



Clean Water Commission Meeting Summary

Wednesday, August 2, 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 6:31 pm by Chair Jones. Roll Call was made.

Members Present: Matthew Jones Ted Gathe, Rodger Hauge, Jeff Kessenich, Justin Maynard (v), Kate Perkins, and Bob Trost.

Members Absent: Sandra Martin-Boehm and Josh Seeds

Staff Present: Jeff Schnabel, Chris Cook, Eric Lambert, Kaley McLachlan-Burton (v), and Alice Millward

Public Present: none

(v) indicates appeared via video conference

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Approval Meeting Minutes: Commissioner Trost moved, and Commissioner Hauge seconded that the June 7, 2023, minutes be approved as submitted. Motion unanimously approved.

III. PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION / RECOMMENDATION / ACTION

Clean Water Division Overview – Jeff Schnabel, covering for Clean Water Manager slot.

- The offer has been made and accepted by top CW manager candidate. They are expected to start mid-August. It has not been announced to staff yet. As soon as it has, Alice will let the CWC know. There were questions as to why the CWC wasn't involved in the hiring process which generated some discussion. It was explained that the county doesn't allow for public involvement in the hiring process of employees because it is considered private and privileged information.
- The new Deputy Public Works Director, Priya Dhanapal, started on Monday. Jeff explained the organizational chart and that Parks, Clean Water, Community Engagement, and the Finance – Business Services divisions will be under her direction.
- Commissioner Gathe requested that Jeff come back later in the year and give a presentation about the Vancouver Lake Management Plan that has just been released since he was on the technical advising committee.



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

- A number of changes and cancellations are happening for upcoming outreach events locally. The DogPaw event on Aug. 12 has been cancelled. The student Watershed Festival in September has been cancelled indefinitely. This was to be the first year back as a live event after Covid, but the Clark Public Utilities has decided to not go forward being the lead organizing agency. .
- The Stormwater Partners have started planning the Nov. 16, Stormwater Partners Symposium which will be held at the Vancouver Water Resources Education Center. They will have a keynote speaker and four or five shorter presentations with an opportunity for networking. Commissioners should be receiving an email invite soon. If you don't, reach out to Alice and she will forward. Chair Jones said he will not be available to attend this year but noted that it is a very interesting and informative event and encouraged the rest of the commission to attend if at all possible. Eric answered a question from Commissioner Gathe regarding the commission's interface with the Stormwater Partners.
- The Council has approved the Pollution Prevention Assistance (PPA) contract with Ecology which assists businesses in their local source control efforts. We are waiting for Dept. of Ecology to sign and return it. Eric will be helping lead the Regional Coordination of the SW WA PPA Specialists. Eric has also started to take on a PPA Specialist role so that he can better lead the group and provide educational engagement with the local business community.
- Eric will be submitting an Ecology grant for the Columbia River Coalition's Follow the Water campaign which will focus on pet waste and stopping residential use of weed and feed on lawns.
- The winners of the Students for Clean Water video contests through the Stormwater Partners will be shown at a City of Vancouver movies in the park event on Aug. 18 in Columbia Tech Center Park. The 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 if they haven't yet. The basics and links to the training are in her written report. There are several commissioners who are not up to date. In a related note, she asked that commissioners make sure to cc her on all CWC emails. This makes the public records requests much easier to provide and less intrusive for individuals.
- As Eric mentioned earlier, the 2023-25 Pollution Prevention Assistance (PPA) awards have been announced. Clean Water will be receiving the largest ever contract (\$400,000+). We have several unique elements that will provide better water quality assistance to businesses across Southwest Washington. She will be creating an Environmental Justice Plan and working to implement it as one of the unique tasks. Among other things, this will include focusing on a creating interpretation materials and access to interpreters when Bob Patterson and Eric are working with lawn care groups who primarily speak Spanish.
- Alice will be on medical leave for about a month starting next week. Jeff Schnabel has agreed to triage any issues related to the CWC so please address any to him.



Unfinished Business:

- The Commission's lightly edited letter to the Council was reviewed. (The Commissioners were provided with a tracked changes and clean copy.) *Commissioner Trost was very comfortable with the edits and moved to accept the changes and send the letter to the Council. Commissioner Hauge seconded. The letter was unanimously approved as modified.*
- The Deputy County Manager, Amber Emery, and Public Works Director, Ken Lader, have determined that the best way to approach the request for CWC work sessions with Council will be to split it into two sessions. The first will be scheduled in the very near future and will focus on what the CWC traditionally has presented: the 2022 annual report and their 2023 work plan which will highlight the Lacamas Watershed Symposium and the Commission's other efforts. Since the Division is without a manager currently and the Deputy Director has just started, they want to have these two individuals weigh in on what they believe the future role of the commission prior to setting the second work session with Council. The current code relating the CWC was originally created in 1999 and is woefully out of date and needs to be updated. The Commission has asked to have patience while we get everyone up to speed so that we can move forward on this. Commissioner Gathe can understand the need to bifurcate the process and strongly encourages the first work session to happen prior to the end of August. The Commissioners request that the new CW Manager, Priya, Ken, and all staff involved to over communicate with everyone during this time period.
- Alice will set up a meeting with Commissioners Trost and Martin-Boehme for the bylaws work meeting to happen when she returns in September, since the three of them were not able to meet prior to this meeting. The work group members are encouraged to review the documents she provided already and come to the table with ideas and suggestions for edits and ways to make more in line with other advisory board's bylaws. (The CWC has the most complex of all of them.)
- The Lacamas Watershed Symposium Work Group discussed their efforts as to date. Oct. 25, 2023, has been selected for the symposium and will be held at the Lacamas Lodge. There is a full slate of interesting speakers that start at the federal scope then work down through the state, regional, city and local efforts. This symposium will be by invitation only due to the room and cost constraints. The symposium is focused on the scientific community while educating and engaging policy makers from the various organizations involved. The Public Works Community Engagement staff created a 'save the date' card which was given to the work group to send out. Alice sent to the County Council and U.S Rep. Gluesenkamp-Perez's office. The PWCE staff updated symposium agenda as well. The Commission reviewed both and were good with the changes. It was determined that Alice will send invitations to the county council, and Representative Marie Gluesenkamp-Perez's office, so that they can be better informed on the effects of this watershed's health. The work group and commission will send out the invitations to the rest of the invitees. Alice indicated that Councilors Medvigy, Marshall, and Yung were planning on attending and that Medvigy was designated as the councilor to speak if needed since it is his district. Since there is a quorum, we will need to make sure there are two public notices sent out. Alice will work with the Council's staff to make sure this happens.



New Business:

- None.

Roundtable Discussion:

- Commissioner Trost summarized the plan moving forward regarding the work sessions with Council. He indicated that he is happy that an expedited path has been made for the Lacamas Watershed Symposium in order to get the materials and invitations out very soon. The process up to now was challenging and frustrating, but he is confident now that participants will be able to receive information in a timely manner. He appreciates staff's willingness and effort to assist with the symposium in getting this moving forward. He anticipates a bright future ahead for the commission and the community. The recent articles in the Columbian about Lacamas and Vancouver lakes, highlight the area's watersheds are very important to everyone and this group can help shepherd these issues forward.

VI. ADJOURN – 7:40 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>.