

Whatcom County Council Surface Water Work Session

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



Minutes - Draft Minutes

**Tuesday, November 12, 2019
10:30 AM
Civic Center Building Garden Room**

COUNCILMEMBERS

Barbara Brenner
Rud Browne
Barry Buchanan
Tyler Byrd
Todd Donovan
Carol Frazey
Satpal Sidhu

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Dana Brown-Davis, C.M.C.

Call To Order

Council Vice Chair Todd Donovan called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. in the Civic Center Garden Level Conference Room, 322 Commercial Avenue, Bellingham, Washington.

Roll Call

Present: 5 - Barbara Brenner, Barry Buchanan, Tyler Byrd, Todd Donovan and Carol Frazey

Absent: 2 - Rud Browne and Satpal Sidhu

Marine Resources Committee Update

The following people gave a presentation (PowerPoint included in the agenda packet) about the work of the Marine Resources Committee (MRC) over the last 20 years including beach clean-ups and monitoring, various surveys, and restoration efforts. They highlighted projects and partnerships including the Northwest Straits Initiative, the Marine Conservation class at Western Washington University, the North Sound Stewards Program, a survey of the invasive green crab in Drayton Harbor, the Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team (COASST), a fish forage internship, and community outreach efforts.

Glen "Alex" Alexander

Dr. Brooke Love

Margaret Grant

Amanda Weiss

Eleanor Hines

They answered questions about the green crab invasive species problem, the level of garbage removed from beaches and whether beach trash in some areas is improving as a result of the MRC efforts, whether kelp has been destroyed here by sea urchins as much as it has been in California, and whether the Chuckanut Bay culvert replacement was done only by the MRC.

Swift Creek Update

Roland Middleton, Public Works Department, gave an update and answered questions about Swift Creek including the large landslide on the mountain, the Management Action Plan and its related projects and funding, the involvement of the the Environmental Protection Agency, the appraisal process for the Great Western Lumber property, and an upcoming consent decree.

Watershed Planning Update

Gary Stoyka, Public Works Department, gave an update on the following:

The Watershed Management Board's work and schedule, drainage basin management and how it compares to water supply planning, the Regional Water Supply Plan Phase I work and what it will involve, and staff moving forward with two recent interlocal agreements concerning water use efficiency.

Chris Elder, along with Stoyka, answered a question about whether the Conservation District has reached out to the Planning Unit and well owners.

Stoyka continued updating on the following and answering questions:

A contract with RH2 Engineering and a resulting report concerning water banking and how different options for water banking could work; the Planning Unit's consideration to use a facilitator, newly formed ad hoc committee to do an evaluation of a potential update of the Watershed Management Plan, selection of a representative to report at future Surface Water Work Sessions, upcoming presentation from the Department of Ecology on a proposed instream flow rule, and letters to the two tribes and the City of Bellingham asking them to come to the Planning Unit; two applications received by the Local Integrating Organization to continue funding for water supply work; the Ag Water Board's notification that they will be receiving grant funds; the Bureau of Reclamation's approval of the the Public Utility District's drought contingency plan; whether the Bureau understands that the plan did not come from the Council and whether the Council should send a letter to clarify their involvement; the 2020-2024 five year work plan for Lake Whatcom which should be ready for approval at the Annual Joint Councils meeting in March; and an interlocal with the Lake Whatcom Sewer District for a follow up investigation on potential impacts of on-site sewage systems on water quality.

Other Business

Stoyka brought up a potential change to the name of the Surface Water Work Session.

Brenner moved to change the name of the Surface Water Work Session to Water Work Session. The motion was seconded.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Brenner, Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, and Frazey

Nay: 0

Absent: 2 - Browne and Sidhu

Nancy Alyanak asked about the process for getting a building permit in the Lake Whatcom watershed, what is involved in tearing down a building, and whether there is an emergency designation that can override a decision to tear a building down.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

Todd Donovan, Council Vice Chair

Kristi Felbinger, Minutes Transcription