

Whatcom County Council Climate Action and Natural Resources Committee

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



Committee Minutes - Final

**Tuesday, May 10, 2022
10:30 AM
Hybrid Meeting**

**HYBRID MEETING - ADJOURNS BY 10:55 A.M. (PARTICIPATE IN-PERSON OR
SEE REMOTE JOIN INSTRUCTIONS AT www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil
OR CALL 360.778.5010)**

COUNCILMEMBERS

**Todd Donovan
Ben Elenbaas
Kaylee Galloway**

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Dana Brown-Davis, C.M.C.

Call To Order

Committee Chair Kaylee Galloway called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. in a hybrid meeting.

Roll Call

Present: 3 - Todd Donovan, Ben Elenbaas, and Kaylee Galloway

Absent: None

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

Announcements

Committee Discussion

1. [AB2022-271](#) Discussion of Stewart Mountain Community Forest Phase I
Chris Elder, Public Works Department, presented.

He answered whether the 5,500 acres represents the whole acquisition or just phase one, whether the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) -owned lands represented in green (on the presentation slide) are the plots that were included in the Commissioner's recent pilot program, who would be doing the active management of the merchantable timber in the long run, how the application was presented to the State Funding Board and whether it includes both the Stewart Mountain Community Forest phase one and the Acme Floodplain, whether money from the \$3.7 million could be used to pay back the Conservation Futures Fund, whether the Stewart Mountain topography is such that it could be a location in which we could store water for salmon in the summer, why Whatcom County would apply for the grant and use Conservation Futures Funds to allow the Whatcom Land Trust to purchase and own the property, whether this proposal has been through the forest and flood advisory boards and whether they have gotten feedback from community members, whether the Council can get another look at the grant proposal when it comes through as far as what is happening with that money, whether how the forest is managed would potentially increase stream flows, and the relationship between stream flows and the maturity of trees.

Alex Jeffers, Whatcom Land Trust Conservation Manager, also answered the question about stream flow and the age of trees.

This agenda item was DISCUSSED.

Items Added by Revision

There were no agenda items added by revision.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:56 a.m.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

Kaylee Galloway-via email 5/11/2022

Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

Kaylee Galloway, Committee Chair

Kristi Felbinger, Minutes Transcription

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