



Clean Water Commission Meeting Summary

Wednesday, June 7, 2023

6:30 pm - 8:45 pm

Hybrid Meeting via WebEx and in the PSC Conference Room 698

I. ROLL CALL

Meeting called to order at 6:33 pm by Vice Chair Trost. Roll Call was made.

Members Present: Ted Gathe, Rodger Hauge, Jeff Kessenich, Sandra Martin-Boehm(v), Kate Perkins, Bob Trost, and Josh Seeds

Members Absent: Matthew Jones

(v) indicates appeared via video conference

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

Public Present: none

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

None. No requests for access, comments and/or questions were received by staff.

Approval Meeting Minutes: Commissioner Kessenich moved, and Commissioner Gathe seconded that the April 5, 2023, minutes be approved as submitted. Motion unanimously approved.

III. PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION / RECOMMENDATION / ACTION

Clean Water Division Overview – Brent Davis, Interim Clean Water Manager.

- Brent shared a presentation which lays the groundwork for the need to have a rate scoping study conducted. The graphical data starkly shows the trends of decreasing revenues and significant increasing in workloads. Brent used data from Andrea Logue's financial forecasting of expenses and income, Clean Water's workload, the permit requirements, and staffing needs. Currently, staff is proposing this to be done via contractor due to lack of bandwidth. The fee was last adjusted in 2015 and is currently at \$47 per year for a single-family home. Surrounding local Phase II permittees' fees are 200-400% higher. Brent answered several questions regarding how the fund balance policy and large capital projects play into this. This presentation will be given to financial and elected leadership to start to tell the story of the division needs, major projects, and the possible consequences of not meeting those needs. There isn't a plan B except potentially be in permit noncompliance. Whatever the future rate is determined, hopefully there will be a mechanism for annual inflationary increases so that this doesn't occur again. Brent believes that there is a role for the CWC in this process which will be determined in the future by the permanent manager.
- Still waiting for the CW manager position to be posted and recruitment to begin. Brent's last day as interim manager will be June 30. He has enjoyed his time working with the commission and the Clean Water division.



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

- The Student Watershed Monitoring Network held their culminating event. It had a different format than past years.
- The winners of the Students for Clean Water video contests through the Stormwater Partners will be publicly shown at movies in the park in later this summer. These students created short (30-60 second) videos about water quality in the same major categories and \$500 and \$100 cash prizes as previous years. You can find them linked on the website.

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

- Alice reminded all commissioners to turn in their OPMA certifications right away. The basics and links are in her written report. There are several who are not up to date.
- In a related note, she asked that commissioners make sure to cc Alice on all CWC emails. This makes the public records requests much easier to provide and less intrusive for individuals.
- She also asked commissioners to send her their availability for July and August in order to facilitate scheduling the work session with council.

Unfinished Business:

- The Clean Water Commission briefly reviewed the 2022 Annual Report. *Commissioner Gathe moved and Commissioner Perkins seconded the motion to approve the report as written. The motion passed unanimously.*
- The Role of the Commission Work Group outlined the steps they had taken to get to this point. The Chair and Vice Chair met with Councilor Sue Marshall, who served on this commission prior to her election to council. They discussed the out-of-date code and the CWC's desire to have a broader scope than the confines of only stormwater. She requested they draft a letter to her outlining this issue. Discussion ensued regarding the draft of the letter and some wordsmithing occurred. It was agreed to make sure to change "county commission" to "county council" and "city manager" to "county manager". They also agreed to change the verbiage in the first function section from "review and oversight of staff" with regards to "policy and procedures" to "review and support activities" of staff. It was suggested to make the letter addressed to the council as a whole and not to a specific individual, and that they should include the county manager since she is the executive officer. *Acting Chair Trost called for question. The letter was unanimously approved as modified.*
- The Lacamas Watershed Symposium Work Group discussed their efforts as to date. Oct. 25, 2023, has been selected for the symposium due to the NOAA speaker's schedule. They have a full slate of interesting speakers that start at the federal scope then work down through the state, regional, city and local efforts. There will be ample time for presentation and questions for each group. Commissioner Perkins has created an agenda and flyer. This will be by invitation only due to the room and cost constraints. This symposium is focused on the scientific community while breaking down the silos between various organizations so that invitees can. Discussion ensued regarding the food, costs, finances and making sure the county guidelines and processes are adhered to. The commission wondered if they could apply for local grants. Alice will ask



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Brent and legal staff. If the clean water department cannot assist financially, several commissioners indicated that they would be willing to contribute personally. One of the groups who is speaking at the symposium is a 501c3 nonprofit organization. Discussion centering around the list of attendees and how they can be broadened to reflect some of the diversity in the community was also brainstormed including the Cowlitz tribe, Lulac, and Humane Society. In addition to Clark Conservation District, the affected drainage district, and the newspaper, the work group would like to invite some area policy makers, such as the county council, the Camas mayor, and U.S. Representative Marie Gluesenkamp-Perez, so that they can be better informed on the effects of this watershed's health. It was suggested and the agreed that the symposium work group collaborate closely with Public Works Community Engagement staff to make sure that all publications and media releases are meeting county standards prior to being sent out. Commissioner Hauge indicated that they will. Commissioner Hauge moved, and Commissioner Seeds seconded a motion which had a friendly amendment regarding the mechanics. *Motion to: Approve and prepare the invitations and invite list, including the additional agencies and organizations developed at the meeting which will be included by the work group. This should be done as expeditiously as possible so that they can be put on invitees' calendars.* Motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

- Commissioner Addis resigned after the newspaper notice publication deadlines. Discussion ensued regarding how fill a vacancy has happened in the past. The commission directed staff to find a replacement to fulfill the last six months of his term with one of the candidates from the pool of eight candidates from late 2022. The hope is to have individual approved prior to the August meeting.
- Alice requested that there be a small work group who can work with her on updating the bylaws. Vice Chair Trost and Commissioner Martin-Boehm volunteered.

Roundtable Discussion:

- Commissioner Gathe indicated that the draft Vancouver Lake Management Plan will be coming out in July. The commission wondered if Jeff Schnabel could discuss it at a future meeting since he is a technical advisor on it. He wondered if this is a project that the commission would be interested in looking at next year. The commissioners are encouraged to start thinking of ideas and projects for the future.

VI. ADJOURN – 8:32 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>.