

Mary Rawlins

Without a comprehensive water conservation plan which takes into account the sustainability of already over allocated water resources, it makes no sense to shift agricultural water allocations to provide for more residential wells. Farmland should be the priority, not the victim of developer profiteering. Our farmland needs to be preserved and much work has already been done in Skagit and Whatcom Counties to build networks to save land and clean up the Nooksack. Let's not just throw that away because of the big population increase here now. We still need to grow food!

As ReSources has proposed,

" A county-wide water conservation and water use efficiency (WUE) strategy is the very first "project" that should be considered, supported and funded in this process." But that is NOT where WRIA is currently headed, but instead is favoring expensive, engineered solutions and pet projects. "The most cost-effective approach with the least environmental impact or potential for unintended consequences is water conservation through public education to encourage behavior change (taking shorter showers, using water timers for gardens, minimizing lawn watering, outdoor water use in the morning or evening, etc.) and financial incentives such as rebates for more efficient toilets and household water fixtures. "

Thank you for the work you are doing in the face of the failure of the local organization to come to an agreement.