



Meeting Summary

Wednesday, September 7, 2022, at 6:30 pm

Webex Video Conference Due to Covid-19 Pandemic

I. ROLL CALL

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm. Roll Call was made.

Members Present: Brendan Addis, Michelle Girts, Rodger Hauge, Matthew Jones (phone), Jeff Kessenich, Marie LaManna, Sandra Martin-Boehm, Josh Seeds, and Bob Trost.

Member(s) Absent: none

Staff Present: Brent Davis, Eric Lambert, and Alice Millward

Public Present: Peter Bracchi

Review and Approval of Meeting Summary:

Commissioner Seeds moved, and Commissioner Hauge seconded to approve the regular July 6, 2022, meeting summary as written. Motion passed unanimously.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

Resident, Peter Bracchi, presented his concerns about the impacts of the homeless encampments on private property within the city limits of Vancouver which are potentially negatively impacting the Burnt Bridge Creek watershed critical areas. He has been raising awareness and advocating for land restoration, shoreline management plan revisions and wetland mitigation for this area with various governmental agencies. It has been frustrating due to the bureaucratic hoops due to multiple jurisdictions involved.

No other requests for access, comments and/or questions were received as of 6:00 pm by staff.

III. PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION / RECOMMENDATION / ACTION

Brent Davis, Interim Clean Water Division Manager, reported that he is starting to settle in and helping Clean Water to keep moving forward. He is addressing the staffing needs. They are already advertising for a new public works director. Currently, he is working with Jeff Schnabel on the 6-year capital plan which will be approved by Council at the end of the year.



Education and Outreach report: Eric Lambert, Senior Outreach Specialist, gave these outreach highlights of what is going on currently in Clean Water.

- Eric has been working on the new phase of the permit's behavior change project – the Canines for Clean Water along two trails.
 - In 2021, the pilot program near Cougar Creek averaged approximately 45 poop counts per month. They focused having a kiosk, advocating Canines for Clean Water at the trail, and taking pictures of people after taking the pledge.
 - In 2022, had varying results yielding from the same outreach efforts. One trail had an average 7 piles per month after the campaign while the one at Daybreak averaged 43 piles.
- The winners were selected for the second annual student watershed video contest. There were 63 entries. The six \$500 first place prizes and \$100 honorable mentions were donated by various businesses. The winning videos were played at the City of Camas' movies in the park in August.
- Washington Stormwater Center will be hiring a state-wide coordinator who will be able to help jurisdictions with their outreach efforts.
- Several years ago, we received a grant from Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board (LCFRB) to replace many of the watershed signs. However, it didn't cover all of the county's jurisdiction such as the East Fork of the Lewis River. This fall we will start to install new signs in these areas that were not a part of the original grant project.
- The Clean Water Coalition's "Follow the Water" campaign is very active and is working on a broader awareness campaign which connects people's behaviors with waterways and exposing the public to best and alternative practices. An example of this is "What's your lawn style?" which focused on toxic and pesticide reductions.
- The Stormwater Partners group is working on their next symposium which will be mid-November. Eric will send out a 'save the date' when it is finalized. The presentations will be very interesting and informative.

Staff Liaison Report: Alice Millward, Program Assistant, gave an overview of Public Works and Clean Water:

- Annual Report for 2022: Reminder to please start compiling your monthly community engagement dates and activities as well as any educational development and send to Alice. Pictures of water activities and natural settings – preferably Clark County. We will do a group picture at the October and/or November meetings.
- At the October 5, 2022, Fall Special Meeting: Alice currently has Eric scheduled to do the Enviroscope Demonstration and Elaine Placido the Executive Director for LCEP (Lower Columbia Estuary Project). They provide education and outreach to hundreds of students each year which culminates in a field trip to Lake Vancouver. During the pandemic they created many dynamic hands-on and innovative lesson plans. She could also have Jeff Schnabel give a short presentation about the new 6-year Capital Infrastructure plan. Or we can schedule time for work groups to meet and/or more intensive Round Table where the commissioners can better get to know each other. The Commissioners would like to have more time dedicated to the roundtable so at least part of the meeting can be set aside for that.



- 2023 Commissioners and Term Expirations: Commissioners Girts and LaManna have indicated that they will not be seeking another term. Commissioner Jones would like to continue serving and will submit an application. We really want to focus on getting this info out to diverse populations in our area. Alice will identify contacts of diverse local organizations and will be more inclusive in our communication efforts about the opportunity to serve. She will work on updating the selection matrix to address some of the biases.
- Miscellaneous:
 - Eric and Alice discussed this summer that we want to revamp the CWC web page. We'd like to get head shots (or your own supplied picture – doesn't need to be professional) to add to the Commissioner biography page. Pictures will be taken at the October and November meetings.
 - Pipe Trekker was approved yesterday by council. Public Works Director, Eva Haney's last day was Friday Sept. 2nd. A lot of reports for stormwater and grading infractions
 - Clean Water is considering naming a subsidiary creek that we are focusing a lot of modeling work on. It is currently being referred to as MIL2.

Working Group Updates: Research, Partnerships and Outreach: Each working group gave an update.

Bylaws Group: Commissioner LaManna reported that she and Alice are working on it . They reviewed the current CWC bylaws and several other county advisory boards. They have started to update the CWC bylaws and are looking to include diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) within the bylaws whenever possible. There have been discussions on how often to meet (monthly vs. bimonthly) and what long-term strategies should be employed to increase awareness of the group in the county. (This also includes hybrid versus only in-person meetings in the future and how to encourage greater public access.) Also discussed were the effectiveness of the working groups meetings as a replacement for the off-month meetings. There may be some more opportunities to explore. More feedback is needed regarding the Work Groups' Annual Plans. It may make more sense to either not have this stated in the bylaws or change the language to focus is on larger goals or projects which may encompass short, moderate or long-term aspects. Is this approach more realistic?

Research Group (Seeds-chair, Addis, Trost)

- Chair Seeds indicated they have not met. They are putting together their scoping document and may be reaching out for clarification of operations and scientific analysis.
- Creek Naming project had a very successful meeting in May. Commissioner Addis met with the County Historical Preservation Commission to explain the project and discuss potential ways they can support our efforts. The Creek Naming group is still looking to shift focus towards telling the narrative and history of the Chinese



community in the local area. The group is starting to dive deeply into the research and then they will develop the story to be told. The goal is not to “white-wash” this but to educate the general public.

- The potential vision for this project is that their county parks land near China Ditch could be used as a Clean Water mitigation site and could have installed educational aspects about the Chinese diaspora in Vancouver. Rocky Houston, the Parks Manager, is aware of this possible long-term, grant-funded goal.

Outreach & Engagement Group (LaManna-chair, Jones, Hauge)

- Chair LaManna indicated that their group has not met. They would like to have an annual engagement / roundtable discussion with the CWC as a whole. The commission decided to dedicate a large portion of the October meeting to the round table.
- They are finalizing their goals for the year and looking at more medium range goals.
- They are creating training packets for new commissioners which they hope to have finished by the end of the year.
- Outreach group is also working on how to diversify recruiting and be more inclusive of the whole community. They may enlist our public relations department to help reach out more to actively engage the public.

Partnerships Group (Girts-chair, Kessenich, Martin-Boehm)

- Commissioner Kessenich reported that they have developed three-pronged approach. The first will look at partnering internally within Clark County. (How can the CWC help with the clean water lifecycle, land use, monitoring, permitting, and development cycles that affect water quality.) Secondly, to look for opportunities to be involved with the capital planning and asset management planning. Thirdly, to bring DEI more in the fore front and potentially have another working group focused on this area to assist with broadening the recruitment and how to address the environmental justice aspects. How does the CWC address these issues more holistically, watershed, multi-jurisdictional level rather than only focused what the county can solely do?

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Chair Addis has had several professional and personal changes this year which are impacting his ability to actively lead the commission as chair. He would like to the rest of the commission to consider stepping into this role either now or in November.

- The CWC discussed how DEI ties in with environmental justice, the commissions’ mission statement, strategic plan, under-served communities, the GIS demographics, what the county is doing through their employee DEI group.



V. NEW BUSINESS / COMMISSION DISCUSSION TIME

- Commissioner Round Table: None at this time.

VI. ADJOURN – 8:13 PM

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

Audio 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>.