

# **Whatcom County Council Water Work Session**

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



## **Minutes - Draft Minutes**

**Tuesday, January 18, 2022  
10:30 AM  
Virtual Meeting**

**VIRTUAL MEETING (TO PARTICIPATE, SEE INSTRUCTIONS AT  
[www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil](http://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 Todd Donovan called the meeting to order at 10:31 a.m. in a virtual meeting.

**Roll Call**

**Present:** 7 - Barry Buchanan, Tyler Byrd, Todd Donovan, Ben Elenbaas, Carol Frazey, Kaylee Galloway, and Kathy Kershner

**Absent:** None

**Announcements****Water Resources Update**

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

- A proposal coming soon from Cascadia Policy Solutions for a solutions table for the adjudication process
- Drainage Based Management work looking at small sub-basins to come up with plans for how to address issues in each one
- Work by the Public Utility District (PUD) on their regional water supply planning process and the next phase which would be coming up with a countywide water supply proposal
- The development of a Request for Proposal (RFP) by staff for the next phase of the ground water modeling project
- Money approved in the 2022 budget to continue with the next phase of water use efficiency projects
- Watershed Management Board topics at the last and upcoming meetings
- The County's work to integrate water data

He answered questions about getting funding in place for data needs, what kinds of solutions are on the table to address issues in the South Fork Nooksack and Bertrand sub-basins, and if he has a sense of whether the tribes will be participating in the solutions table.

**2021 Flood Event Update**

Paula Harris, Public Works Department, presented on the technical details of the 2020 and 2021 flood events and answered questions about the meaning and process of incising (down-cutting), whether it is the flooding that is causing the sediment to move down at a faster pace, and whether the data is telling them that it is increasingly difficult to forecast the predictions about where the river might be cresting based on the data that does not account for the sediment pulses.

She then presented on the flood damages and answered whether the Federal Government funds assistance from the United States Army Corps of Engineers when they are called up on such short notice.

And finally, she presented on a proposed hazard mitigation project to address impacts to residents from the 2021 flood and answered questions.

**DOE Grant for Geneva Swale Retrofit**

The following people spoke and presented:

- Gary Stoyka, Public Works Department
- Kraig Olason, Public Works Department
- Ben Kuiken, Public Works Department

**Discussion with WRIA 1 Planning Unit**

The following people presented:

- Ander Russell, Planning Unit
- Dan Eisses, Planning Unit

Russell answered a question about the timing for the proposed integration process and how it will get done before the Planning and Development Services Department gets the Comprehensive Plan to the Planning Commission for its review.

**Other Business**

There was no other business.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 12:02 p.m.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

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Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

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Todd Donovan, Council Chair

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Kristi Felbinger, Minutes Transcription