

# Point Roberts Community Advisory Committee

Contact: [PRCAC.COMMENT@GMAIL.COM](mailto:PRCAC.COMMENT@GMAIL.COM)

Minutes February, 17, 2022 Regular Meeting

Members Attending:

Chairperson Allison Calder (Point Roberts Registered Voters Association)

Vice Chair Kat Smith (member at large not seeking reappointment)

Annelle Norman (Point Roberts Taxpayers Association)

Bill Zidel (member at large)

Prakash Sundaresan (member at large)

Brian Hunter (member at large)

Call to order: 7:03 pm

Agenda approved unanimously.

Old Business:

Flooding and Stormwater Management.

PowerPoint Presentation by (hereafter referred as “County”) Public Works Jim Karcher (Whatcom County Engineer) and Kraig Oleson (Whatcom County

Stormwater Program Manager) describing the necessity of inventory and analysis of adequacy of Stormwater conveyance and potential funding sources for an evaluation of Stormwater issues in Point Roberts. The importance of separating public right of ways via Transportation Benefit District funds from private impacts and other appropriate funding was emphasized. At this point the discussion was opened to public comment.

Pat Grubb - Asks what objective analysis has been performed to determine the requested objective analysis is necessary, why TBD funds used here, but not other places in County, and does this warrant creation of a drainage district? Believes there were limited impacts in totality on Point and doesn't understand why this amount of spending happening. Requests all e mails received by PRCAC regarding this issue.

Chairperson interjects there were home interiors that had 2' of water.

Pat Harper - Requests design for 100 year flood minimum. Suggests drives crossing from county road to private property may require 24" pipe.

County notes that even

100 year flood design would have been inadequate with November storms.

Kate Wilson - lives at SE corner of Drake and Nelson. Their property flooded by the overflow from Johnson adjacent to dump where it crosses roadway and drains North. She notes the ditch drains in Monte Drive a few properties to the west are completely dry, while her property floods. Floods preclude use of septic, therefore no toilet or use of water via drain. Every year redoing flooring and drywall. 5 or 6 other properties in neighborhood suffer same impacts. Offered to send Pat Grubb videos of fire department digging trenches through her yard trying to save house given his declared ignorance of extent of impacts.

Pat Harper - notes approved subdivision next to his property just runs drainage straight on to his private property without any mitigation and dumps it making a mess.

Lori Shantzis - concerned that County doesn't maintain drainage culverts, and that some county roads drain directly into private property which when ice forms makes for grave liability. Requests County sending out public information outreach notice of maintenance responsibilities for drainages adjacent to roadways.

County responds that they maintain to a rural level of services. When development exceeds that standard to an urban level, like Point Roberts, the County is not presently budgeting for level of maintenance required for that density. Plus there are improvements that have occurred without benefit of permitting that County may be unaware that further compromise integrity of system. To make matters worse existing design of drainage ditches, such as Johnson Road, adjacent to roadway oftentimes go nowhere, and don't work when you need them. System needs to be retrofitted, how it has been done elsewhere in County.

Katie Taylor - expressed support for the importance of inventory citing her background of working professionally with Stormwater group.

Annelle Norman - given Point Roberts designed for rural, but built to urban density where does planning and development approvals interface with storm water? Adequacy of infrastructure prior to or concurrent with development approvals, whether building or grading or grubbing, should be mandatory. Why is this not occurring when this assessment is long overdue?

County responds given there is no overall Stormwater plan for Point Roberts everything has been done piecemeal for 80 years. This supports the necessity for

an inventory and analysis of public and private drainage, as otherwise it's an inadequate evaluation for the cumulative environmental impact approach.

John Lesow - requested clarification of proposed study area. Also noted that Johnson Road is a problem that should have never happened given TBD money spent on design. Thanks County for their input.

Chairperson clarifies study area all of Point Roberts and breaks down funding request by task.

Krispian - Simundson nearly impassable with flooding.

Bill - Boundary Bay north of Johnson being undermined by ditch that has expanded from 4' deep to 7' deep in couple years.

Chairperson - given Point Roberts puts in about \$90,000/year to Whatcom County flood control district and to best of our knowledge funds never expended here what can PRCAC do to encourage proactive timely response on our request on part of County Council?

County suggests letter to Council requesting comprehensive Stormwater evaluation

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County - Maple Beach seawall construction will be initiated this Spring due to tides and weather.

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## Old Business

Prakash Sundaresan - Update on Broadband. Spoke with both Port of Bellingham and Whidbey Telecom if they required anything at this time from PRCAC. Port said no. Whidbey requested letter of support for their application which PRCAC produced.

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Bill Zidel - update on Main Street program to include review of process. Met with State of Washington personnel who provided shell documents as templates. Working at this time on Articles of Incorporation.

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Open At Large Positions - to date three applicants for two positions. Set Candidates night as March 14, 2022 7 pm

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Annelle Norman - feedback on response to survey request re: Port of Bellingham may have interest in purchasing marina. 27 responses. 20 support. 3 negative without specificity. 4 with both pros and cons. While the Port as a robust public entity has the

wherewithal and experience to professionally run the marina, the fear was raised that even though all that it does occurs in public versus private domain it may not listen to community and change quality of life, ambiance, and small town feel of Point Roberts with development.

John Lesow requests all comment letters be made available to public. They will be included as part of minutes for this meeting, once minutes adopted at regular March meeting.

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Chairperson revisits necessary steps to initiate Stormwater drainage studies.

Annelle Norman - how long before actual flood improvement projects can be initiated?

Chairperson indicates analysis would go through winter cycle. Once reports available County Public Works will prioritize by necessity and scope. At this point County has stated they will bring back to PRCAC and report.

Kat Smith - Recognizes County has an unrealized obligation to provide adequate drainage and Stormwater infrastructure. However our creative interest in resolution may act as catalyst to action on their part.

Chairperson indicates without adequate infrastructure ability to increase tax base and provide commercial opportunities for residents and visitors is extremely limited.

Annelle Norman - suggests we develop a wish list of projects as County is doing study so that when asked it's not something we have to develop.

Motion made and passed unanimously to direct Brian Hunter to write letter to County Council, County Executive, and County Public Works to request initiation of inventory and analysis of Point Roberts Stormwater infrastructure.

Kat Smith - Suggest further information from County Public Works re: birch bay funding processes.

Chairperson - notes such process would require ballot as creates new line on property taxes.

Prakash Sundaresan - requests mitigation of critical issues in timely fashion that shouldn't have to wait for study.

Chairperson - explains County will handle emergencies as they arise. (Loses zoom capability at 8:56 pm)



Brian Hunter - notes Whatcom County Development Standards Section 205 (c) already allows County to correct stormwater deficiencies identified and bill property owner if property owner doesn't correct in timely manner.

9 pm Motion to adjourn, unanimous