

# **Whatcom County Council Committee of the Whole**

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



## **Action Summary**

**Tuesday, January 23, 2024**

**2:30 PM**

**Hybrid Meeting**

**HYBRID MEETING - ADJOURNS BY 4:30 P.M., MAY BEGIN EARLY  
(PARTICIPATE IN-PERSON, 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  
Kaylee Galloway  
Jon Scanlon  
Mark Stremler

### **CLERK OF THE COUNCIL**

Dana Brown-Davis, C.M.C.

## **Call To Order**

## **Roll Call**

**Present:** 7 - Barry Buchanan, Tyler Byrd, Todd Donovan, Ben Elenbaas, Kaylee Galloway, Jon Scanlon, and Mark Stremler

## **Announcements**

## **Committee Discussion**

1. [AB2024-093](#) Discussion of What-Comm Administrative Board composition

**DISCUSSED**

## **Committee Discussion and Recommendation to Council**

1. [AB2024-053](#) Letter to the Department of Natural Resources to confirm concurrence with 650 acres identified for the Natural Climate Solutions proviso

**RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL OF REQUEST WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT(S)**

Motion approved to amend section 3 of the version titled “Draft Letter to DNR - Galloway 1.19.2024” so that it reads as follows:

We understand that DNR designating these forestlands as a potential Natural Resource Conservation Area (NRCA) may have implications for public access and recreation. We look forward to working with DNR and the public on the development of site-specific plans that preserve existing recreational uses consistent with Whatcom County’s existing recreational plans and DNR’s Baker to Bellingham Non-Motorized Recreation Plan, and protect the cultural and ecological values these lands have to offer. We recommend DNR explore designating these parcels as a Natural Area Reserve that accommodates a variety of recreation uses, similar to the Harriet A. Spanel Natural Area Reserve that covers part of the Blanchard State Forest.

Motion approved to amend section 2 of the version titled “Draft Letter to DNR - Galloway 1.19.2024” to add the following to the end of the section:

We encourage DNR to work with the legislature on programs that could provide short-term compensation to all affected beneficiaries, particularly school districts, that are awaiting replacement funds.

## **Items Added by Revision**

## **Other Business**

## **Adjournment**