

# **Whatcom County Council Water Work Session**

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



## **Minutes - Final**

**Tuesday, September 22, 2020  
10:30 AM  
VIRTUAL MEETING**

### **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 a virtual meeting.

**Roll Call**

**Present:** 3 - Barry Buchanan, Todd Donovan and Carol Frazey

**Absent:** 4 - Rud Browne, Tyler Byrd, Ben Elenbaas and Kathy Kershner

**Water Resources Update**

Gary Stoyka, Public Works Department, updated the Councilmembers on the following items:

- Lake Whatcom updates
- Watershed Planning
- Water Use Efficiency Projects
- Adjudication

He answered questions about what the solutions to water supply problems might be in drainage basins and how much the funding would be for the enhanced water use efficiency program.

Satpal Sidhu, County Executive, spoke about the Department of Ecology's pending recommendation for adjudication in the Nooksack and Upper Columbia Basins. The Administration, along with the Natural Resources Department, has prepared a white paper settlement proposal. They consulted with the major parties during the drafting of the proposal and have shared it with Lummi and Nooksack. They also requested a position paper and would like every affected party to write out what their vision is for what the ideal settlement should look like, share it with the other parties, then just concentrate on what they do not agree on. The County will be a neutral facilitator.

He answered questions about the nature of the position paper and what the agricultural community may not cooperate with. He stated he is going to make a request to the Department of Ecology and the Legislature to give the County \$200,000 for each of the next five years to facilitate these settlement talks and is also still on track to hire a director-level person to focus on all water issues.

Stoyka updated the Councilmembers on the dates and topics of the next Watershed Management Board and Planning Unit meetings.

### **Lake Whatcom Stormwater Utility Capital Facilities Charge**

The following staff briefed the Councilmembers and answered questions.

- Kraig Olason, Public Works Department
- Cathy Craver, Public Works Department

Olason answered whether the proposed amendment is just to fix problems with the language of the original Ordinance which set up a capital facilities charge and not a policy change.

Craver went over the proposed changes to the Code language and answered what the dollar amount would be if they were to collect it and whether it is a one-time or a per-year charge.

### **2021-2026 Water Resources Improvement Plan**

The following staff briefed the Councilmembers:

Kraig Olason, Public Works Department  
Paula Harris, Public Works Department

Olason answered questions about how Whatcom County was going to be able to partner with Kitsap County on the Geneva Bioretention Pilot Project, and whether none of the projects are using the stormwater utility funds after 2023.

Harris briefed the Councilmembers on River and Flood projects and answered a question about the dollar amount listed for the Everson Overflow Pipeline Bank Stabilization project.

### **WRIA 1 Planning Unit**

Skip Richards briefed the Councilmembers on items scheduled on the Planning Unit's upcoming agenda for September 23, 2020.

### **Other Business**

There was no other business.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 11:51 a.m.

The County Council approved these minutes on October 13, 2020.

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

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