

Whatcom County Council Water Work Session

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



Minutes - Draft Minutes

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, 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.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

Barry Buchanan, Council Chair

Kristi Felbinger, Minutes Transcription