

**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, March 7, 2023**

**10:10 AM**

**Hybrid Meeting**

**HYBRID MEETING - ADJOURNS BY 10:55 A.M. (PARTICIPATE IN-PERSON AT 311 GRAND AVENUE SUITE 101, SEE REMOTE JOIN INSTRUCTIONS AT [www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil](http://www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil), OR CALL 360.778.5010), AGENDA REVISED 3.6.2023**

**COUNCILMEMBERS**

Todd Donovan  
Ben Elenbaas  
Kaylee Galloway

**CLERK OF THE COUNCIL**

Dana Brown-Davis, C.M.C.

## **Call To Order**

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

## **Roll Call**

**Present:** 3 - Todd Donovan, Ben Elenbaas, and Kaylee Galloway

**Absent:** None

Also Present: Barry Buchanan, Tyler Byrd, Carol Frazey, and Kathy Kershner

## **Announcements**

### **Special Presentation**

1. [AB2023-168](#) Introduction of Climate Action Manager

Gary Stoyka, Public Works Department, stated there were technical difficulties and requested that this item be considered later.

This item was discussed below after AB2023-168.

2. [AB2023-178](#) Presentation from Department of Natural Resources on Brokedown Palace timber sale

Chris Hankey, Department of Natural Resources (DNR), presented and answered whether the County would have some way to participate in how the sale goes forward if these were on county lands for which the county is the trust beneficiary.

Elenbaas stated he is very impressed with the lengths DNR goes through in evaluating these sales and doing their due diligence.

**This agenda item was PRESENTED.**

1. [AB2023-168](#) Introduction of Climate Action Manager

Lauren Clemens, Climate Action Manager, addressed the Councilmembers.

**This agenda item was PRESENTED.**

### **Committee Discussion and Recommendation to Council**

1. [AB2023-181](#) Request approval to send a letter in support of Ejidos Community Farm's 2023 Local Community Projects Capital Budget request

Sean Hopps, Institute for Washington's Future Executive Director, briefed the Councilmembers and gave an overview of the project.

*Donovan moved* that the Request for Motion be RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL.

Hopps answered what the timeline is for this is, whether the funding is for a property acquisition, where the property is, and who it is being acquired from.

Elenbaas discussed his position on the motion and stated he would abstain. He has never really heard of this farm but he would probably be in favor of anything that helps increase infrastructure in the agricultural lands that would help farmers get their product to market.

Satpal Sidhu, County Executive, stated it would be helpful if some of the history of the farm since 2018 were included in the letter or in a follow-up.

Hopps spoke about some of the benefits to the public.

**Donovan's motion that the Request for Motion be RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL OF REQUEST carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 2 - Donovan, and Galloway

**Nay:** 0

**Absent:** 0

**Abstain:** 1 - Elenbaas

### **Items Added by Revision**

1. [AB2023-193](#) Request approval to send a letter of support for net ecological gain  
Galloway briefed the Councilmembers but there was no motion made.

**This agenda item was DISCUSSED.**

### **Other Business**

There was no other business.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 10:59 a.m.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

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Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

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Kaylee Galloway, Committee Chair

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Kristi Felbinger, Minutes Transcription