected by county operations and decisions should have a voice in those operations and decisions; and

WHEREAS, Whatcom County recently signed a long-term lease with the Lummi Nation to ensure continued operation of the Whatcom County Lummi Island Ferry; and

WHEREAS, there are still significant issues remaining to ensure the long term affordability and operation of the Whatcom County Lummi Island Ferry; and

WHEREAS, the recent Citizen's Task Force for the Lummi Island Ferry provided valuable professional analysis and recommendations for the ongoing beneficial operation of the Whatcom County Lummi Island Ferry; and

WHEREAS, one of the recommendations from the Citizen's Task Force for the Lummi Island Ferry was to create an ongoing Whatcom County Lummi Island Ferry Advisory Committee

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, by the Whatcom County Council that Whatcom County Code Chapter 2.145, Whatcom County Lummi Island Ferry Advisory Committee, is hereby established as outlined in Exhibit A to this ordinance.

APPROVED this _____ day of _____, 2012.

ATTEST:

**WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Dana Brown Davis, Clerk of the Council

Council Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

**WHATCOM COUNTY EXECUTIVE
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Civil Deputy Prosecutor

Jack Louws, County Executive

() Approved () Denied

Date Signed: _____

EXHIBIT A

ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A WHATCOM COUNTY LUMMI ISLAND FERRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Chapter 2.145

WHATCOM COUNTY LUMMI ISLAND FERRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Sections:

2.145.010 Established.

2.145.020 Purpose.

2.145.030 Function.

2.145.040 Membership – Term of office.

2.145.050 Organization – Meetings.

2.145.060 Committee staffing and funding.

2.145.010 Established.

There is hereby established the Whatcom County Lummi Island Ferry Advisory Committee.

2.145.020 Purpose.

The Whatcom County Lummi Island Ferry Advisory Committee provides review and recommendations to the Whatcom County Council, County Executive, and citizen stakeholders on issues that affect the ongoing operations and infrastructure of ferry service to Lummi Island. The committee also provides communication on ferry issues to those who depend upon ferry service and a forum for those same people to voice their ideas and concerns about the ferry service.

2.145.030 Function.

To advise the County Council, County Executive, and citizen stakeholders on the following functions:

A. Review and provide recommendations on proposed changes to ferry operations and fares; and

B. Review at least annually ferry revenue and expenditures, ferry fund balance, and actual versus targeted fare return, and

C. Assist the County in collecting information from ferry riders and ferry crew members on actual and desired ferry services, concerns, and ideas for improved service; and

D. Analyze and develop recommendations to continue and improve the cost effective operation of ferry service to Lummi Island; and

E. Participate at all stages from inception to completion in a long-term county strategic plan and proposal about infrastructure such as ferry replacement, parking, transportation to and from ferry docks, alternative docking locations, alternative funding sources, and other major capital and operational issues regarding ferry service to Lummi Island.

F. Develop and implement a mechanism for communicating its work and information about ferry operations and infrastructure.

2.145.040 Membership – Term of office.

A. The committee shall consist of 7 voting members, with at least 5 of them residents or property owners on Lummi Island. A quorum shall consist of at least half of the appointed members.

B. The County Council shall appoint the committee members. Member terms shall be three years; provided, that the terms of members first appointed shall be staggered so that three of the committee members shall be appointed for two years. Members of the committee shall serve without compensation.

2.145.050 Organization – Meetings.

Meetings of the committee shall be open and accessible to the public and shall be subject to the Open Public Meetings Act. At every meeting, the committee shall schedule an open session to take public comment on ferry issues. Written records of meetings, resolutions, research, findings and recommendations shall be kept and such records shall be public. The committee shall adopt its own rules and procedures for the conduct of business. The committee shall elect a chairperson from among its members who shall preside at its meetings. The committee shall determine its meeting schedule and agenda, but shall meet at least quarterly. The committee may form and appoint ad hoc committees to work on specific issues, so long as at least two committee members are also members of each ad hoc committee. A primary liaison to the County Council shall be established on an annual basis.

2.34.060 Committee staffing and funding.

The committee is encouraged to operate and hold its meetings as independent of county staffing and resources as possible. Staffing and other resources for the Committee shall be requested through the County Executive Office. The committee shall also have the authority to determine what expenditures are necessary in order to facilitate the work of the committee. Any proposed administrative and or consulting expenses by the committee shall be submitted to the designated County Council liaison for review and thereafter presented to the County Council for approval. All expenditures, including staff time and county resources expended in support of the committee shall be considered ferry operation or capital expenses in accordance with the Washington state auditor's policy. The committee is authorized to request from the executive's office information from administrative departments as necessary.