

# **Whatcom County Council Water Work Session**

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



## **Minutes - Final**

**Tuesday, March 14, 2023**

**10:30 AM**

**Civic Center Building Conference Room / Hybrid Meeting**

**HYBRID MEETING - (PARTICIPATE IN-PERSON or SEE REMOTE JOIN INSTRUCTIONS AT [www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil](http://www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil), OR CALL 360.778.5010)**

### **COUNCILMEMBERS**

Barry Buchanan  
Tyler Byrd  
Todd Donovan  
Ben Elenbaas  
Carol Frazey  
Kaylee Galloway  
Kathy Kershner

### **CLERK OF THE COUNCIL**

Dana Brown-Davis, C.M.C.

## Call To Order

Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council, stated that the Council Chair and Vice Chair were not present. She called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. in a hybrid meeting and she took roll.

## Roll Call

**Present:** 5 - Ben Elenbaas, Carol Frazey, Kaylee Galloway, Kathy Kershner, and Todd Donovan

**Absent:** 2 - Tyler Byrd, and Barry Buchanan

*Donovan moved* to nominate Kathy Kershner to act as Chair for this meeting. The motion was seconded by Frazey.

The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 5 - Kershner, Frazey, Galloway, Donovan, and Elenbaas

**Nay:** 0

**Absent:** 2 - Buchanan and Byrd

Kershner chaired the meeting.

## Announcements

### Fish Barrier Culvert Correction Update

The following people presented:

- Elizabeth Kosa, Public Works Department Acting Director
- Ben Floyd, Engineer, Bridge & Hydraulic Division
- John Thompson, Sr. Salmon Recovery Planner, Natural Resource Division

They answered what projects get on the priority list and how that is determined, whether the priority projects are accounting for whether there are private (not County) barriers above a given project, whether we have a rough sense of what the priority list would cost, how much more time it would have taken on the emergency California Creek project on Birch Bay Lynden Road to put the culverts in to spec, whether we are doing all this work through the lens of the 2005 Salmon Recovery Plan, whether we have updated that plan and how these culvert replacements fit into that, whether we have a status update on the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the tribes, and getting more information about the suggested amendments to the MOA and the reasoning behind them.

See the presentation and grant tables presented in the Meeting Details above.

**Discussion with WRIA 1 Planning Unit**

Chris Elder, Public Works Department, updated on what the Planning Unit has been working on.

Alexander Harris, Land and Water Policy Manager at RE Sources and WRIA 1 Planning Unit, updated on the Coordinated Water Supply planning process and comments submitted by each of the Planning Unit caucuses.

Dan Eisses, Birch Bay Water and Sewer District and WRIA 1 Planning Unit, spoke about the importance of addressing fish barrier culverts and an update to the Planning Unit from the County’s Planning and Development Services Department on the Comprehensive Plan update process.

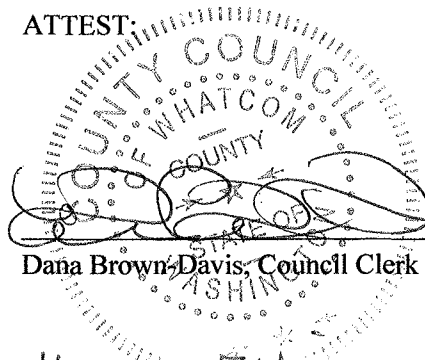
Galloway stated she thinks there is a lot of synergy with the Council’s Comprehensive Plan priorities and the conversations today and she wants to make sure they are following through with their priorities.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 11:37 a.m.

The County Council approved these minutes on 3/21/2023.

ATTEST:



Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

*Barry Buchanan*  
Barry Buchanan, Council Chair

*Kristi Felbinger*  
Kristi Felbinger, Minutes Transcription