

Whatcom County Council Surface Water Work Session

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



Minutes - Draft Minutes

**Tuesday, September 17, 2019
10:30 AM
Civic Center Building Garden Room**

COUNCILMEMBERS

Barbara Brenner
Rud Browne
Barry Buchanan
Tyler Byrd
Todd Donovan
Carol Frazey
Satpal Sidhu

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Dana Brown-Davis, C.M.C.

Call To Order

Council Vice Chair Todd Donovan called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. in the Civic Center Garden Level Conference Room, 322 Commercial Avenue, Bellingham, Washington.

Roll Call

Present: 6 - Barbara Brenner, Barry Buchanan, Tyler Byrd, Todd Donovan, Carol Frazey and Satpal Sidhu

Absent: 1 - Rud Browne

Watershed Planning Update

Gary Stoyka, Public Works Department, gave an update on a request to give recommendations for the County Executive to take to the Watershed Management Board meeting concerning the WRIA 1 Watershed Management Board's five-year work plan.

Brenner moved to send the plan to the Planning Unit for review and recommendation to the Council. The motion was seconded.

The motion failed by the following vote:

Aye: 2 - Brenner and Byrd

Nay: 4 - Buchanan, Donovan, Frazey, and Sidhu

Absent: 1 - Browne

Frazey moved to forward a recommendation to the Executive to vote for approval of the proposed plan changes. The motion was seconded.

Frazey withdrew her motion and *moved* to hold the item and refer it to the Council Natural Resources Committee.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 4 - Buchanan, Donovan, Frazey, and Sidhu

Nay: 0

Abstain: 2 - Brenner and Byrd

Absent: 1 - Browne

Stoyka continued his update on Watershed Planning and discussed with Councilmembers other topics being covered in the upcoming meetings of the Watershed Management Board and the Planning Unit, contracts with the Conservation District and RH2 Engineering to provide for water efficiency work and an assessment for water banking, regional water supply planning work led by the

Public Utility District (PUD), an update by the Department of Ecology (DOE) on the status of the adjudication review process funded by the State Legislature, scheduling a DOE update to the Natural Resources Committee, and a follow up study of the impacts of onsite sewage systems around Lake Whatcom.

Steve Jilk, Public Utility District (PUD) General Manager, reported on amending the PUD's Drought Contingency Plan based on comments from the Bureau of Reclamation.

2020-2025 Water Resources Improvement Plan

The following staff submitted a handout, reported, and answered questions on the projects for the 2020-2025 Six-Year Water Resources Improvement Program.

Kraig Olason, Public Works Department
Paula Harris, Public Works Department

Proposed 2020 Flood Control Zone District Budget

The following staff reported and answered questions on the proposed 2020 FCZD Budget items, including each cost center in the workplan and supporting documentation:

Paula Harris, Public Works Department
Gary Stoyka, Public Works Department

Proposed BBWARM Code Updates

The following staff reported and answered questions on a proposed resolution ADOPTING CHANGES TO WCC 100.07 BIRCH BAY WATERSHED AND AQUATIC RESOURCES MANAGEMENT DISTRICT FUNDING MECHANISM, BY ADDING AN EXEMPTION FOR THE BIRCH BAY WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT:

Kraig Olason, Public Works Department
Holly Faulstich, Public Works Department

Other Business - Public Comments

Donovan asked if anyone would like to give comments and the following people spoke:

Karlee Deatherage, Environmental Caucus to the Planning Unit, spoke about whether funding for Planning Unit coordination is included in the Flood Control Zone District (FCZD) budget.

Dan Eisses, Birch Bay Water and Sewer District, stated the Five-Year Work Plan went to the Planning Unit as a group and they made comments on it at that time.

Ellen Baker commented on concerns of the Planning Unit about the Five-Year Work Plan and the Draught Contingency Plan.

Carol Perry spoke about the County being the lead agency in the process of solving water issues.

David Onkels spoke about Council authority in approving the Watershed Management Plan.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:07 p.m.