



CLEAN WATER DIVISION DIGEST

Clean Water Commission - August 6, 2025

Purpose of Division Digest

Provide bi-monthly updates to the Clean Water Commission on Clean Water Division milestones and achievements. This written update helps increase information sharing and reduce the amount of time spent on Division Manager updates during Commission meetings, ultimately allowing more time in the agenda for commissioner discussion.

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Division Updates: *Devan Rostorfer*

Since the beginning of 2025, we have officially hired 8 staff, bringing us from a team of 18 to a team of 26 by the end of August! We still have plans to hire 3 more positions by the end of the year. The Clean Water Division has been busy! Here are a few highlights of what we've been up to and what's ahead.

- Completed the first Urban Tree Canopy Assessment of Clark County Urban Growth Areas!
- Wrapped up the Vancouver Lake Management Plan Phase 2.
- Presented on Vancouver Lake at a Council Work Session on July 23, 2025.
- Facilitating Milfoil treatment on Vancouver Lake in partnership with the Port of Vancouver and Vancouver Lake Sailing Club.
- Coordinating the Stormwater Management Action Plan SMAP efforts – which have included completion of stream walks on Upper Curtin and Mill Creeks, as well as interviews with different subject matter expert teams at Clark County on problem areas needing stormwater projects.
- Submitted the Stormwater Code and Manual updates to Department of Ecology.
- Completed the reconfiguration plan for the Clean Water Division's redesign to add 15 desks to our office space to accommodate new staff.
Supported completion of the Fiscal Year 2025 Supplemental Budget and the 2026 Annual Budget.
Continue to support Clean Water Commission Workgroups
- Supported the Clean Water Fee reduction program for schools in Clark County.

Coming soon, we have some major milestones to look forward to. I may have missed a few things, but here is a high-level summary of what's ahead. More details on these topics are available throughout this Division Digest!

- **August 5th** Council Meeting requesting approval of 3 items.
 - Biorientation Facility Maintenance CBP3 contract.
 - Pollution Prevention Assistance Contract. A Contract
 - Vancouver Lake Milfoil treatment sole-source contract approval.
- **August 5th** Applications for the NPEDS Program Coordinator position are due.
- **August 6th** Clean Water Commission meeting.
- **August 7th** Planning Commission Work Session on Stormwater Capital Plan.
- **August 18th** Applications for the Lakes and Watershed Coordinator position are due and two new staff start working in the Clean Water Division.
- **September 3rd** Department of Ecology Grant Applications are due.
- **September 10th** County Council Work Session on the Urban Tree Canopy Assessment.
- **September 15-17th** Pacific Northwest Clean Water Association conference in Portland.
- **October 1st** New Water Year begins!
- **October 1st** Clean Water Commission meeting.
- **October 8th** RFP for CBP3 Program development
- **October 15th** Council Work Session on the Stormwater Capital Plan.
- **October 28th** Clean Water Commission's Nonpoint Source Pollution Symposium.
- **November 20th** Stormwater Partners Symposium.
- **December 3rd** Clean Water Commission meeting.

As always, thank you for your continued commitment to Clean Water! We hope you enjoy this thorough update on all of the great work our team is doing. As always, please reach out if you have any questions, comments, or concerns. We greatly appreciate your support.



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NPDES Permit Compliance: *Managed by Rod Swanson*

- **Hired Kristian Phillips as a Sr. Operations Specialist** for private facility inspections and technical assistance.
- **Hired Harrison Glavin as a Sr. Operations Specialist** for pollution source control for businesses.
- **Recruiting for a Stormwater Permit Coordinator Program Coordinator II**
 - First review is Tuesday, Aug 5.
 - Please encourage anyone you know to apply!
- **SMAP:** Started work with Osborn Consulting on the Lower Salmon Creek Stormwater Management Action Plan.
- **Code and Manual Updates:** Submitted significant code and manual updates to Ecology for review. This is major milestone in the 2026 code and manual update.
- **Awarded \$407,700 Pollution Prevention Assistance (PPA)** two-year contract with Dept. of Ecology for local source control work with businesses.
 - Will be approved by Council on Aug. 3, 2025.

Infrastructure, Mapping & Inventory: *Managed by Jeff Schnabel*

Mapping & Inventory

- **Hired new Engineering Technician Sr. Kevin Bone.** His start date is August 18.
- **Ditch and outfall mapping field work** completed for 2025.
 - Limited additional work in 2026 will complete county-wide update for field mapping only.
 - Database updates will take 1-3 years.

Capital Planning & Projects

- **Eight (8) projects scheduled for construction in 2025.** Most are already underway.
 - Three capital projects are PW Roads Water Quality construction.
 - One Reforestation project.
 - Four external construction contracts.
- **2026-2031 Stormwater Capital Plan**
 - Submitted to Business Services for 2026 budgeting.
 - New this year, we are going to Planning Commission as part of the process. Work Session August 7, Hearing August 22.
 - October presentation to CWC.
 - Jeff will distribute matrix to CWC in August.
 - October 15 - Council Work Session.
 - November 2025 – Council's plan adoption. (Target is November 4).
 - SEPA in progress, comment period will close prior to Planning Commission hearing.
- **The Philbrook Farms design contract** is underway.
 - Contractors and county crews doing on-site investigations.
- **Lower Suds Creek Enhancement design contract** is underway – on-site kickoff upcoming.
- **RFP 931 for Cougar Creek 3 Enhancement design**
 - Pre-submittal meeting July 24.
 - Will be seeking CWC members to participate in RFP selection process.

Operations & Maintenance

- **Bioretention maintenance** plan development – contract ongoing.
- **Upgrades to Phosphosorb cartridges** for existing vault systems will start January 2026 under newly signed LCFRB grant.
- **Routine maintenance** (mowing, etc.) is on track.
 - Defect repairs will be ongoing into late fall.
- **Street Sweeping** is on track.
- **Catch basin** inspections and maintenance on track.

Grants & Special Projects: *Managed by Marlee Milosevich*

Heritage Farm Highlights

- **Heritage Farm Wetland Restoration Grant Amendment II** approved by the Council and now in a close out process.
- **Heritage Farm Wetland Restoration \$3.5 million Loan** approved by Council and fully executed.
- **Groundbreaking:** Heritage Farm Wetland Restoration construction has begun!



HERITAGE FARM WETLAND RESTORATION

The Heritage Farm Wetland Restoration project will restore approximately two acres of wetlands and establish approximately three acres of vegetated buffer along Cougar Creek's headwaters. This project will also relocate a sanitary sewer line, replace culverts under the access roads and resurface the gravel driveways.

ABOUT THIS PROJECT

Cougar Creek plays an important role for salmon recovery by flooding cool water into lower Salmon Creek.

Project Design

- Eight shallow "wet cells" with grass
- Grow native grasses, shrubs and reeds
- Plant approximately 3,000 native plants

Expected benefits

- Restoring these wetlands of the Cougar Creek headwaters are expected to increase groundwater recharge for the community, improve water quality and clarity, reduce erosion and flooding downstream and lower stream temperatures to support salmon in Salmon Creek.

Funding

This project is funded through a grant and loan interest from the Washington State Department of Ecology's Water Quality Conditional Funding Program and the Clark County Clean Water Fund. The loan is provided by the Washington State Water Pollution Control Financing Fund Program for Capitalized Revenue in the category of Environmentally Sensitive Projects. Total estimated project cost: \$4,370,000.

Timeline:

- Summer 2025: Relocate sanitary sewer pipes and prepare new wetland space
- Fall 2025: Plant native plants
- 2026-2034: Maintain site

Intermittent access impacts during summer and fall

Restauración de humedales de Heritage Farm

El proyecto de restauración de humedales de Heritage Farm restaurará y establecerá aproximadamente dos acres de humedales y establecerá tres acres de zona amortiguadora vegetada a lo largo de las cabeceras de Cougar Creek. Este proyecto también trasladará una línea de alcantarillado sanitario, reemplazará los culvertos bajo las carreteras de acceso y repondrá el pavimento de grava.

Восстановление водноболотных угодий фермы Heritage Farm

В рамках проекта Heritage Farm Wetland Restoration будет восстановлено и создано около двух акров водноболотных угодий и около трех акров буферной растительности вдоль истоков ручья Cougar Creek. В рамках этого проекта также будет перенесена линия канализации, заменены водопроводные трубы и восстановлено покрытие дорог.

Об этом проекте

Этот проект финансируется грантом и субсидией на проценты от Вашингтонского Департамента Экологии Программы Кондиционального Финансирования Воды и Фонда Чистой Воды округа Кларк. Ссуда предоставляется Программой Программы Финансирования Воды для Капитальных Доходов в категории Средств для Средств, Чувствительных к Средств. Общая стоимость проекта: \$4,370,000.

Відновлення водноболотних угідь на етнофермі

У рамках проекту відродження водноболотних угідь на етнофермі буде відновлено приблизно два акри водноболотних угідь і встановлено три акри буферної рослинності вздовж витоків річки Кугар Крік. Цей проект також передбачає перенесення лінії каналізації, заміну водопровідних труб та відновлення покриття доріг.

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Other Grant Milestones

- **LCFRB Stormwater Phosphorus Filter Media Improvement Implementation Grant** was approved and is fully signed.
- **CBP3 bioretention facility maintenance program** goes to Council for approval on August 5th

Good News for Grants

- **\$1.8 million for Clean Water's projects** on Ecology's final offer funding list for grant
- **Clark County Bioretention Facility Performance-Based Maintenance Program - \$356,989**
 - Set for Council approval on August 5.
 - RFP is expected to be October 8th for program development.
- **NE Highway 99 (NE Hazel Dell Plaza to 102nd Street) Water Quality Retrofit - \$659,939**
 - Target to negotiate before December 2025.
- **NE Highway 99 (78th to 86th Street) Water Quality Retrofit - \$587,559**
 - Target to negotiate before December 2025.
- **Cougar 3 Enhancement Project Phase 1 - \$230,000**
 - RFP expected July 16th for design services.

Upcoming Grant Applications

- **Washington State Department of Ecology Grant applications** Due early Sept.
- **NE Hazell Dell AVE (78th to Cougar Creek) WQ Retrofit – Phase 3 Construction** stormwater water quality project for construction under the Stormwater Financial Assistance Program.
- **NE 99th St (I-5 to E of Hwy 99) WQ Retrofit – Phase 3 Construction** stormwater water quality project for construction under the Stormwater Financial Assistance Program.
- **Bioretention Facility CBP3** Implementation Phase 2.
- **Requesting letters of support** from CWC during the August 6 meeting.

Special Projects

- **Stream Health Report** is in the process of being updated with Water Year 2024 data.
- **Lacamas PIC project** is in the process of collecting samples.

Community Engagement: *Managed by Eric Lambert*

- **Hired new Environmental Education and Outreach Specialist Hailey Shannon** to join the Community Engagement team. Hailey starts Aug. 18.
- **Dumpster lid behavior change campaign: The City of Washougal hired Point North as a consultant to implement the behavior change** campaign for this Stormwater Partners collaboration aimed at getting businesses to close dumpster lids. This campaign will be used to meet the behavior change requirement in our Permit.
- **Students for Clean Water Video Contest** winning videos will be shown before the main movie feature, ET, at the City of Vancouver's movies in the park event on August 15 at Fort Vancouver.
- **Planning for Stormwater Partners Symposium** on Nov. 20 in Battle Ground. Recruiting speakers now.
- **SMAP outreach:** Eric developed a public participation plan and issued an RFQ to select a vendor to support participation efforts for overburdened communities.
 - Community Liaison Services is the contractor.
 - We're planning for the first SMAP open house in the second half of September.
- **Webpage updates:** Updated most Clean Water webpages.
- **Ecology grant:** Pesticide and Nutrient reduction behavior change.
 - Drafted campaign plan for natural lawn care walking tours with WSU Extension Master Gardeners for submittal to Ecology. They plan to do the first tours in September.
 - Celina just submitted RFQ to find vendor to implement Latino landscape professional training.
 - Reviewing proposals to hire social marketing and evaluation consultant to support assessment of those two programs
- **Salmon Creek Mural** along 117th:
 - Will be hiring "Ana the Artist" to support the resident led project to paint a mural along the retaining wall just east of I-5 on 117th St.
 - Painting planned for first two weekends in September.
- **Media Engagement:** Eric is currently planning an interview on KPTV Fox 12 with regional partners for a shared media buy with the station.
- **Planning for Clean Rivers Coalition Forum** in late September or early October.
- **Presenting to Clark County Green Biz** participants on August 19 about stormwater and pollution prevention topics.
- **14th Annual Clark County Latino Youth Leadership Conference** on Oct. 3: Submitted proposal to attend and present at the
- **Stormwater Awareness Week** is Oct 5-12th.

Monitoring & Assessment: *Managed by Chad Hoxeng*

- **Clean Water and Ecology negotiated Amendment 2** of the contract for Status and Trends Monitoring of Urban Streams in the Lower Columbia River Region in Clark and Cowlitz counties. This contract funds our Lower Columbian Urban Streams (LCUS) project through December 2029.
- **The monitoring section is now running on all cylinders** with the addition of two new monitoring staff in June! These new additions bring the monitoring team to five. Summer is the busiest part of the year with monitoring staff collecting all sorts of stream health data for multiple Clean Water projects including Wadeable Streams and LCUS. Data we are collecting includes:

Macroinvertebrate data



Water quality data



Riparian and stream habitat data



Maintenance of in-stream sensors



Summer stream temperature data



Stream flow data



- **All the above data collected (millions of individual data points) will be analyzed** and used to update our Stream Health report and to complete deliveries in the LCUS contract.
- **In addition to all this field work, the monitoring team is also supporting the Poop Smart Clark grant** by collecting bacteria samples for DNA testing to help identify and eliminate bacteria pollution to our local streams.

Business Services & Budget: *Supported by Andrea Logue*

- **2026 Annual Budget**
 - 11 change requests submitted.
 - 10 of which are operationalizing the stormwater rate study.
 - 4 new positions requested.
 - 1 request to convert a project (or limited term) position to permanent.
- **2025 Fall Supplemental**
 - 10 change requests submitted.
 - 4 of which follow up Clark County Council approvals in 2025 that require an adjustment to expense and/or revenue budget capacity.
 - 2 of which carry forward unspent budget from 2024 into 2025.
- **Background on budget processes:**
 - Clark County uses an annual budget process in compliance with RCW 36.40.
 - Each year, the budget is prepared employing the baseline method, which starts with the current annual budget and applies some adjustments.
 - All new requests for items not included in baseline must be submitted by departments and offices through change requests.
 - A change request is required whenever the total revenue, total expense, or total permanent headcount changes within a fund.
 - RCW 36.40 allows for supplemental budget appropriations as needed throughout the budget year. Unless there is a substantial need, the goal will be to have one supplement per year in the fall. Fall Supplemental budget submissions will be limited to unforeseen and warranted 2025 needs. All other requests should be routed through the 2026 annual budget process.
- **Background on Clean Water Fund 4420:**
 - It is separate from the General Fund.
 - Finances the operations, maintenance, and capital improvements of Clark County's stormwater infrastructure.
 - It is an Enterprise Fund:
 - Which is an account for business-type activities.
 - It is operated and funded in a manner similar to private business enterprises.
 - Where the costs to provide continuous services to the general public are recovered primarily through user charges.

Division Administration & Program Support: *Supported by Alice Millward*

- **Clean Water's space planning and upcoming office remodel** efforts are underway. It is expected to begin in earnest in mid-Sept. and be completed by end of the year. This will necessitate significant archiving, organization of records, movement of desks, computers, moving electrical and computer and telephone equipment, as well as surplus old office equipment, supplies, and furniture. This will have a significant impact on the division over the next 3-4 months. We are going from having desk space for 18 to 35 employees. Administrative staff will be providing significant support for this endeavor.
- **Alice and Jennifer Lopez, (CW Office Assistant) have created new onboarding procedures** for the new staff that have joined Clean Water over the past several months. (Two new employees will be coming onboard mid-August and several new positions will be hired in Q3.) There has been significant behind the scenes coordination to streamline and facilitate the smooth onboarding process for the new employees and managers.
- **There's been a large number of new contracts, suppliers and projects** which must be created and added into the various county financial systems. With so many new employees, projects and the busy monitoring season, there is a significant number of supplies and equipment being ordered and distributed.
- **Jennifer Lopez has also coordinated a lot of mailings for the inspections and monitoring group** over the past few months as well as pet waste pledges and prizes for our community engagement team.
- **CW admin staff schedule and provide support** for various weekly and monthly division and staff meetings.
- **Alice creating new protocols and templates to support greater efficiencies for Clean Water Commission** meeting packets including Division Digest, CWC Work Group Reports, Work Group meeting notes template. She also provided support for three CWC work groups as they met. New Clean Water Commissioner recruitments public release went out July 18. It closes August 25, and interviews will be shortly thereafter.
- **Alice is working on logistics for the CWC Nonpoint Source Symposium** on Oct. 28.
- **Alice is coordinating the CWC recruitment efforts** for two replacement and three new (effective January 2026) Clean Water Commissioners. Please see the press release in the meeting packet for more information. She will be scheduling interviews during the last week of August and/or early September.
- **Alice is organizing the annual staff picnic** which will be held in mid-August. She is currently scheduling optional monthly staff 'lunch and learn' events starting this fall and starting work on logistics for year-end strategic planning retreats.