



Clean Water Commission Meeting Summary

Wednesday, June 6, 2025 ~ 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Heritage Farm Conference Room

I. ROLL CALL and INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Gathe called the meeting order at 7:34 pm due to the Heritage Farm wetland restoration site tour running longer than scheduled.

Members Present: Tracy Ceravolo (left at 8:10pm), John Chatel (left at 8:10pm), Glen DeWillie, Ted Gathe, Emily Hess, Rudy Salakory and Alison Schweitzer (left at 8pm)

Members Absent: Alejandra Cortes

Staff Present: Devan Rostorfer and Alice Millward

Public Present: none

(v) indicates appeared via video conference

Approval Meeting Minutes: *Commissioner Salakory moved, and Commissioner Ceravolo seconded that the April 2, 2025, minutes be approved. Motion unanimously approved.*

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

Peter Bracchi emailed the Clean Water Commission regarding his concerns regarding the impact of the unhoused people's campsites are having on the local streams. The CWC noted that these encampments are within the City Vancouver's boundaries and that this issue is best addressed by that jurisdiction.

III. NEW BUSINESS / ACTIONS:

2024 Annual Report Work Session Recap:

- Chair Gathe and Vice Chair DeWillie presented the 2024 annual report and 2025 work plan to Council earlier in the day. Commissioners Ceravolo, Chatel, Cortes (v), and Hess attended. It was very well received and Council asked very good questions. Staff will continue to work with the various work groups to continue to implement the CWC's 2025 goals. Several Councilors indicated that they want to attend the October symposium and would like another bus tour.

Work Group Updates:

Climate Change Element Implementation (Leader Salakory, Ceravolo, Chatel, Cortes)

Commissioner Salakory reviewed the discussion they had during their April 26 meeting. Commissioner Cortes compiled a list, and they are formulating what their priorities will be. They are still waiting for the Climate Element of the County's 20-year Comprehensive Plan to be adopted. Staff has created folders so that each work group can save their work



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products in a central location. Staff will check with legal if Commissioners can have full editing rights to all folders and documents or if that would be an OPMA issue. Alice has arranged for one of the county staff involved with the Comprehensive Plan to present at the August meeting about the Climate Element and their community engagement and inclusion strategies during this process.

Community Engagement & Inclusion: (Leader: Cortes; Members: Chatel, Hess, Schweitzer)

Alice read Commissioner Cortes' emailed report. The CEI work group met on May 13 with Eric Lambert and Alice and are scheduled to meet again on June 10. They talked about ways to connect with the community and make sure people understand who the CWC is and what they do. There was a good discussion about reaching out to HOAs, since they manage stormwater facilities and may be unsure about government involvement. Commissioners might be well-positioned to make those connections since we're not regulatory. They also talked about the value of attending local events, like Project Voice and the Lower Columbia Nature Network, and reaching out to trade and affinity groups like the Washington Landscape Professionals Association and local contractors. The goal is to reach a broader cross-section of the community. They also want to make the Stormwater Management Plan easier to understand and share—a one-page summary is in the works for that. There's interest in engaging youth through schools and summer camps, with a focus on making the topic fun and approachable for kids.

Nonpoint Source Pollution Symposium (Leader: Chatel; Members: Ceravolo, Gathe, Schweitzer)

Commissioner Chatel reported that the group met on May 15 and will be meeting again tomorrow with Alice and Devan to start working on the agenda and what should be the primary focus. Staff will be responsible for the logistics such as room rental, press releases, and catering. Currently, the broad agenda concept is that the morning will consist of identifying the problem, providing context, and in the afternoon focusing on possible solutions or policies, and a round table discussion.

Rate Study Implementation (Leader: Gathe; Members: DeWillie, Salakory)

Commissioner Gathe indicated that due to their schedules they will be having their first meeting on June 12 where Devan and Jeff Schnabel will brief them on the current status of the new rate study – which has only been in effect for the first six months of the projected five years. They will have more to report at the August meeting. He did note that at the work session, Council Chair Marshall encouraged the Clean Water division to revisit the rates and come to the Council more often so that their wouldn't be such a big rate adjustment needed in the future.

Stormwater Management Action Plan (SMAP) (Leader: DeWillie, Member: Hess)

Commissioner DeWillie and Hess discussed that this is still in its formative stages since the consultant has just started on this project. The consultant will be creating all of the critical elements of this 6 year and 20-year plan which is focusing on the Lower Salmon Creek area – specifically Curtain and Mill Creeks. During this pre-execution stage of the project, the work group believes that this may be an area where they could be involved. They are interested in the metrics and the robustness of several of the elements that the county asked for in the contract. DeWillie and Hess also reviewed the City of Vancouver's



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SMAP since they just completed theirs. They look forward to meeting with Devan and the other key staff next week.

CLEAN WATER DIVISION UPDATES – Devan Rostorfer, Clean Water Division Manager

- Devan mentioned during Municon, Ecology gave a presentation about tree canopy inventory requirements in the current permit. It raised some interesting questions from attendees about how this information may be used in the future.
- Due to the time limitations, she doesn't have any urgent news to discuss at this time.

Staff Liaison Report – Alice Millward, CW Program Assistant.

- Alice reminded the Commission of the joint meeting with the City of Vancouver's Urban Forestry Commission on July 16 which will be held at City Hall. She wanted alert the CWC members to be prepared to discuss their views regarding the "connection between clean water, trees and human health" and "what areas of partnership or messaging could both commissions advocate." In addition, each commissioner will be asked to provide a short overview of their activities or views during their roundtable / commission communications portion of the agenda. She will include this information when she sends the meeting reminder in early July.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION:

- Chair Gathe would like to encourage all members to attend meetings in person to better facilitate meaningful discussion as much as possible. Discussion ensued. The number one goal is attendance and so it is good to have the hybrid possibility.
- Commissioner Ceravolo mentioned a Pennsylvania program that encourages transforming lawns into more eco-friendly habitats.
- Commissioner Schweitzer presented at the Municon Conference on King County's mobile business source control efforts.
- Commissioner Hess attended the Gordy Jolma Open House and said it was well attended. She was very interested in the concerns of the local community since she was very excited to hear about this project.
- Commissioner Salakory attended the East Fork of the Lewis River reconnection project groundbreaking in May. This project will have lasting impacts on water temperature and on the salmonid restoration efforts. He would be interested in having the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board (LCFRB) visit the commission and potentially have the Lower Columbia Estuary Program (LCEP) or county staff give a tour.
- All of the commissioners felt that the tour of the Heritage Farm and Clean Water's wetland restoration project was very instructive. Alice indicated that she is currently working on a tour of the Clark Regional Water Treatment Facility in the Fall.

Meeting adjourned at 8:26 pm.

For a copy of the meeting slides, please visit our website's meeting section or click on this [link](#)

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>.