



Clean Water Commission Meeting Summary

Wednesday, Dec. 6, 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 6:35 pm by Acting Chair Trost. Roll Call was made.

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

Members Absent: Matthew Jones

Staff Present: Devan Rostorfer and Alice Millward

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

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

The Clean Water Commission reviewed the request for from Peter Bracchi regarding the camping by unhoused individuals occurring in the Burnt Bridge Creek greenway. This camping is occurring within the City of Vancouver where the county does not have jurisdiction and the city is aware of the issue. The CWC expressed their understanding and frustration at this complex and challenging situation. They asked that staff share this concern with the City of Vancouver at this time. This item is tabled currently and may be brought back as a possible action item in 2024.

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

Approval Meeting Minutes: Commissioner Hauge moved, and Commissioner Seeds seconded that the October 4, 2023, minutes be approved as written. Motion unanimously approved.

III. PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION / RECOMMENDATION / ACTION

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

- Devan acknowledged that this is Commissioners Hauge, Maynard, and Seeds' last meeting of their term. She expressed her gratitude for their service and dedication.
- Devan is working on the Interlocal Agreement with Camas regarding work on Lacamas Lake and the watershed. She has had several meetings with Camas and expects to present to Council the ILA with associated costs at the end of January.



- Stormwater Rate Study: Due to potential funding shortfalls and fund balance depletion, we need to have this completed 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. She thanked the commissioners for their letter of support. Due to scheduling issues with the Council, Clean Water's work session was not scheduled as anticipated and probably won't be until January. Upon advice from leadership, she has been waiting to include the CWC letter with the packet that will go to Council. The Commission expressed their frustration and displeasure that their letter of support wasn't transmitted directly to Council when they intended.
- Friends of Vancouver Lake secured a \$333k funding proviso for the County for developing a Vancouver Lake Management plan. This is very time sensitive. We will need to have the RFP published in the first quarter of 2024. Devan is the lead staff on it. Jeff will provide technical assistance. In a related note, Commissioner Gathe coordinated a meeting between Senator Murray's office and the Corp of Army Engineers to look at possible structure modifications in the area. On a related note, the Commissioners would like to have Jeff Schnabel present the current Vancouver Lake Management Plan and also have staff make a presentation on phosphorous removal treatment options in stormwater facilities.
- The new NPDES permit goes 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. It may be very beneficial if Rod Swanson gave a presentation to the CWC or shared a memo on the new requirements coming.

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

- Alice updated the CWC on the updated and more inclusive recruitment process for the 2024 Clean Water Commission candidates. We submitted our recommendations to the County Manager today. Hopefully, she will be able to make her choice and we can add their confirmations to the January 2 Council agenda. This was another very difficult decision since we had so many great candidates. Commissioner Seeds and Chair Jones worked with staff during the selection process and Commissioner Seeds gave his input on the experience. There was discussion about the January new commissioner training and the CWC indicated that they would like to attend to help make those connections.
- 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. The plan is that they will work on the draft and give to Alice for finalizing the report in mid-January.



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

- In Eric's [written update](#), he highlighted the events Clean Water has participated in this fall. He has also been very active in the business Pollution Prevention Assistance (PPA) program. He wanted to thank all of the CWC who attended the Stormwater Partners Symposium on November 16, 2023.

Unfinished Business:

- Commissioners Trost and Martin-Boehme worked with Alice to edit the draft of bylaws in the packets. They worked to simplify and create more inclusive verbiage in the document and this update of the bylaws is primarily housekeeping in nature. *It was moved by Commissioner Seeds and seconded by Commissioner Hauge to approve the bylaws. Motion passed unanimously.*
- The Lacamas Watershed Symposium Work Group discussed the October 25 hybrid event at the Lacamas Lodge. Commissioner Hauge and other commissioners who attended believe that it was very successful. It laid a lot of groundwork and there were many of conversations happening between many different groups throughout the day. There was a slate of interesting speakers which encompassed the state, regional, city, and local efforts to address the issues in the Lacamas watershed. The symposium was focused on the scientific community while educating and engaging policy makers from the various organizations involved. As a "parking lot idea" Commissioner Gathe would like to consider doing something similar for Vancouver Lake next year. This will be discussed at the February meeting when the 2024 work plan is created.
- The CWC wanted to know where they are at for having a work plan scheduled early in the year. Devan let them know that it is not very optimistic that it will happen until Spring 2024. Acting Chair Trost indicated that made sense to wait until the new commissioners are on board and there is a work plan in place. Devan reiterated that she and staff are very committed to moving forward with the revised code and working with the CWC to make this happen.

New Business:

- Election of Officers: *Commissioner Trost nominated, and Commissioner Gathe seconded Chair Matt Jones as Chair for another term. Although not at the meeting, Jones had indicated he was willing to accept if elected. Unanimously approved. (Commissioner Martin-Boehm was not available to vote.)*
- *Commissioner Seeds nominated, and Commissioner Hauge seconded Vice Chair Bob Trost as Vice Chair for another term. Unanimously approved. (Commissioner Martin-Boehm was not available to vote.)*



Roundtable Discussion:

- There was a recognition for the leaving commissioners who will be greatly missed for their important contributions, knowledge, and willingness to work. Each Commissioner gave some closing thoughts about their roles and the future of the CWC.
- Commissioner Maynard discussed his unique perspective having sat on both sides of the table (as a commissioner twice and as the division manager). He understands the critical need for the more division resources especially if they are to help to meaningfully tackle the issues facing the county's waterways, Lacamas and Vancouver lakes.
- Commissioner Seeds has been the longest serving commissioner this term. He believes that this is a very important commission. He encouraged the CWC and staff to continue along the same tract: continue with the excellent education and outreach but also push the county to think deeper and to be the stewards for future generations.
- Commissioner Hauge expressed his regret in having to step away and that he will greatly miss this group. He will continue to be an advocate on clean water and encouraging various organizations work across jurisdictions towards common goals. He plans to come back to meetings and raise issues to be addressed.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:15 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>.