

# **Whatcom County Council Water Work Session**

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



## **Minutes - Draft Minutes**

**Tuesday, January 17, 2023**

**10:30 AM**

**Civic Center Building Garden Room / Hybrid Meeting**

**HYBRID MEETING - (PARTICIPATE IN-PERSON, SEE REMOTE JOIN INSTRUCTIONS AT [www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil](http://www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil), OR CALL 360.778.5010)**

### **COUNCILMEMBERS**

Barry Buchanan  
Tyler Byrd  
Todd Donovan  
Ben Elenbaas  
Carol Frazey  
Kaylee Galloway  
Kathy Kershner

### **CLERK OF THE COUNCIL**

Dana Brown-Davis, C.M.C.

## **Call To Order**

Council Chair Barry Buchanan called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m. in a hybrid meeting.

## **Roll Call**

**Present:** 5 - Tyler Byrd, Barry Buchanan, Ben Elenbaas, Carol Frazey, and Kaylee Galloway

**Absent:** 2 - Kathy Kershner, and Todd Donovan

## **Announcements**

## **Water Resources Update**

Gary Stoyka, Public Works Department, gave the following updates:

- The Department of Ecology (DOE) requested \$2.7 million in the next budget through the Governor's budget request for adjudication activities for the next two years and that made it into the budget. The \$1 million in funding requested for the Solutions Table and technical studies did not make it into the Governor's budget.
- The Public Utility District (PUD) has completed Phase II of the Regional Water Supply Plan and the County has reviewed that and submitted some comments.
- Technical studies - They are continuing to work on the last phase of the Groundwater Modeling Project and were able to find some grant funding that will offset part of that. The Groundwater/Surface-Water Interaction Study is underway and they only have \$100,000 of the needed \$432,000.
- Council approved a contract with a consultant to start a water storage study.
- Council approved the first phase of the instream flow extrapolation study.
- There are updates on the South Fork property acquisition but that will be presented later in this meeting.
- Watershed Management Board meeting topics of the last meeting included recreational impacts to salmon and feedback on the Yakima Integrated Plan.
- The main topic of the next Watershed Management Board meeting in March will be the 2023-2028 Five-Year Work Plan.
- The County has hired Lauren Clemens as the new Climate Action Manager.
- The next Water Work Session is scheduled for February 14, 2023.

**Acme Floodplain Project Update**

Chris Elder, Public Works Department, presented (attached to meeting) an overview, status update, and next steps for the Acme Floodplain Acquisition Project, and answered where Acme Elementary School is on the presentation slide "Overview Map Showing the Concept Zones A-F."

**Discussion with WRIA 1 Planning Unit**

The following people reported:

- Chris Elder, Public Works Department
- Dan Eisses, Birch Bay Water and Sewer District and WRIA 1 Planning Unit
- Alexander Harris, Land and Water Policy Manager at Re Sources and WRIA 1 Planning Unit

They updated the Councilmembers about the following:

- For the January Planning Unit meeting, Sue Sullivan from the Health Department is going to come talk about the Coordinated Water System Plan.
- For the February meeting, the Planning Unit will be discussing the Comprehensive Plan update. They will discuss better integrating climate change planning with land use planning and also better coordinating land use planning and water resources planning.

**December Flood Event Report**

Gary Goodall, Public Works River and Flood Division, presented on the Christmas Eve ice jam flood and the Marine Drive levee damages (presentation attached to the meeting).

Frazezy thanked Goodall and everyone who worked on this and worked through Christmas.

Gary Stoyka, Public Works Department, spoke about all the damage repair that needs to be done from the last couple years and stated they have wrapped it all into one big damage repair, redesigned their project to include it all, hired a consultant to do some updated design work, and are working hard to try to do all three damage repairs this summer.

**Other Business**

There was no other business.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 11:17 a.m.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

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Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

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Barry Buchanan, Council Chair

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Kristi Felbinger, Minutes Transcription