

Whatcom County Council Planning and Development Committee

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



Committee Minutes - Final

Tuesday, August 9, 2022

2:25 PM

Hybrid Meeting

**HYBRID MEETING - ADJOURNS BY 2:55 P.M.; MAY BEGIN EARLY
(PARTICIPATE IN-PERSON, SEE REMOTE JOIN INSTRUCTIONS AT
www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil, OR CALL 360.778.5010)**

COUNCILMEMBERS

Todd Donovan

Ben Elenbaas

Kaylee Galloway

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Dana Brown-Davis, C.M.C.

Call To Order

Committee Chair Ben Elenbaas called the meeting to order at 2:25 p.m. in a hybrid meeting.

Roll Call

Present: 3 - Todd Donovan, Ben Elenbaas, and Kaylee Galloway

Absent: None

Also Present: Barry Buchanan, Tyler Byrd, Carol Frazey, and Kathy Kershner

Announcements

Special Presentation

1. [AB2022-441](#) Presentation on Request for a Motion to grant the City of Bellingham notice to proceed in applying for a Major Project Permit for their Umbrella Mitigation Bank

Cliff Strong, Planning and Development Services Department, introduced the presentation.

Analiese Burns, City of Bellingham Habitat and Restoration Manager, presented.

Strong, Burns, and Renée LaCroix, City of Bellingham Assistant Public Works Director, answered questions.

They answered what triggers a major project permit, what it means for the Council to do “notice to proceed,” whether the County Code gives the Council the ability to say no to somebody applying for a major project permit, whether Council should wait until after this goes through the permitting process to ask about project-specific or concept-specific questions or concerns, how they are funding and why they already have dots on the map where there are potential public benefits going to private developers, why the Lummi were concerned about the size of their service area, how we know the goal of improving the ecological success of off-site mitigation will happen, what the public comment period that was mentioned was and how that unfolded, and whether the proposed service areas on the map (in the presentation) were areas impacted by the recent floods.

Satpal Sidhu, County Executive, stated he strongly supports this project and that we will need more and more of this type of mitigation in the next 25 years. This will give us a little breathing room before we can bring the next wetland bank online. He has had discussion with Whatcom Land Trust who

have 20,000-30,000 acres of conservation easement lands which could be eligible for enhancement and that has to be studied. We will be coming to the Council early next year to start another application which could take ten years.

Councilmembers and the speakers discussed whether credits will be sold by the square foot or by an acre at a time, and whether the Council will need staff present at the meeting tonight.

This agenda item was PRESENTED AND DISCUSSED.

Items Added by Revision

There were no agenda items added by revision.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

Ben Elenbaas-via email 8/16/2022

Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

Ben Elenbaas, Committee Chair

Kristi Felbinger, Minutes Transcription

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