

# **Whatcom County Council Water Work Session**

**COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
311 Grand Avenue, Ste #105  
Bellingham, WA 98225-4038  
(360) 778-5010**



## **Minutes - Draft Minutes**

**VIRTUAL MEETING - VIEW ONLINE**

**Tuesday, March 16, 2021**

**10:30 AM**

**Virtual Meeting**

### **COUNCILMEMBERS**

Rud Browne  
Barry Buchanan  
Tyler Byrd  
Todd Donovan  
Ben Elenbaas  
Carol Frazey  
Kathy Kershner

### **CLERK OF THE COUNCIL**

Dana Brown-Davis, C.M.C.

**Call To Order**

Council Chair Barry Buchanan called the meeting to order at 10:31 a.m. in a virtual meeting.

**Roll Call**

**Present:** 6 - Rud Browne, Barry Buchanan, Tyler Byrd, Todd Donovan, Ben Elenbaas and Carol Frazey

**Absent:** 1 - Kathy Kershner

**Water Resources Update**

Gary Stoyka, Public Works Department, updated the Councilmembers on the following and answered questions:

- Recent adjudication and settlement activities, including starting a collaborative process to discuss comprehensive water issues and tracking the \$250,000 that the Governor put in the budget to fund collaboration and technical work
- Regional water supply work headed by the Public Utility District (PUD) which includes a data analysis and a draft of water supply options for the three sub basins
- A working group (including the Department of Ecology) formed for Drainage Based Management work in the top three pilot basins and to identify data gaps and next steps
- Continuation of the peer review of the groundwater model with work on schedule to be completed by late spring
- Water use efficiency work done by the Conservation District, including setting up the domestic use efficiency program and an agricultural water use efficiency plan
- Recent and upcoming topics to be covered at the Watershed Management Board and WRIA1 Planning Unit meetings including adding a hatchery strategy to the watershed management plan, the adjudication process, discussion of our existing stream gauging network, an overview of instream flow setting, a presentation of the 2021 salmon forecast and continual discussion of potential updates to the 2005 Watershed Management Plan
- A 2020 progress report for Lake Whatcom to be presented at the Joint Councils and Commission meeting scheduled for March 31, 2021

**Academy Road Stormwater Treatment System Upgrade Discussion**

Kraig Olason, Public Works Department, gave a presentation and answered

when the current project was completed, the allocated funding, how much phosphorus the system removed, how the cost of this system compares to similar stormwater projects on the lake, how to estimate the cost of stormwater treatment per 100 acres of development, how many acres the facility serves, whether the filter to be put in is proven to handle the amount of water and sediment that will go through it and whether the system's underperformance has affected the results of the Lake Whatcom annual review.

**Items Added by Revision**

There were no agenda items added by revision.

**Other Business**

There was no other business.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

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Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

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Barry Buchanan, Council Chair

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Kristi Felbinger, Minutes Transcription