



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Satpal Singh Sidhu, Whatcom County Executive for the
Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors

THROUGH: Jon Hutchings, Public Works Director

FROM: Gary S. Stoyka, Natural Resources Program Manager ^{GW}
Chris Elder, Senior Watershed Planner ^{CE}

RE: Contract with Kramer Consulting, Inc. for facilitation services for the
WRIA 1 Drainage-Based Management Pilot Project

DATE: September 2, 2021

Requested Action

Public Works respectfully requests that the County Executive, and the County Council, acting as the Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors, enter into an agreement for the sum of \$100,000 with Kramer Consulting, Inc. for facilitation services for the WRIA 1 Drainage-Based Management Pilot Project.

Background and Purpose

Strategy 4 of the approved WRIA 1 Watershed Management Board 2018-2023 Implementation Strategy is Drainage-Based Management (DBM) planning. DBM has also been identified as a component of the Executive's proposal to engage key water interests in a collaborative process to try to reach agreement on how to comprehensively resolve the community's long-standing water issues. DBM is a planning approach that is scaled to the drainage (sub-basin) level that considers five elements – water quality, water supply, instream flow, fish habitat and accountability. Under this approach, targets for each of the elements will be developed and agreed to among the affected parties. Whatcom County has taken the lead in implementing the first phase of DBM, which is focused in three pilot drainages: Bertrand-Schneider Creeks, Drayton Harbor, and the South Fork of the Nooksack River. WRIA 1 staff members desire to utilize the services of a professional facilitator with experience in natural resources issues in this process. Kramer Consulting, Inc. was selected for this work after evaluating the qualifications of firms that responded to RFQ 21-01.

Funding Amount and Source

The contract is not to exceed \$100,000. Funding for this contract is provided in a budget supplemental approved by the Board of Supervisors on September 28, 2021 (Cost Center 169121). A portion of these costs will be offset by funding provided by the Washington State Legislature through a grant with the Department of Ecology.

Please contact Gary Stoyka at extension 6218 or Chris Elder at extension 6225, if you have any questions or concerns regarding the terms of this agreement.