

# **Whatcom County Council Natural Resources Committee**

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



## **Committee Minutes - Final**

**Tuesday, September 14, 2021  
9 AM  
Council Chambers**

**VIRTUAL MEETING - ENDS NO LATER THAN 9:40 A.M. (TO PARTICIPATE,  
SEE INSTRUCTIONS AT [www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil](http://www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil) OR CALL  
360.778.5010)**

### **COUNCILMEMBERS**

Barry Buchanan  
Todd Donovan  
Ben Elenbaas

### **CLERK OF THE COUNCIL**

Dana Brown-Davis, C.M.C.

## Call To Order

Committee Chair Todd Donovan called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. in a virtual meeting.

## Roll Call

**Present:** 3 - Todd Donovan, Ben Elenbaas, and Barry Buchanan

**Absent:** None

Also Present: Carol Frazey, Rud Browne, and Kathy Kershner (Browne and Kershner joined around 9:43 a.m.)

## Announcements

## Committee Discussion and Recommendation to Council

1. [AB2021-359](#) Request for public comment related to the Whatcom County Wildlife Advisory Committee's recommendation regarding Nomination of Species of Local Importance and request for Council motion to designate four wildlife species as "Species of Local Importance"

Barry Wenger, Wildlife Advisory Committee Chair, gave a presentation.

He and the following people answered questions.

- Cliff Strong, Planning and Development Services Department
- Amy Dearborn, Planning and Development Services Department

They answered whether an ordinance will be needed for this item; how recommendations about how development would be considered in light of these species would get institutionalized; whether this would have impacts on the cost and time frame of permitting and on agricultural and timber lands, and whether finding one of these species on someone's private property would limit their ability to use their property how they intended.

***Buchanan moved*** to recommend to the full Council that they schedule a hearing on this item.

The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 2 - Buchanan and Donovan

**Nay:** 1 - Elenbaas

Frank Bob, Wildlife Advisory Committee, spoke.

Elenbaas explained why he voted no and spoke about the County's ability to

balance the goals for affordable housing, protecting farmland, and keeping timber harvestable with making an appreciable benefit to the habitat for these animals.

**This agenda item was FORWARDED TO COUNCIL WITH RECOMMENDED MOTION(S).**

**Items Added by Revision**

There were no agenda items added by revision.

**Other Business**

There was no other business.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

**Todd Donovan-via email 9/16/2021**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Todd Donovan, Committee Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kristi Felbinger, Minutes Transcription

SIGNED COPY ON FILE