

Whatcom County Council Water Work Session

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



Minutes - Final

**VIRTUAL MEETING - (TO PARTICIPATE, SEE INSTRUCTIONS AT
www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil OR CALL 360.778.5010)**

Tuesday, July 20, 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 10:32 a.m. in a virtual meeting.

Roll Call

Present: 5 - Barry Buchanan, Tyler Byrd, Todd Donovan, Ben Elenbaas, and Carol Frazey

Absent: 2 - Rud Browne, and Kathy Kershner

Announcements**Water Resources Update**

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

- Where things are with talks about adjudication and potential settlement and a readiness assessment being done by Cascadia Policy Solutions to determine if the involved parties are ready to engage in a collaborative process to try to resolve water issues.
- The County's work on Drainage Based Management to help resolve water quality, quantity, habitat, and instream flow issues
- The Public Utility District's (PUD) Regional Water Supply process working in the three pilot basins
- The completion of the peer review of the groundwater model of the northern part of Whatcom County
- Water Use Efficiency
- Meetings of the Watershed Management Board
- The County's work on integrated monitoring and central data management by hiring a consultant to help create a data hub

He answered questions about how legal authority gets purveyed if there is a negotiated settlement, how the Council can get more information from the pre-settlement meetings, Department of Ecology's pre-adjudication process and timeline, whether settlement discussions will wait until the pre-adjudication process is done, and whether information about using surface water storage to bring instream flows up could be included in the groundwater model.

Lake Whatcom TMDL Update

Cathy Craver, Public Works Department, updated the Councilmembers and gave a presentation. She answered what the acronym in "CE-QUAL W2 (Lake Response model)" means, and whether they are doing a heat map of

just the public lands.

Potential South Fork Property Acquisitions

Chris Elder, Public Works Department, updated the Councilmembers and gave a presentation.

He answered questions about who owns the Stewart Mountain property and where is located in relation to Lake Whatcom Park, how long this process will take and whether funding will come to the Council piece by piece as it lines up or whether it will be done as one package, how many total acres the projects add up to, and the plan for Black Slough Wetland Restoration Complex.

Items Added by Revision

There were no agenda items added by revision.

Other Business

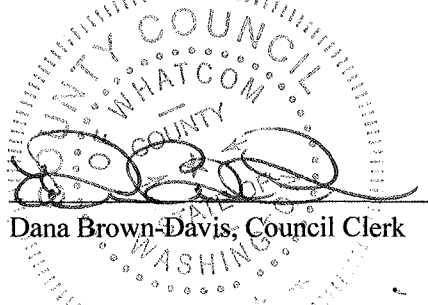
There was no other business.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:37 a.m.


The County Council approved these minutes on July 27, 2021.

ATTEST:



Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA



Barry Buchanan, Council Chair



Kristi Felbinger, Minutes Transcription