

## Whatcom County Watershed Improvement Districts Joint Board

### **Mission:**

The mission of the Whatcom County Watershed Improvement District Joint Board is to provide a single coordinated approach to issues impacting the agricultural community of Whatcom County, while retaining the structure for local input and control through individual Watershed Improvement Districts (WIDs).

### **Tagline:**

Voice of the farmers, for the farmers

### **Vision:**

We will be effective individually and jointly working with WID supporters, government agencies, tribes and community members to ensure a vibrant and productive agricultural economy in Whatcom County now and into the future.

We will shape healthy and sustainable water systems that support agriculture, salmon, shellfish, recreation and ecological values in Whatcom County.

We will build a sense of community by developing positive and trusting relationships with our members while providing representation and local access to information on agricultural issues.

We will have a unified presence and educated representation of all agricultural industries at the decision table, providing a credible and accountable voice for the farm community.

### **Values:** We Value.....

1. Community Trust and Accountability
2. Agricultural Legacy of Whatcom County
3. Productive dialog with agencies and tribes
4. Timeliness and Transparency
5. Financial Stability
6. Water quality and quantity for future generations

### **Goals:**

- **Water Quantity:** Plan together for water access now and for future generations by preserving land values, water rights and agricultural viability in Whatcom County. Work with current monitoring agencies to understand, influence and support water quantity issues
- **Drainage Management:** Implement proactive and informed solutions to drainage issues.
- **Financial Stability:** Develop a structure to maintain support from WID members and establish secure additional funding for legal needs, mitigation, education, research and outreach.
- **Water Quality:** Work together to lower nitrate and fecal coliform counts in aquifers, rivers and bays of Whatcom County. Work with current monitoring agencies to understand, influence and support water quality issues.
- **Flood Management:** Cooperate with County Flood Board to ensure that farmland is not lost to erosion from river meandering.

- **Education and Outreach:** Education for urban communities, primary school and higher education to ensure the next generation of farmers, policy makers and consumers value agriculture as an integral part of Whatcom County economy. Work with community groups, farm organizations, the press, colleges and universities to clear up misunderstandings, assumptions and stereotypes of agriculture.