



Clean Water Commission Meeting Summary

Wednesday, Oct. 4, 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 6:42 pm by Chair Jones. Roll Call was made.

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

Members Absent: Sandra Martin-Boehm

Staff Present: Devan Rostorfer, Jeff Schnabel, Eric Lambert, 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 August 2, 2023, minutes be approved as amended. Motion unanimously approved.

III. PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION / RECOMMENDATION / ACTION

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

- Devan introduced herself and gave a quick summary of her personal and professional background. She is very excited to be at Clean Water and back working in the Vancouver area. She plans to give as much of a detailed division summary as possible in future. The CWC appreciated her level detail and commitment to communicate with them. Her current priorities are as follows:
- The Clean Water Commission in general: holding one on one meetings with all commissioners, the recruitment of new 2024 commissioners, and CWC code update.
- Lacamas Watershed Symposium: focus on the future and provide support so that this event is a success. The County and Camas will be entering into an interlocal agreement regarding Camas' Lake Management Plan
- Fiscal Year 2025 Grant Applications: Eric's nutrient and pesticide reduction grant, Heritage Farm's Wetland Restoration Phase II grant application, and the Poop Smart Clark application.
- Vancouver Lake Proviso: Clean Water recently discovered that there was a funding proviso for the Vancouver Lake which is very time sensitive. We will need to have the RFP published in the first quarter of 2024. Devan will be lead staff on it. Jeff will provide technical assistance.



- Clean Water Fee Study: Due to potential funding shortfalls and fund balance depletion, we need to have this complete by Fall of 2025 so that we know how much the fee will need to be raised by. Clark County has the lowest clean water fee in the state by a significant amount. (Most are at least double.) Clean Water is an enterprise fund and does not receive monies from the general fund. Commissioner Gathe asked how can the CWC support this endeavor? Discussion ensued. *Commissioner Seeds made a motion and Commissioner Hauge seconded it, that a letter of support would be sent to the Council explaining the need for and providing support for an outside consultant to create the fee study. Chair Jones and Commissioner Gathe are designated to work with Devan on drafting the letter. Motion passed unanimously.*
- A new permit will go into effect August 2024 so Devan is working with staff to prepare for the substantial changes anticipated which will include updating our Stormwater Manual, Code, and Stormwater Management Plan.
- The Clean Water Monitoring Group has been very busy this season. They had to take and input 2,500 data points for each site visit which resulted in over 1.3 million data records being generated this year. They are also working on ditch mapping and microbial source (DNA) tracking in local streams.
- There are several key contracts we are in the process of updating. A new asset management system went live yesterday. There are two stormwater retrofit projects we're working on, and Heritage Farms is at 65% complete. They've planted 18,000 trees and shrubs in the 13 acres.
- Due to the limited availability of Council, staff from all departments are having difficulty scheduling work sessions through the end of the year. In all reality, it won't be until 2024, before the CWC will be able to schedule a work session with Council regarding their role and code update. Clean Water is trying
- Devan discussed her long-term goals for the division.

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

- Eric highlighted a number of events Clean Water has participated in this fall. He has also been very active in the business Pollution Prevention Assistance (PPA) program.
- The winning videos of the Students for Clean Water video contests through the Stormwater Partners were shown on Aug. 18, at a City of Vancouver movies in the park event the in Columbia Tech Center Park. CW tabled at the event. 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.
- The Stormwater Partners will be holding on Nov. 16, the 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. They will be sending out an agenda in the near future.
- Eric is submitting an Ecology grant next week for the Columbia River Coalition's Follow the Water campaign. It will focus on four key areas: the overall digital marketing campaign to reach broader audiences, "Changing Currents" – an intertribal water educational part, pet waste and "What's Your Lawn Style?" which is aimed at stopping residential use of weed and feed on lawns and educating professional lawn crews.



Discussion regarding phosphate load reduction occurred. Eric is asking for a letter of support from the CWC in the New Business section.

- Eric will be presenting on Oct. 28, to the iUrban Teen group, which is a BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) group. This event is centered around STEM careers and engaging activities.

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

- Alice is happy to be back at work after being on medical leave for four weeks and is working on getting caught up. She is on the planning committees for several large events happening in October which include the Public Works' employee safety training meeting, and the NW Public Employee's Diversity Conference which will have about 1,600 public employees from SW Washington and Western Oregon in attendance. She is also helping with whatever support is needed for the Lacamas Symposium.
- She reminded all commissioners to please submit photos and any drafts of 2023 accomplishments and 2024 goals before the end of the year. The plan is to have the Annual Report drafted and ready for the Commission to approve at the February meeting. However, the next 4-6 months are the busiest time for her workload, and she requested CWC's assistance. Commissioner Trost is willing to head up the work group which will work on creating the draft language. Chair Jones and Commissioner Martin-Boehm are willing to be involved as well. They will work on the draft and give to Alice for finalizing the report.
- Alice updated the CWC on the recruitment process for the 2024 Clean Water Commission candidates. The more inclusively worded press release is in the meeting packet and all commissioners are encouraged to spread the word. Commissioner Seeds announced that he will not be seeking to reapply. He and Chair Jones will work with staff for the selection process.
- Reminder that the December 6 meeting will have elections for next year's chair and vice chair positions.

Unfinished Business:

- Devan led the group through a facilitated roundtable discussion regarding the code update, the group's vision and goals for the Clean Water Commission for both the short and long term. Candid discussion ensued.
- Commissioners Trost and Martin-Boehme met with Alice to edit the bylaws in late September. It was very productive meeting. The group worked to simplify and create more inclusive verbiage in the document. The vision is to have the edited bylaws ready to adopt at the December meeting.
- 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 encompass the state, regional, city, and local efforts to address the issues in the Lacamas watershed. This symposium will be hybrid. The public is strongly encouraged to participate online. Several of the Councilors have indicated they will be attending. The symposium is focused on the scientific community while educating and engaging policy makers from the various organizations involved. Since there is a quorum, we'll need to make sure there are two



public notices sent out. Alice will work with the Council's staff to make sure this happens. Devan has offered staff assistance and will meet with the work group on Friday, Oct. 6 to work out details.

New Business:

- The grant applications had been discussed prior in the meeting in the Manager's and Outreach reports. *Commissioner Trost moved, and Commissioner Maynard seconded, approval of the letters of support for the Heritage Farm Phase II Grant application and for the Follow the Water Grant application. Motion unanimously carries. (Commissioners Gathe and Perkins were not present for the vote, but there was a quorum.)*
- Jeff Schnable, Stormwater Infrastructure and Monitoring Manager, presented the 2024-2029 Stormwater Capital Plan which features 28 projects and totaling \$12.9M in spending. He is always looking for ways to meet permit compliance and leveraging our money. However, there are significant challenges on the horizon. (The power point presentation is in the handouts.) *Commissioner Trost moved, and Commissioner Hauge seconded, writing a letter of support for 2024-2029 Stormwater Capital Plan. Motion unanimously approved. (Commissioner Perkins was not present for the vote.)* Alice will draft and send to Chair Jones for signature.

Roundtable Discussion:

- None.

VI. ADJOURN – 9:23 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>.