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Whatcom County Council
Surface Water Work Session

February 19, 2019

CALL TO ORDER

Council Chair Rud Browne 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: Barbara Brenner, Rud Browne, Tyler Byrd, Todd Donovan, Carol Frazey, and Satpal Sidhu.
Absent: Barry Buchanan

SURFACE WATER WORK SESSION

1. WATERSHED PLANNING UPDATE

Gary Stoyka, Public Works Department, reported and answered questions on the status of developing a stormwater utility and on watershed planning, including: the stormwater utility advisory committee meeting schedule; the schedule for developing and adopting the utility; presenting the proposed stormwater utility to Council in May; the Watershed Management Board meeting schedule; the interlocal agreement for the Watershed Management Board structure; the roles of the County Council and the Planning Unit on water issues; proposed changes to the 2018-2023 work plan; and the proposed 2019 work plan items.

Steve Jilk, Public Utility District (PUD) General Manager, answered questions on watershed improvement districts (WIDs) and their funding.

2. MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE OLYMPIA OYSTER PROJECT

Austen Rose, Public Works Department, submitted and read from a presentation and answered questions. On compatible oyster species, a potential commercial operation at Chuckanut Bay, and creating a reef.

3. OVERVIEW OF RECENT FLOOD DAMAGES

Paula Harris, Public Works Department, submitted and read from a presentation and answered questions on flood planning projects and flood hazard reduction projects; adjustments to stream flow gauges and rating curves; sediment fill at Everson and more frequent flooding; whether dredging could be permitted; and the status of and need for upcoming levee repairs.

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OTHER BUSINESS

Councilmembers discussed having a special meeting the next day to address staffing for the drop-in warming shelter.

Tyler Schroeder, Executive's Office, answered questions on the administration's efforts to track shelter use in the community during the recent weather event and the need for an emergency declaration.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

The Council approved these minutes on March 12, 2019.

ATTEST:

Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

Jill Nixon, Minutes Transcription

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Rud Browne, Council Chair