

**WHATCOM COUNTY
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

ELIZABETH KOSA
Interim Director



NATURAL RESOURCES

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Satpal Singh Sidhu, Whatcom County Executive, and
Honorable Members of the Whatcom County Council

THROUGH: Elizabeth Kosa, Interim Director

FROM: Gary S. Stoyka, Natural Resources Program Manager

DATE: March 7, 2023

RE: March 14, 2023 Council Water Work Session

Please refer to the proposed agenda below for the next Water Work Session. Additional supporting documents may be distributed at or before the meeting.

AGENDA

Date:	Tuesday, March 14, 2023		
Time:	10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.		
Place:	Hybrid Meeting: In Person: Civic Center Garden Level Conference Room (322 N. Commercial St., Street Level) Virtual: For instructions on how to watch or participate in this meeting, please visit us at www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil or contact the Council Office at 360.778.5010. View meeting schedules, agendas, minutes, videos, and archives at www.whatcom.legistar.com .		
Time	Topic	Council Action Requested	Background Information Attached
10:30 AM – 11:00 AM	Fish Barrier Culvert Correction Update	Informational	Discussion Agenda
11:00 AM – 11:30 AM	Discussion with WRIA 1 Planning Unit	Discussion	None

If you have questions, please feel free to call me at (360) 778-6218.
cc:

Dana Brown-Davis
Kristi Felbinger
Jill Nixon
Jennifer Schneider
Karen Frakes

Erika Douglas
John Thompson
Paula Harris
Kraig Olason
Chris Elder

Cathy Craver
Jim Karcher
Doug Ranney
Melissa Donnelly
Roland Middleton

Erin Page
Josh Fleischmann
Mark Personius
Tyler Schroeder
Sue Sullivan

Bennett Knox
Brandy Reed

Public Works Fish Barrier Culvert Correction – Update to Council
Water Work Session
March 14, 2023

PURPOSE

- To provide an overview of recently completed and in-progress fish barrier removal projects
- To provide an update on culvert grants either in-hand or in the granting agency review process
- To provide updates on the Salmon Co-Manager and County Culvert MOA and WDFW rule making
- To introduce possible future level-of-service discussions with Council

PRESENTATION OUTLINE		
1.		Introduce the Update Topics and Staff (Elizabeth Kosa, Interim Public Works Director)
2.		<p>Fish Passage Barriers and Project Overview (Ben Floyd, Engineer, Bridge & Hydraulic Division)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barriers around Whatcom County (all ownerships) • Whatcom County Barriers • Examples of Recently Completed Projects • Examples of Projects ‘in the works’ <p><i>Outcome: Council will be oriented to examples of work accomplished to date, work in progress, and the magnitude of work remaining to address County-owned fish barrier culverts.</i></p>
3.		<p>Update on Fish Passage Barrier Removal Grants (John Thompson, Sr. Salmon Recovery Planner, Natural Resource Division)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview and status of grants in-hand or in granting agency review <p><i>Outcome: Council will be oriented to the status of Public Works efforts to obtain state and federal funding to advance fish barrier removal projects.</i></p>
3.		<p>Status of Salmon Co-Manager/Whatcom County Memorandum of Agreement and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Fish Passage Rule Making (John Thompson)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on proposed MOA with Nooksack Indian Tribe, Lummi Nation, and WDFW for the purposes of coordinating on barrier prioritization and providing support for barrier removals. • Update on WDFW rule making that will codify standards related to structures and barrier owner compliance with passage requirements. <p><i>Outcome: Share how projects are being coordinated internally and externally; provide direction on coordination between lists and consolidation of lists.</i></p>
6.		<p>Next Steps (Liz Kosa, Interim Public Works Director)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Briefing on the Salmon Co-Manager- County MOA when it is ready for Council review and approval • Future level of service discussions with options to ‘ramp up’ culvert work