WHATCOM COUNTY FLOODING:
REFLECTING ON COMMUNITY RESILIENCY

MAY 17, 2022  |  12:00 — 1:00PM
WELCOME

KAREN OCCHIOGROSSO,
BOARD MEMBER
HOUSEKEEPING REMINDERS

• Q&A FOLLOWING THE PANEL
• PLEASE POST QUESTIONS IN “Q & A” AT ANYTIME
  • PLEASE KEEP QUESTIONS CONSTRUCTIVE
• PRESENTATION IS BEING RECORDED
• RECORDING & SLIDES WILL BE SHARED AFTER THE BRIEFING
LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Whatcom Community Foundation appreciates that we are residing and operating on the traditional, ancestral and unceded lands of the Lummi, Nooksack and other Coast Salish Peoples, the original inhabitants of what is now Washington’s northernmost coast and southern British Columbia. Since Time Immemorial, Coast Salish Peoples have lived in villages throughout this territory, practicing their way of life on the land and waterways and continue to have an ongoing relationship with these areas. We honor their ancestors as we acknowledge the past, present and future of all Coast Salish Peoples and express gratitude for their generosity in sharing the land as well as their knowledge, ways and friendship with all who came later.

Inspired by the Resolution #2021-060, adopted by the Lummi Indian Business Council on June 15, 2021
PURPOSE

Deep dive into pressing community issues to better understand and take individual, organizational and community action to help address them.
WHAT THIS BRIEFING IS ...

• **One slice** of a much larger, complex topic

• **Voices and perspectives of a few** of many critical partners involved in relief and recovery efforts

• **An unvarnished look** at:
  • The most pressing human needs
  • How we can improve our preparedness, response and recovery efforts; and
  • What you can do to help

**What it’s not:**

• **Comprehensive** — the Lummi Nation and Nooksack Tribe’s relief and recovery efforts, broader community, business and environmental impacts and flood mitigation
GRATITUDE
$2,195,359 DISTRIBUTED AS OF MAY 13, 2022

$1,596,160 DIRECT AID
(CHECKS & GIFT CARDS)
USES: food, shelter, gas, replacing basic belongings, minor car and home repairs

$359,000 WHATCOM LONG TERM RECOVERY GROUP

$110,199 STORAGE & CLEANING SUPPLIES

$55,000 FOOD
(via area food banks)

$50,000 SMALL BUSINESS RECOVERY ASSISTANCE*
*This amount granted from WCF, not Resilience Funds

$25,000 TEMP HOUSING

73% IN DIRECT AID

16%

5%

3%

2%

1%
IMPACT OF 2021 FLOODS

Intensified community challenges that predated the flooding
- Affordable/available housing and childcare
- Food insecurity
- Domestic violence
- Isolation
- Access to healthcare/mental health services

- 500+ households displaced due to floods
- 80% of homes in Sumas alone were damaged by flooding
- 75% of the homes flooded in November are still not occupied
- 35 people still living in hotels, families as well as individuals
IMPACT OF 2021 FLOODS

Ongoing Human Challenges

• Meals – most of the hotels/motels do not have kitchens

• Stress & Trauma – fear of more flooding, uncertainty about the future, financing for repairs, pandemic strain and illness taking a toll on health and wellbeing

• Transportation – Many people lost cars in the flooding. For those down to one or no car, it adds another layer of hardship and complexity

• Pet care – many hotels/motels can’t accommodate pets
IMPACT OF 2021 FLOODS

2 – 3 years:
the amount of time affected people will need support, based on other community disasters. We have a lot of work ahead of us.

$494,160
Resilience fund grants since Feb 1, 2022. Includes $359,000 to the Long-Term Recovery Group and $50,000 to the Whatcom Small Business Recovery Fund.
COMMITTEE STRUCTURE OF

WHATCOM LONG TERM RECOVERY GROUP

Fundraising
Disaster Case Management

Community & Advocacy
Repairs, Materials & Construction

Emotional & Spiritual Care
Volunteer Coordination

Communications & Public Relations

WHATCOM LTRG COMMITTEES
OUR PANELISTS

LIZ BAXTER
CEO, North Sound ACH

LACEY De LANGE
Disaster Case Manager Lead, Whatcom Long Term Recovery Group

SYLVIA MENDOZA
Family Liaison, Nooksack Valley School District

WILL RICE
CCSNW Agency Director, Catholic Community Services of Western Washington
WHAT CAN YOU DO?

PREPARE | HOME, WORK AND COMMUNITIES (NEIGHBORHOOD, FAITH, ETC.)

GIVE | WHATCOM LONG TERM RECOVERY GROUP FUND, RESILIENCE FUND

VOLUNTEER | WHATCOM LONG-TERM RECOVERY GROUP & PARTNERS

PARTICIPATE | FLOOD MITIGATION & RELATED PLANNING EFFORTS

SHARE | INFORMATION, INSIGHTS & RESOURCES

CONNECT | SIGN UP FOR THRIVE E-NEWS

FOLLOW THESE ORGANIZATIONS ON SOCIAL MEDIA
Q & A

• QUESTIONS WILL BE PRIORITIZED BY MODERATORS
• PANELISTS PLAN TO STAY AFTER 1 PM TO RESPOND
• RECORDING WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE ASAP
THANK YOU!

PHOTO CREDITS:
ALAN FRITZBERG, ANSON CHAMBLIN, BRANDON SAWAYA