



**Clean Water Commission Meeting Summary**

Wednesday, Feb. 7, 2024 at 6:30 pm

Hybrid Meeting via WebEx and in the PSC Conference Room 698

**I. ROLL CALL**

Meeting called to order at 6:35 pm by Chair Jones. Roll Call was made. Welcome to new Clean Water Commissioners and introductions were made.

**Members Present:** Alejandra Cortes, Ted Gathe, Matthew Jones, Jeff Kessenich, Kate Perkins (v), Rudy Salakory, Phil Struck, and Bob Trost.

**Members Absent:** Sandra Martin-Boehm

**Staff Present:** Devan Rostorfer and Alice Millward

**Public Present:** none *(v) indicates appeared via video conference*

**II. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No requests for access, comments and/or questions were received by staff.

**Approval Meeting Minutes:** Commissioner Trost moved, and Commissioner Kessenich seconded that the December 6, 2023, minutes be approved as written.

Motion unanimously approved.

Chair Jones moved, and Commissioner Salakory seconded that the January 31, 2024, minutes be approved as written. Motion unanimously approved.

**III. PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION / RECOMMENDATION / ACTION**

**Clean Water Division Overview – Devan Rostorfer, Clean Water Division Manager**

- Devan outlined the division’s goals for 2024.
- Stormwater Rate Study: Due to potential funding shortfalls and fund balance depletion, the Division needs to have this completed by Fall of 2024 so that if the Council changes the fee amount it can be ready for the 2025 billing. Clark County has the lowest clean water fee in the state and locally by a significant amount. (Most are at least double.) Clean Water is an enterprise fund and does not receive monies from the general fund. The rate study is being conducted internally rather than with a consultant as directed by County leadership. Due to limited scheduling availability in 2023, Clean Water’s work session with Council about the rate study was held on January 31, 2024. Devan discussed the timeline moving forward and that she will be requesting CWC feedback to Council for their preferred level of service.
- She updated the Commission on the progress of the Interlocal Agreement (ILA) with the city of Camas which focuses on the water quality and management of the Lacamas Lake watershed. Later this month, the Division will be issuing an RFP for Vancouver Lake management which is being funded by a legislative proviso secured by the Friends of Vancouver Lake.



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- Devan requested feedback on the method and level of detail the Commission would like to receive information about the division during meetings and in her reports. It was recommended that division milestones be included on the CWC meeting agendas, and the Commission is happy level of detail she is providing since it greatly enhances the CWC's ability to advise staff and the county leadership.

### **CW Staff Liaison Report – Alice Millward, CW Program Assistant.**

- Alice informed the Commission of the regular 2024 meeting schedule and requested feedback regarding number and format for special meetings, and if the CWC would like to resume the practice of going a field trip this year.
- She reminded all Commissioners to make sure their OPMA certification is up to date and that she is cc'd on all emails for ease of possible public record request retrieval.
- This year, the CWC leadership will be able to directly request from Council a work session date to present the 2023 Annual Plan rather than going through county staff. She will send the request form to the Chair and Vice Chair.

### **Education and Community Engagement – Eric Lambert, Educational Outreach Specialist.**

- In Eric's [written update](#), he highlighted the events Clean Water has participated in. He is currently focused on the student video contest which will be launched next week. Eric has also been very active in the business Pollution Prevention Assistance (PPA) program.

### **Unfinished Business:**

- The Clean Water Commission tabled approval of the 2023 Annual Report since the final and key piece to be written will be decided at the meeting tonight: the 2024 priorities and action plans. The draft will be sent to Alice in time that she can format it into the formal report and will be ready for approval at the April meeting.
- Discussion ensued regarding the need to update the County Code revolving around the CWC and correspondence sent to Council in August. Staff will send those documents to all commissioners after the meeting.

### **New Business:**

- The Clean Water Commission discussed their possible goals and action plans for 2024. The possible topics included organizing a Vancouver Lake symposium, supporting Clean Water Division's rate study, CWC code revisions, environmental justice, phosphate reduction education and possible legislative actions, and holistic watershed health – moving beyond stormwater permit compliance. They decided on a very ambitious set of goals for 2024.
  - Backing the Clean Water rate study efforts and any possible rate changes. This include public engagement and letters of support to the County Council.



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- Organize a Vancouver Lake Symposium which would be similar to last year's Lacamas Watershed Symposium format. Commissioner Gathe volunteered to lead this work group.
- Continue to pursue with staff the ongoing need to update the CWC code to reflect the current county structure and the Clean Water Commission's strategic plan.
- Within all three of the primary goals, the CWC wants to feature environmental justice emphasis, public engagement focused on overburdened and underrepresented populations, and incorporating the holistic watershed health.

### **Roundtable Discussion:**

- Devan thanked the new Commissioners for their willingness to serve on the commission.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 pm.



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## **VI. ADJOURN – 8:15 PM**

Summary provided by: Alice Millward, Clark County Staff Liaison / 564.397.5267

*Audio/video recordings of this and most previous Clean Water Commission meetings are available through the county website at: <https://www.clark.wa.gov/public-works/clean-water-commission>.*