

**Whatcom County
Council Climate Action and Natural Resources Committee**

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



Committee Minutes - Draft Minutes

Tuesday, May 12, 2026

10:50 AM

Hybrid Meeting - Council Chambers

**HYBRID MEETING - MAY BEGIN EARLY/LATE - ADJOURNS BY 11:10 A.M.
(PARTICIPATE IN-PERSON, SEE REMOTE JOIN INSTRUCTIONS AT
www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil, OR CALL 360.778.5010)**

COUNCILMEMBERS

Elizabeth Boyle
Barry Buchanan
Ben Elenbaas
Kaylee Galloway
Jessica Rienstra
Jon Scanlon
Mark Stremler

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Cathy Halka, AICP, CMC

Call To Order

Committee Chair Kaylee Galloway called the meeting to order at 10:36 a.m. in a hybrid meeting.

Roll Call

Present: 7 - Elizabeth Boyle, Barry Buchanan, Ben Elenbaas, Kaylee Galloway, Jessica Rienstra, Jon Scanlon, and Mark Stremler

Announcements

Special Presentation

1. [AB2026-280](#) Report from the Parks and Recreation Department

Bennett Knox, Parks and Recreation Department Director, read from a presentation (on file). He spoke about a brief departmental overview (including recent changes), accomplishments since the last Council update, active projects and initiatives (including the indoor Rifle Plantation Range, the Silver Lake lagoon bridge, Birch Bay Beach Park, Carrasco property acquisition reimbursement and structure demolition, and others), upcoming projects, and current grant opportunities.

He and councilmembers discussed the Silver Lake lagoon bridge and that it connects two areas of the park and creates accessible connectivity, a path around the lake that they will use grant funds to widen, that they have not yet initiated a project for a boat launch at Silver Lake, whether they saw damage on any county trails after the December floods, and if they communicate with federal partners to understand how recreation might be impacted by washouts on forest roads.

This agenda item was REPORTED.

Items Added by Revision

There were no agenda items added by revision.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:07 a.m.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

Cathy Halka, Council Clerk

Kaylee Galloway, Committee Chair

Meeting Minutes prepared by Kristi Felbinger