

Whatcom County Council Water Work Session

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



Minutes - Final

**Tuesday, January 21, 2020
10:30 AM
Civic Center Building Garden Room**

COUNCILMEMBERS

Rud Browne
Barry Buchanan
Tyler Byrd
Todd Donovan
Ben Elenbaas
Carol Frazey
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 10:30 a.m. in the Civic Center Garden Level Conference Room, 322 Commercial Avenue, Bellingham, Washington.

Roll Call

Present: 4 - Barry Buchanan, Tyler Byrd, Carol Frazey and Kathy Kershner

Absent: 3 - Rud Browne, Todd Donovan and Ben Elenbaas

Floodplains by Design Grant 2021-2023 Grant Round

Paula Harris, Public Works Department, gave a presentation summarizing how the various flood planning programs work together, criteria for ranking projects, projects included in the 2019-2021 Floodplains By Design grant funding, proposed or continuation of projects for the 2021-2023 grant, and how they fit into overall capital projects.

Harris and Jon Hutchings, Public Works Department Director, answered questions about property lines as they relate to the river and land acquisitions for future levee reconfiguration and how that reconfiguration could affect the bridge, landowners that might be impacted by work on Jones and Glacier-Gallup Creeks, and the cause of the flooding problem on Slater road and how it might be addressed.

Watershed Planning Update

Gary Stoyka, Public Works Department, updated the Council on and answered questions about watershed planning including the Department of Ecology's evaluation process for determining whether the Nooksack river basin would be a candidate for adjudication, an effort led by the Public Utility District (PUD) to do a regional water supply plan, water use efficiency, recent meeting objectives of the Planning Unit, and County staff's work with other various agencies regarding stream flow restoration projects and grant funding. He also updated Councilmembers and answered questions on the next five-year work plan for Lake Whatcom and work with a consultant on potential impacts from septic systems on the lake.

The following people spoke:

Carole Perry

Planning Unit Presentation

Gary Stoyka, Public Works Department, introduced the presentation and the following people spoke:

Kathy Sable presented from the private well owners caucus about permit-exempt

wells, Nooksack River adjudication, and legislation concerning comprehensive plans.

Karlee Deatherage presented from the environmental caucus and answered questions about updating the 2005 Watershed Management Plan, stream flow rule making, and how caucus members of the Planning Unit are appointed.

Max Perry and others (not named) answered questions about how caucus representatives are elected to the Planning Unit and a prior rule about each caucus updating the Council annually with a list of its goals.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

The County Council approved these minutes on February 11, 2020.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

Barry Buchanan, Council Chair

Kristi Felbinger, Minutes Transcription

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