

Whatcom County Council
Surface Water Work Session

June 25, 2019

CALL TO ORDER

Council Vice-Chair Todd Donovan called the meeting to order at 10:31 a.m. in the Civic Center Garden Level Conference Room, 322 Commercial Avenue, Bellingham, Washington.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Tyler Byrd

1. WATERSHED PLANNING UPDATE

Gary Stoyka, Public Works Department, reported on the following items and answered questions:

- Watershed Management Board meeting schedules, agendas, and the five year work plan.
- Management Team meeting work on the regional water supply plan
- Funding for water conservation efforts, including domestic and agricultural water efficiency plans
- Groundwater model phase four deliverable is to simulate impacts to drainage or regional scale activities
- The Water Utility Coordinating Committee meeting schedule and recommendations for an update to the coordinated water system plan (CWSP)

The following people answered questions:

- Steve Jilk, Public Utility District (PUD)
- Henry Bierlink, Ag Water Board

Councilmembers and staff discussed the PUD developing a drought contingency plan and whether the County and Planning Unit should be involved, water conservation efforts in domestic use and in the cities and industrial areas, and preserving water rights in the water bank.

2. HOMEOWNERS INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Ingrid Enschede, Public Works Department, gave a staff report on the following items and answered questions:

- Origin and history of the homeowners incentive program (HIP)
- Current work with the Conservation District to engage homeowners
- The professional certification program
- The two tiers of the program
- Program easement requirements and reimbursement
- How the process works for a homeowner
- Accomplishments to date and next steps

- Landscaping design examples
- Program statistics
- Program challenges

Gary Stoyka, Public Works Department, answered questions.

Councilmembers and staff discussed the program's total goal of phosphorous removal, the main differences between the early program (HIP 1) and the most recent version of the program (HIP 2.0), whether they can engage volunteers to work on projects, monitoring, the process for changing an agreement, next steps with the City of Bellingham, and the budget.

The following people spoke:

- Nancy Alyanak spoke about calculation of phosphorous reduction calculations.
- Kathy Sabel spoke about the drought contingency plan, the need for public hearings on water planning, and the water resource inventory area (WRIA) 1 framework.
- Ellen Baker spoke about concerns about a 50-year plan outside a public process.
- Carol Perry spoke about the need for the Council to provide leadership, clarity, and assurance that every stakeholder is included at the table.
- *Unidentified speaker* spoke about Whatcom County as the lead agency for watershed planning.


ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

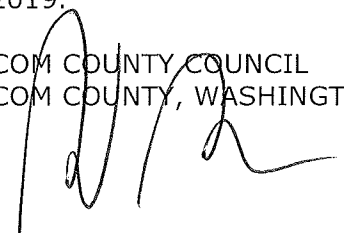
The Council approved these minutes on July 23, 2019.

ATTEST


Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk


Jill Nixon, Minutes Transcription

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON


Rud Browne, Council Chair