

# **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 - Draft Minutes**

**Wednesday, August 6, 2025**

**10:45 AM**

**Hybrid Meeting - Council Chambers**

**HYBRID MEETING - MAY BEGIN EARLY - ADJOURNS BY 11:10 A.M.  
(PARTICIPATE IN-PERSON, SEE REMOTE JOIN INSTRUCTIONS AT  
[www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil](http://www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil), OR CALL 360.778.5010)**

### **COUNCILMEMBERS**

Todd Donovan  
Kaylee Galloway  
Mark Stremmler

### **CLERK OF THE COUNCIL**

Cathy Halka, AICP, CMC

## **Call To Order**

Committee Chair Kaylee Galloway called the meeting to order at 10:46 a.m. in a hybrid meeting.

## **Roll Call**

**Present:** 2 - Kaylee Galloway, and Mark Stremmler

**Absent:** 1 - Todd Donovan

Also Present: Barry Buchanan, Tyler Byrd, Ben Elenbaas, and Jon Scanlon

## **Announcements**

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

1. [AB2025-565](#) Resolution authorizing the Whatcom County Conservation Easement Program staff and Whatcom County Executive to proceed with the acquisition of conservation easements on four properties

The following people read from a presentation (on file) on the rise in easement applications since the addition of staff and the subsequent need for more local funding, updates from the Conservation Easement Program Oversight Committee (CEPOC), an overview of two funding sources (beyond Conservation Futures funds) that the program has been able to secure, the four properties they are currently working with on conservation easements, the portion of local dollars that would be required, and the proposed resolution for Council approval to proceed with the easement acquisitions on those four properties:

- Alexander Harris, Planning and Development Department
- Paul Schissler, Conservation Easement Program Oversight Committee Chair

Councilmembers and Harris discussed how they determine the value of each easement, that the easements will get an appraisal after approval so the values shared today for each of them are estimates, whether there is a minimum score that is needed for the committee to make a recommendation for conservation easements like with open space, whether they are trying to target areas in the Middle Fork and North Fork, that there is more interest in the program than there historically has been, and about the scenario of the easement on the Middle Fork property (around streams or buffer area) that can still be farmed.

**Galloway moved that the Resolution be RECOMMENDED FOR**

**APPROVAL. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 2 - Galloway, and Stremmer

**Nay:** 0

**Absent:** 1 - Donovan

**Items Added by Revision**

There were no agenda items added by revision.

**Other Business**

There was no other business.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 11:14 a.m.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

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Cathy Halka, Council Clerk

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Kaylee Galloway, Committee Chair

Meeting Minutes prepared by Kristi Felbinger