

**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 - Final**

**Tuesday, April 25, 2023  
9:30 AM  
Hybrid Meeting**

**HYBRID MEETING - ADJOURNS BY 10:20 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  
Ben Elenbaas  
Kaylee Galloway

**CLERK OF THE COUNCIL**

Dana Brown-Davis, C.M.C.

## **Call To Order**

Committee Chair Kaylee Galloway called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m. in a hybrid meeting.

## **Roll Call**

**Present:** 3 - Todd Donovan, Ben Elenbaas, and Kaylee Galloway

Also Present: Barry Buchanan, Carol Frazey, and Kathy Kershner

## **Announcements**

### **Special Presentation**

1. [AB2023-244](#) Presentation from the Department of Natural Resources on the Cherry Point Aquatic Reserve

Birdie Davenport, Department of Natural Resources Aquatic Reserves Program Manager, read from a presentation (on file). She spoke about the Aquatic Reserves Program, the 2023 Cherry Point Aquatic Reserve Management (CPARM) Plan update, a background of the planning of the Cherry Point Aquatic Reserve Implementation Committee, Primary features of the CPARM Plan update, and the Cherry Point Citizen Stewardship Committee and their work studying larval herring dispersal and Dungeness crab.

Donovan asked whether they have a sense of what has caused a loss of herring at Cherry Point and whether there are issues at Cherry Point with green crabs at the same magnitude as areas further south. She stated predation has exacerbated the decline of herring and Cherry Point is not the most ideal habitat for green crabs, although they have found a few in Drayton Harbor and Birch Bay. They are supporting green crab work and got some funding from the Legislature with which they added a technician and a boat for that project.

Galloway asked what the public engagement process has been for the management plan and what public engagement opportunities will look like going forward, and Davenport spoke about having listening sessions and working with industry neighbors. She answered whether the plan talks about the impacts of industry, whether local legislation on Cherry Point (Whatcom County Code) has been factored in, and whether there is opportunity for the Council to work with DNR on that. She stated the plan talks about impacts of industry, local legislation is important, and she would love to have more interaction with the County and County planners.

Donovan asked whether a cap on the amount of vessel traffic that comes in and out of facilities there is part of this plan or whether it is a separate regulation. She stated it is separate but they included some information on it in the plan. Some of the leases do include an upper limit on the number of vessels per year that are allowed and some of them do not have that limit. She stated those leases have not been renegotiated for a while. Several of them will be coming up in this decade for renegotiation and all those details are worked out when those lease renewals come up. Generally, those kinds of details are not changed during the term of the lease unless a property changes hands and that might be an opportunity to take a look at some of the lease requirements. She welcomed them to invite the aquatic land managers to come talk to the Council because they know more about it.

**This agenda item was PRESENTED.**

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

1. [AB2023-286](#) Resolution authorizing the County Executive to grant an easement to Puget Sound Energy across park property within an existing access easement agreement  
  
Bennett Knox, Parks and Recreation Department Director, briefed the Councilmembers and answered where the property in question is located on the map (on file), and whether the grantee compensates the County for the easement or just does the work. He stated there is no recommendation for compensation because it is within the existing access and is not a new easement.

**Donovan moved that the Resolution be RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL. The motion carried by the following vote:**

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

**Nay:** 1 - Elenbaas

### **Items Added by Revision**

There were no agenda items added by revision.

### **Other Business**

Councilmembers discussed with the Clerk of the Council and Satpal Sidhu, County Executive, whether the next meeting could be started early.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 10 a.m.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

**Kaylee Galloway-via email 4/26/2023**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

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Kaylee Galloway, Committee Chair

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Kristi Felbinger, Minutes Transcription

SIGNED COPY ON FILE