

Whatcom County Council Water Work Session

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



Minutes - Draft Minutes

Tuesday, October 17, 2023

10:30 AM

Civic Center Building Conference Room / Hybrid Meeting

HYBRID MEETING - (PARTICIPATE IN-PERSON, SEE REMOTE JOIN INSTRUCTIONS AT www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil, OR CALL 360.778.5010)

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 Barry Buchanan called the meeting to order at 10:31 a.m. in a hybrid meeting.

Roll Call

Present: 5 - Barry Buchanan, Ben Elenbaas, Carol Frazey, Kaylee Galloway, and Todd Donovan

Absent: 2 - Tyler Byrd, and Kathy Kershner

Announcements**Meeting Materials**

[AB2023-492](#) Meeting Materials for the Water Work Session October 17, 2023

This agenda item was RECEIVED.

Birch Point Sub-Watershed Drainage Study, Birch Bay Village MOU, BBWARM Rate Study

Kraig Olason, Public Works Department, introduced the presenter.

Holly Faulstich, Public Works Department, read from a presentation (on file).

She and Olason answered questions about whether homeowners pay part of the costs to connect to the existing storm drain system, whether the percentage of future impervious surface (determined through the Birch Point Sub-Watershed Drainage Study) was based on current zoning and density, how the proposed drainage improvement capital projects may be funded, whether people in the city limits of Blaine pay the Birch Bay Watershed and Aquatic Resources Management (BBWARM) District fee, and whether the City of Blaine has any power over the various homeowner associations as it pertains to drainage.

Watershed Viewer

Chris Elder, Public Works Department, presented on the Whatcom County Watershed Portal online. Councilmembers asked whether he is training County staff on how to use the portal, and whether it is linked into parcel information through the Assessor's Office.

WRIA 1 Planning Unit update

The following people updated the Councilmembers:

- Chris Elder, Public Works Department
- Dan Eisses, Birch Bay Water and Sewer District and WRIA 1 Planning Unit
- Alexander Harris, Land and Water Policy Manager at Re Sources and WRIA 1 Planning Unit

They spoke about the upcoming Comprehensive Plan and the Planning Unit’s desire to tie land use to water supply, an event in which three wells that went dry in the West Ferndale area, and the question that came from that which was how we are going to supply water for expected growth, and using the west of Ferndale and east of Cherry Point as a pilot project to find out if rezoning and preserving agricultural areas from development may be part of the solution. They answered Councilmembers’ questions about the pilot project area and how the idea takes agriculture irrigation water into consideration.

Other Business

Buchanan opened the floor for public comment and one person spoke (name not stated). He asked about the Rogers Slough logs and whether those logs could be used to prevent shoreline erosion. Kraig Olason addressed his question.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:42 a.m.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

Barry Buchanan, Council Chair

Kristi Felbinger, Minutes Transcription