

**Whatcom County
Council Climate Action and Natural Resources Committee**

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



Committee Minutes - Final

Wednesday, November 8, 2023

9:45 AM

Hybrid Meeting

**HYBRID MEETING - ADJOURNS BY 10:45 A.M. (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 Kaylee Galloway called the meeting to order at 9:47 a.m. in a hybrid meeting.

Roll Call

Present: 2 - Ben Elenbaas, and Kaylee Galloway

Absent: 1 - Todd Donovan

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

Announcements

Committee Discussion and Recommendation to Council

1. [AB2023-690](#) Appointment of one councilmember to serve as liaison for the Climate Vulnerability Assessment (CVA) Project

Sue Sullivan, Health and Community Services, read from a presentation (on file) and answered what days the steering committee meetings will meet. She stated that was not determined yet.

Galloway and Elenbaas both stated it is something they would be interested in doing and Donovan had previously expressed interest.

Councilmembers concurred that they would not make a formal recommendation from committee and would wait to make a decision tonight so that there can be deliberation with the full Council.

This agenda item was FORWARDED TO COUNCIL WITHOUT A RECOMMENDATION.

Special Presentation

1. [AB2023-719](#) Report from Washington State University Extension

Cheryl Lovato Niles, Washington State University Extension water resources educator, read from a presentation (on file) about natural resources programs and courses. She answered what their work with the Whatcom Marine Resource Committee looks like and whether there is collaboration with that group. She stated they do connect and collaborate with that committee.

This agenda item was REPORTED.

2. [AB2023-685](#) Presentation from Public Works Staff and the Whatcom Water Alliance regarding the Enhanced Whatcom Water Alliance (EWVA) Program

The following people spoke and read from a presentation (on file):

- Gary Stoyka, Public Works Department
- Justin Clary, Lake Whatcom Water and Sewer District and Whatcom Water Alliance Chair
- Aneka Sweeney, Whatcom Conservation District

They spoke about the background of the program, accomplishments over the last three years, and how the alliance can continue to partner with the County in enhancing water conservation efforts throughout the county.

Buchanan spoke about a resource when he was in grade school called the Conservation Center that was out at Lake Whatcom. Kids took field trips there and learned about the water and also about how to identify trees and other vegetation. He asked whether there are any “out in the wild” resources like that for elementary students and Sweeney stated the Whatcom County Coalition of Environmental Educators is providing environmental education in all sorts of ways. She described some of the learning programs.

This agenda item was PRESENTED.

Items Added by Revision

There were no agenda items added by revision.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:37 a.m.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

Kaylee Galloway-via email 11/9/2023

Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

Kaylee Galloway, Committee Chair

Kristi Felbinger, Minutes Transcription

SIGNED COPY ON FILE