

# **Whatcom County Council Natural Resources Committee**

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



## **Committee Minutes - Final**

**VIRTUAL MEETING - ENDS NO LATER THAN 11:10 A.M. (TO  
PARTICIPATE, SEE INSTRUCTIONS AT  
[www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil](http://www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil) OR CALL 360.778.5010)**

**Tuesday, June 1, 2021**

**10:10 AM**

**Virtual Meeting**

### **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 10:10 a.m. in a virtual meeting.

## Roll Call

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

**Absent:** None

Also Present: Rud Browne, Tyler Byrd, Carol Frazey, and Kathy Kershner

## Announcements

## Committee Discussion

1. [AB2021-297](#) Discussion of proposed ordinance adopting amendments to the Purchase of Development Rights Program

The following people briefed the Councilmembers and gave a presentation:

- Becky Snijder van Wissenkerke, Planning and Development Services Department
- Paul Schissler, Purchase of Development Rights Oversight Committee Chair

Snijder van Wissenkerke answered why the expansion of the program to also include forestry and ecological conservation easements was not done in the 2018 update, why the site selection eligibility criteria would be in the Conservation Easement Program (CEP) guidelines only and not in the Whatcom County Code, who has the authority to change those guidelines, whether the updated Code language states that the County is purchasing development rights, whether the Lot of Record (LOR) permit fee could be funded out of the program if an application does not go through because the County cannot get matching funds, the proposed agricultural and forest priority areas maps, and why smaller acreage in the agricultural zone gets more points in the scoring system.

***Buchanan moved*** to recommend to the full Council that the related proposed Ordinance be introduced tonight.

Councilmembers continued to discuss the item with Snijder van Wissenkerke, whether the program actually preserves the land for agriculture to be productive farmland or just about conservation in the ecological sense, whether the proposed language in Whatcom County Code

Section 3.25A.110 Subsection A should be reworded for clarity to express that the County is purchasing the development rights, and getting more information on impervious surface ratios.

The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 2 - Buchanan and Donovan

**Nay:** 1 - Elenbaas

**This agenda item was DISCUSSED AND MOTION(S) APPROVED.**

**Items Added by Revision**

There were no agenda items added by revision.

**Other Business**

There was no other business.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 11:23 AM

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

**Todd Donovan-via email 6/3/2021**

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

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Todd Donovan, Committee Chair

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Kristi Felbinger, Minutes Transcription

SIGNED COPY ON FILE