

# **Whatcom County Council Water Work Session**

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



## **Minutes - Draft Minutes**

**VIRTUAL MEETING - (TO PARTICIPATE, SEE INSTRUCTIONS AT  
[www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil](http://www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil) OR CALL 360.778.5010)**

**Tuesday, July 20, 2021**

**10:30 AM**

**Virtual Meeting**

### **COUNCILMEMBERS**

Rud Browne  
Barry Buchanan  
Tyler Byrd  
Todd Donovan  
Ben Elenbaas  
Carol Frazey  
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 10:32 a.m. in a virtual meeting.

## **Roll Call**

**Present:** 5 - Barry Buchanan, Tyler Byrd, Todd Donovan, Ben Elenbaas, and Carol Frazey

**Absent:** 2 - Rud Browne, and Kathy Kershner

## **Announcements**

### **Water Resources Update**

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

- Where things are with talks about adjudication and potential settlement and a readiness assessment being done by Cascadia Policy Solutions to determine if the involved parties are ready to engage in a collaborative process to try to resolve water issues.
- The County's work on Drainage Based Management to help resolve water quality, quantity, habitat, and instream flow issues
- The Public Utility District's (PUD) Regional Water Supply process working in the three pilot basins
- The completion of the peer review of the groundwater model of the northern part of Whatcom County
- Water Use Efficiency
- Meetings of the Watershed Management Board
- The County's work on integrated monitoring and central data management by hiring a consultant to help create a data hub

He answered questions about how legal authority gets purveyed if there is a negotiated settlement, how the Council can get more information from the pre-settlement meetings, Department of Ecology's pre-adjudication process and timeline, whether settlement discussions will wait until the pre-adjudication process is done, and whether information about using surface water storage to bring instream flows up could be included in the groundwater model.

### **Lake Whatcom TMDL Update**

Cathy Craver, Public Works Department, updated the Councilmembers and gave a presentation. She answered what the acronym in "CE-QUAL W2 (Lake Response model)" means, and whether they are doing a heat map of

just the public lands.

**Potential South Fork Property Acquisitions**

Chris Elder, Public Works Department, updated the Councilmembers and gave a presentation.

He answered questions about who owns the Stewart Mountain property and where is located in relation to Lake Whatcom Park, how long this process will take and whether funding will come to the Council piece by piece as it lines up or whether it will be done as one package, how many total acres the projects add up to, and the plan for Black Slough Wetland Restoration Complex.

**Items Added by Revision**

There were no agenda items added by revision.

**Other Business**

There was no other business.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 11:37 a.m.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

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Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

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Barry Buchanan, Council Chair

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Kristi Felbinger, Minutes Transcription