

Whatcom County Council Natural Resources Committee

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



Committee Minutes - Final

**Tuesday, February 8, 2022
9:50 AM
Virtual Meeting**

**VIRTUAL MEETING - ADJOURNS BY 10:50 A.M. (TO PARTICIPATE, SEE
INSTRUCTIONS AT 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.

Clerk's note:

Council Staff announced that the Committee of the Whole Executive Session was extended and that this meeting would start at 9:55 a.m.

Call To Order

Committee Chair Kaylee Galloway called the meeting to order at 9:56 a.m. in a virtual meeting.

Roll Call

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

Absent: None

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

Announcements

Committee Discussion and Recommendation to Council

1. [AB2022-071](#) Resolution affirming the Conservation Easement Program Oversight Committee ranking and authorizing Whatcom County Conservation Easement Program Administrator and Whatcom County Executive to proceed with the acquisition of conservation easements on the Vander Veen, Rethlefsen, Savage, and Moors applications

Becky Snijder van Wissenkerke, Planning and Development Services Department, presented and answered whether applications go up in ranking if funding is secured or whether it is independent, whether the label on the Moors-Bonnie slide of the presentation noting "potential Harman easement" is another pending application, whether the County has a plan where we are banking or tracking the development rights and will mitigate them in the future, and whether (if we continue to take places where people can live away) we are looking at places where we can consolidate those in the future so that we can do something about the supply and affordable housing issues that we have.

Donovan moved that the Committee recommends affirming the program's ranking and authorizing the Executive to proceed with the acquisition of conservation easements on the Vander Veen, Rethlefsen, Savage, and Moors applications.

Snijder van Wissenkerke answered whether this program is connected or combined with the Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) Program and whether they use the same funding sources, whether this expanded the PDR

Program to include forestry and ecological areas that we want to protect and not just agriculture, and whether there would be a tax shift for these properties.

Donovan's motion that the Committee recommends affirming the program's ranking and authorizing the Executive to proceed with the acquisition of conservation easements on the Vander Veen, Rethlefsen, Savage, and Moors applications carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Donovan, Elenbaas, and Galloway

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

Items Added by Revision

There were no agenda items added by revision.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

Kaylee Galloway-via email 2/9/2022

Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

Kaylee Galloway, Committee Chair

Kristi Felbinger, Minutes Transcription

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