

Whatcom County Council Natural Resources Committee

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



Committee Minutes - Final

Tuesday, September 24, 2019

9:30 AM

Council Chambers

COUNCILMEMBERS

Barry Buchanan

Todd Donovan

Satpal Sidhu

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Dana Brown-Davis, C.M.C.

Call To Order

Committee Chair Todd Donovan called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m. in the Council Chambers, 311 Grand Avenue, Bellingham, Washington.

Roll Call

Present: 3 - Barry Buchanan, Todd Donovan and Satpal Sidhu

Absent: None

Also present: Barbara Brenner, Rud Browne, Tyler Byrd, Carol Frazey

Committee Discussion

1. [AB2019-396](#) Discussion of WRIA 1 Watershed Management Board 2018-2023 Work Plan

Gary Stoyka, Public Works Department, gave an update and Councilmembers discussed the process for approval of the work plan.

Donovan opened the floor for public comment and the following people spoke about how the Planning Unit has engaged in commenting on the update for the watershed management plan:

Karlee Deatherage

Dave Onkels

Kathy Sable

Skip Richards

Councilmembers discussed and Stoyka answered questions about the Planning Unit process for giving recommendations, timing for approving the work plan, and schedules for the upcoming Management Board and Planning Unit meetings.

Buchanan moved that the work plan be returned to the Planning Unit for approval and then resubmitted to the Council.

Sihu suggested a friendly amendment to set a limit of sixty days for return to Council.

Buchanan accepted the friendly amendment.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Barry Buchanan, Todd Donovan, and Satpal Sidhu

Nay: 0

Buchanan moved to amend his motion to clarify that it is a recommendation to the full Council.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Barry Buchanan, Todd Donovan, and Satpal Sidhu

Nay: 0

This agenda item was DISCUSSED AND A MOTION WAS APPROVED.

Committee Discussion and Recommendation to Council

1. [AB2019-475](#) Resolution declaring the County Council’s support for the update to the Rural Land Study to identify areas deserving heightened agricultural protection measures

Larry Davis, Agricultural Advisory Committee Chair, reported on background information and thanked the County staff members who helped with the Rural Lands Study update.

Chris Elder, Planning and Development Services Department, submitted and gave a presentation (on file) and answered questions about water banking, how many members of the Agricultural Advisory Committee are full time farmers, how the loss of productive farmland has been determined, and ideas for how to make up for lost agricultural land including segregating residential uses to more effectively maximize adjacent agricultural uses.

Sidhu moved that the Resolution be RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Buchanan, Donovan and Sidhu

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

Other Business

There was no other business.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:53 a.m.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

Todd Donovan, Committee Chair

Kristi Felbinger, Minutes Transcription

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