

WRIA 1 Planning Unit Governance and Funding Committee (GFC) Draft January 10, 2018 Meeting Summary

Attendees: Terry Montonye, Dick Whitmore, Rebecca Schlotterback, Karen Brown, Paul Isacson, Linda Twitchell, Dan Eisses, Andy Ross. Max and Carole Perry, Cathy Sable, Ellen Baker, Cliff Langley in audience.

This Summary is divided into three sections, I – III.

I. Agenda:

The format of the agenda was discussed. In the future the agenda will be a discrete document included with other supporting materials instead of only being in the text of the email that describes the meeting.

II. Satpal Sidhu's questions/statements:

Whatcom County Councilmember Satpal Sidhu's questions/statements to the WRIA 1 Planning Unit (Planning Unit) were discussed and draft responses developed for Planning Unit review and approval. Below are the questions/statements in *italics* and the draft responses proposed by the Governance and Funding Committee (GFC).

1. Acknowledge that Whatcom County has a water problem and each caucus / stakeholder wants to be part of local solution for Whatcom County.

The Planning Unit caucuses don't all agree that there is a physical lack of water but do agree and acknowledge that there are immense political and legal challenges/problems regarding water in Whatcom County. The latter essentially eliminates developing practical solutions.

The Planning Unit supports a local solution, which the August 23, 2017 Memorandum from the Planning Unit to the County (attached) addresses through clearly stating what a successful County water resource management program should include and prioritize.

2. Write down three things that are so important for your caucus that these may be deal breakers.

The Planning Unit believes it is better to start from areas of agreement than disagreement. To that end, the Planning Unit believes the following are critical to successful resolution:

- a. Transparency
- b. Equitability, which is lately a significant issue between the rural and urban populations.
- c. Accountability
- d. Practical solutions—solutions that are based on data and will be effective.

The 8/23/2017 Memorandum to the County addresses the above elements.

3. *Pledge to negotiate in good faith to reach fair solutions for each caucus / stakeholder.*

Yes, and the Planning Unit has been committed to this since the WRIA 1 Watershed Management Project began.

4. *Pledge that accessing Courts will be the last resort to reach a solution on the water issues.*

Yes, with three caveats:

- a. Caucuses cannot stop individual caucus members from going to court.
- b. A court will likely be needed to certify a negotiated settlement.
- c. Court may be required for negotiations to take place in that a Judge can create significant leverage for parties to come to agreement that may not be present without imposed conditions and timelines.

III. January 23, 2018 Surface Water Work Session:

The approach to the Jan. 23, 2018 Whatcom County Surface Water Work Session (SWWS) was discussed. The overall approach is to provide the 3-ring-binder with background information to the new Council members as soon as possible (one additional Councilmember will be selected on January 16, 2018) and utilize the October 2017 Outline (Outline)(attached) with some modification.

The modifications are:

- Briefly cover items previously presented (Items 1 - 4 of the outline) as a primer for new Councilmembers and a refresher for the rest. Items 1 - 4 were covered at the September, October, and November 2017 Surface Water Work Sessions.
- Focus on the three recommendations of the August 23, 2018 memorandum (attached) from the Planning Unit to the County. The Outline originally only addressed the first and third recommendations of the 8/23/2017 Memo. The GFC felt that with the new Councilmembers, and in response to Satpal Sidhu's questions/statements, it would be good to cover the public development of a water resources program similar to the 2001 Whatcom County Comprehensive Water Resource Plan.

Dan will lead the discussion for Items 1 - 4 of the Outline and Recommendation No. 2 from the 8/23/2017 Memorandum. Andy will lead the discussion for the first and third recommendations from the 8/23/2017 Memorandum (Items 5 & 6 of the Outline). Other caucus representatives are encouraged to attend the Jan. 23, 2018 SWWS.