

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 15, 2022
10:30 AM
Virtual Meeting**

VIRTUAL MEETING - VIEW ONLINE

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

Council Chair Todd Donovan called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. in a virtual meeting.

Roll Call

Present: 6 - Barry Buchanan, Tyler Byrd, Todd Donovan, Ben Elenbaas, Carol Frazey, and Kaylee Galloway

Absent: 1 - Kathy Kershner

Announcements**Water Resources Update**

Gary Stoyka, Public Works Department, updated on the following:

- Watershed planning, continued work on starting the Solutions Table, and an upcoming discussion on its structure at the April 28th Watershed Management Board meeting
- Continued work on the Drainage Based Management project
- A Request for Proposal (RFP) for a study of groundwater/surface water interactions
- A Request for Proposal (RFP) for the next phase of the Groundwater Modeling project
- Staff work on the Water Use Efficiency project and a residential water use efficiency rebate program
- Upcoming meetings of the Watershed Management Board and Water Work Session
- Continued work on phase two of the Integrated Data Management project

He answered whether there is a sense that the Tribes are involved at the table with the Solutions Table.

Proposed Flood Planning Structure

Paula Harris, Public Works Department, presented and Gary Stoyka, Public Works Department, also spoke.

Harris answered what was meant by sediment management as referenced on the presentation slide titled “Initial Recommendations (1991),” and whether there were any specific projects the 1990s Environmental Cooperation Council recommended.

WRIA 1 Data Hub

Chris Elder, Public Works Department, presented and answered how to access the Data Hub and whether it will be open to the public at some point.

Discussion with WRIA 1 Planning Unit

The following people spoke about issues to consider for incorporation in the Buildable Lands Report and the Comprehensive Plan:

- Ander Russell, WRIA 1 Planning Unit
- Dan Eisses, Birch Bay Water and Sewer District and WRIA 1 Planning Unit
- Chris Elder, Public Works Department

They answered whether State law specifies that water supply issues should be part of the Buildable Lands Report; whether anyone is working with the other cities to look at what we did and where we are with population projections, the impacts of the cost of housing, and including what the potential population growth might have been; and whether that could be discussed in more detail in the Council’s Planning and Development Committee.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:37 a.m.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

Todd Donovan, Council Chair

Kristi Felbinger, Minutes Transcription