



Clean Water Commission Meeting Summary

Wednesday, October 9, 2024

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Hybrid Meeting via Teams and in the PSC Conference Room 698

I. ROLL CALL and INTRODUCTIONS

Meeting called to order at 6:03 pm by Chair Gathe. Roll call was made. Recording started at 6:16 pm.

Members Present: Tracy Ceravolo (v), Glen DeWillie, Ted Gathe, and Phil Struck

Members Absent: Alejandra Cortes, Kate Perkins, and Rudy Salakory

Staff Present: Devan Rostorfer, Alice Millward, Jeff Schnabel

Public Present: Dave DeKrief, Timbre Rogers, Alan Bone (v), Emily Hess (v), and Jennifer Courchaine (v)

(v) indicates appeared via video conference

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Approval Meeting Minutes: There was not a quorum, so the minutes of the August meeting were not approved.

III. PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION / RECOMMENDATION / ACTION

New Business:

- **CW Staff Liaison Report** – Alice Millward, CW Program Assistant.
 - We have completed the nine candidates interviews in late September. Two replacement commissioners and one commissioner position are currently being recruited. All three are expected to serve until December 31, 2027. Chair Gathe served on the selection committee with Devan and Alice. The rate study adoption hearing has taken priority at the moment, so the recommendations will be forwarded on to the County Manager soon. There are a number of the candidates who are voluntarily attending the meeting tonight as members of the public.
 - Expansion of CWC: Once again, we have run into so many very qualified candidates who represent a wide cross section of the community. The selection committee would like to look at ways to keep the applicants who are not selected engaged with the commission.
 - First Option: Possibility of increasing the number of CWC members from nine to either eleven or possibly no more than twelve members. Staff has run it by legal. He advised that most advisory bodies have an odd number of members but that there is no set number the county recommends.
 - Second Option: Another option would be to possibly have nonvoting members of the board who could be engaged but couldn't vote or represent the CWC in public as an official member.



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Since there isn't a quorum, the Commission would like to table this discussion and possibly discuss during their upcoming strategic planning.

2024 Work Plan Subcommittee Reports:

- Chair Gathe discussed his presentation of the 2023 Annual Report during the August 21 work session with Council.
- Rate Study Work Group: In September, the Work Group submitted a memo of support on behalf of the Clean Water Commission which outlined the Commission's priorities and advocated to Council in support the highest level of service possible. See Devan's report for key take aways.
- Environmental Justice and Watershed Health Work Group: Nothing to report.
- The Vancouver Lake Symposium date will be October 17, 2024, and will be held at the Vancouver Water Resource Center. Chair Gathe has been working with Devan and Alice to coordinate details and speakers for this robust agenda. We have been approved to order lunch. The Port will be providing breakfast and coffee. We expect around 100 people to attend.
- Code Revision: The entire section of code relating to the CWC, and the clean water fee will be updated. The commission is interested in rolling out the revised CWC code when the rate study is updated.

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

- **Stormwater Rate Study**: Devan reviewed the most recent status of the rate study work session with Council in detail. The hearing was held yesterday and was continued to a later date. The Council would like to have Clean Water come back in October / November to address the issue of encouraging higher density / multifamily dwellings as part of the rate model.
- There are still three levels of service: mandated (\$62.04), recommended ((\$78.49) and additional services (\$83.66) with the proposed rate amounts associated with each level. The GMA compliance issue and how it can negatively affect our ability to receive public grants was also discussed by the CWC.
 - There were three community listening sessions held in various areas of the county during the month of September. The announcements had over 20,000 unique interactions on various social media platforms. Two community listening sessions were in person, and one was held exclusively online. The various documents were translated into the top languages of the County residents and at one of the in person listening sessions a Spanish interpreter was available. The public reaction was over all very supportive of the increased rate at the highest level of service possible. It will still be the lowest rate locally and in Western Washington.
 - **Background**: Clean Water is an enterprise fund and does not receive monies from the general fund. Clark County's annual rate of \$47 is the lowest clean water fee in the state. (Most of the other Phase one and local rates are significantly more than Clark County's.) Due to potential funding shortfalls and fund balance depletion, the Clean Water Division (CWD) will need to have this rate study completed this year.
 - *The six minute CVTV video about the rate study and the work that Clean Water does was released in September. Click on the [YouTube link](#) to view.*



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○ Lakes Update:

- **Vancouver Lake:** The Vancouver Lake Management Plan Implementation Technical Advisory Group (TAG) met on September 18 to review the four flushing enhancement options (culvert, bridge & pump, bathymetric, and a weir system). Devan encouraged everyone to complete the survey that was sent out which will help narrow down the options and there will be another TAG meeting in January to further discuss. Discussion ensued regarding questions surrounding the various design concepts, previous modeling work that the Friends of Vancouver Lake funded and the need for more modeling and design work. General consensus is that the amount of work to ideally review all options and engage all the various competing interests cannot be fully addressed due to the limited budget from the state proviso to do the level of work many on the TAG and in the community would like to see.
- **RFP Update:** Devan reviewed where Clean Water is with the various RFPs.
- **Miscellaneous Updates:** If the rate study is adopted, Clean Water anticipates hiring a number of new people in the next few years. Devan is looking into how to grow the division and creating good space planning. Devan will not be available for the Dec. 4 meeting, so Alice will work with the CWC to find another date so that she will be able to attend the Commission's strategic planning for 2025 meeting.

New Business:

- Jeff Schnabel updated the Clean Water Commission on recent activities and accomplishments and presented [2025-2030 Stormwater Capital Plan](#). Highlights include 30 acres of reforestation on county owned properties every six years. He discussed the new Permit's point system and upcoming capital infrastructure projects. Jeff will be presenting the Six-Year Capital Plan to Council on Oct. 16 and there will be a hybrid Open House at Salmon Creek Elementary on Oct. 22 where the public will have an opportunity to be more involved and ask questions. Jeff also discussed the four projects that they are applying for grants from Ecology next week. The CBP3 grant is a new private -public partnership pilot program which is very innovative. *The Commission is very supportive and although there isn't a quorum to formally vote to support the Capital plan and these grant projects, the CWC asked the Chair to sign the letters of support to be included in the supporting packets.*

Roundtable Discussion:

- Commissioners are encouraged that it is not too early to start preparing for the 2025 work plan. What are priorities the commission would like to start working on? Salmon recovery, pollution source control, PoopSmart program, phosphorous reduction education, and increasing tree canopy.
- Click [here](#) to view the meeting's power point slides.

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>.