

BOUNDARY REVIEW BOARD FOR WHATCOM COUNTY

Thursday, January 29, 2026

Conference Room, Whatcom Council of Governments

314 E Champion St, Bellingham WA

1:00 p.m.

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

PRESENT:

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Bill Bliss, Constance Ohana, and Chris Moench (in-person).

STAFF: Lethal Coe, Chief Clerk of the Board and Emily Moran, Clerk.

WELCOME AND ROLL CALL

Bill Bliss, Acting Chair, called the Regular Meeting of the Boundary Review Board for Whatcom County to order at 1:02 p.m. All board members were present.

REVIEW / REVISE AGENDA

No revisions were suggested.

REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES FROM JULY 30, 2025 MEETING

No revisions were suggested. Upon motion duly made, seconded, and passed, the July 30, 2025 meeting minutes were accepted as written.

REVIEW OF RULES OF PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE

The clerks provided copies of the current Rules of Practice and Procedure for the board to review. Lethal explained that there is a public notice requirement associated with making changes to the Board's Rules of Practice and Procedure. Because of this, the Board will need to address any updates at the next meeting in July. Clerks will have edits and updates prepared in advance and will share those with the board for review prior to the meeting. Elements of interest to address in the revision of the Rules of Practice and Procedure still include:

- The Notice of Intention (NOI) submission process and determination of a filing date
- Requirements for a complete and timely request for review
- Board member compensation
- Various clerical updates such as address changes

UPDATE ON BRB # 2025-02 / SCHEDULE HEARING DATE

The Board reviewed the request to review letter received from Whatcom County in reference to BRB # 2025-02, Blaine's proposed de-annexation. The Board raised various questions about the previous annexation of this land into Blaine's city limits, the history of road ownership, and the exact location of the city boundary line in reference to the road. The Board also expressed wanting to seek legal counsel about the Board's jurisdiction and the County's request to review.

Upon motion duly made, seconded and passed, the Board scheduled a public hearing for Boundary Review Board File # 2025-02 on April 16th, 2026 at 6:00 pm. The Board also planned to schedule a special meeting to meet with legal counsel at the next best available time for all parties. Both the hearing and the special meeting will be held at Whatcom Council of Governments office at 314 East Champion Street in Bellingham.

REVIEW OF PUBLIC HEARING PROCEDURE

The Board and clerks discussed basic procedural and noticing requirements for a public hearing. The Board expressed wanting to meet with legal counsel to go over proper public hearing procedures. The clerks will reach out to legal counsel and arrange this special meeting.

DISCUSS JULY MEETING DATE

The Board tentatively expressed July 16th, 2026 as a possible date for the next regular July meeting.

OPEN FORUM

There was no additional discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion duly made, seconded, and passed, the meeting was adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

Prepared and submitted by Emily Moran, Clerk.

Lethal Coe, Chief Clerk of the Board

Date

Bill Bliss, Board Chair

Date