

Whatcom County Council Natural Resources Committee

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



Committee Minutes - Draft Minutes

VIRTUAL MEETING - VIEW ONLINE; ENDS NO LATER THAN 9:15 A.M.

Tuesday, November 10, 2020

8:45 AM

Virtual Meeting

COUNCILMEMBERS

Todd Donovan
Ben Elenbaas
Carol Frazey

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Dana Brown-Davis, C.M.C.

Call To Order

Committee Chair Todd Donovan called the meeting to order at 8:46 a.m. in a virtual meeting.

Roll Call

Present: 3 - Todd Donovan, Ben Elenbaas and Carol Frazey

Absent: None

Also present: Rud Browne, Barry Buchanan, Tyler Byrd, and Kathy Kershner

Committee Discussion and Recommendation to Council

1. [AB2020-497](#) Public Works staff will provide an update to Council on the discussion at the WRIA1 Watershed Management Board meeting on October 29, 2020 of the County Executive's Comprehensive Water Settlement concept and request that Council make a motion to proceed with the settlement concept

Gary Stoyka, Public Works Department, briefed the Councilmembers.

The following people also spoke:

- Henry Bierlink
- Satpal Sidhu, County Executive

Councilmembers and the speakers discussed bringing in a facilitator early on and for the whole settlement process, potential facilitators, making sure the facilitator does not have an agenda or a history with any of the parties involved, how to move this forward if they do not know whether the Tribes are on board, whether the Tribes need to express if they are on board before asking the Watershed Management Board to approve the "white paper" for a local settlement process, engaging in a community discussion whether there is an adjudication or not, asking the State for additional money to facilitate a parallel process, whether a decision needs to be made today before hearing from the Tribal Councils, gathering more technical information about groundwater modeling before a process begins, and not sending a signal that this process is in lieu of adjudication

Frazey moved to recommend approval of bringing the framework forward and starting to work on it.

Donovan restated the motion and asked if it includes recognizing that it is not exclusive to adjudication.

Frazey accepted the friendly amendment in her motion to recommend approval of bringing the framework forward and starting to work on it, recognizing that it is not exclusive to adjudication.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 2 - Frazey and Donovan

Nay: 0

Abstain: 1 - Elenbaas

This agenda item was FORWARDED TO COUNCIL WITH RECOMMENDED MOTION(S).

Items Added by Revision

There were no agenda items added by revision.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:17 a.m.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

Todd Donovan, Committee Chair

Kristi Felbinger, Minutes Transcription