



CLEAN WATER DIVISION DIGEST

Clean Water Commission – October 1, 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. This generally covers August and September, 2025.

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Division Updates: *Devan Rostorfer*

Greetings Clean Water Commission,

The new 2026 water year has officially started as of October 1st and we are excited to begin this new year with significant accomplishments in 2025 – and much more ahead in 2026!

There are too many amazing things that have happened since our last meeting in August, but I am excited to highlight a few of the things that I am most proud of since the last time the Commission came together. Some highlights, our team had a work session and public hearing with the Clark County Planning Commission on the Stormwater Capital Plan, and we also met with the City of Camas to work on the Lacamas Interlocal Agreement. Additionally, we met with the City of Vancouver and Port of Vancouver to discuss next steps for our intergovernmental agreement on Vancouver Lake. We are also making significant progress with our Stormwater Code and Manual update and the Stormwater Management Action Plan (SMAP) for Salmon Creek.

Coming up on October 8th we have an open house to hear from the public what their ideas are for “Salmon Creek Solutions” as we work collaboratively to identify priority areas for future stormwater projects in the watershed. We also have a public survey published in four different languages to receive public input on stormwater priorities and we’ve built new incentive programs to help increase community engagement in our clean water work while making our public events more accessible to wider and more diverse audiences. Our team also recently completed the first of its kind 400-foot mural project in the Salmon Creek watershed, which has received significant public response! For example, I met someone who lived in the neighborhood near the mural project who shared that she

recently spoke to 8 new neighbors about water quality as a result of this mural project. That is an amazing testimony to the power of our creative clean water work.

Another accomplishment is that the Clean Water Division applied to speak at the Pacific Northwest Clean Water Association Conference on our Stormwater Rate Study and we were selected to talk to a conference attended by over 1,200 clean water professionals from Washington, Oregon, and Idaho! Additionally, we were invited to present to US Senator Marie's Cantwell's Office on the current status of the Vancouver Lake Management Plan that wrapped up at the end of June and what we hope to achieve in Phase 3. This included highlighting the recent "end of the game winning field goal" effort to successfully treat 300 acres of milfoil in Vancouver Lake in August! We are excited to officially be wrapping up our Lakes and Watershed Coordinator interviews to hopefully extend an offer to a final candidate to join our team in the near future to carry this important lake work forward.

Since our last Commission meeting, we have welcomed three new staff to our Clean Water Division! Kevin Bone joined as an Engineering Technician focused on stormwater asset mapping and inventory; Hailey Shannon joined us as an Environmental Outreach Specialist, and Benjamin Joner will start as our new NPDES Permit Coordinator on October 1st. We have also completed first and second round interviews for our first ever Lakes and Watershed Coordinator and we will soon post our final position for 2025, which is an Engineering Services Manager to support Capital Planning, Project Implementation, and Asset Management work.

One of my strongest values as a Division Manager is continuing to invest in our people as our most valuable resource. This fall we had our annual Clean Water Picnic, which included lots of yummy food, a croquet and corn hole tournament, with our first ever clean water relay race! We are also preparing for an October Strategic Planning retreat where we will review our annual goals, celebrate success, and look ahead to next year. We are also all going to complete an individual and team DISC Assessment to discuss how our different personalities show up in the workplace and how we can all best work together to be the strongest, and most effective team possible.



Some of the other achievements I am most proud of are finally getting the team equipped with long overdue PPE and supply needs such as new safety vests and hardhats. Some the hard hats our team were using were from the 1980s – which is not okay! Safety is a top priority for me – so I am thankful to get everyone the gear they need to make sure everyone goes home injury free. Many of us are also getting new office chairs for the first time since our office was built in 2003, meaning some of the chairs staff were sitting on were over 22 years old, which is a huge ergonomic concern! Additionally, our team is excited that we will officially have our office reconfiguration complete in October to add necessary desks to accommodate our growing workforce. Our office is only set up with seats for 18, and we will now have space for 35 people to come together to perform clean water work.

And last but not least, staff are now attending conferences and training at a level greater than before! When I started each person only had \$250 for professional development allocated each year, and now each person on our team now has a training budget equal to 3% of their salary, which is critical to support long-term personal and professional growth of our staff, as well as achieving employee retention and increasing job satisfaction and employee wellbeing. We are also starting to develop and provide stormwater training to other county staff, which included a recent training our team provided to County building inspectors. One awesome outcome of this increased training effort is that we are now sending our first team member, Eric Lambert, to participate in Leadership Clark County this year as a member of Class of 2026, with a commitment to send one person from our team each year to participate in this prestigious community program.

As always, thank you to the Clean Water Commission for all of your continued support and acknowledgement of everything our Clean Water staff are achieving! There are lots of little (and really BIG!) things that are happening in the background every day that many people don't often hear about. This Division Digest is a great way to synthesize our team's progress and celebrate all of the little (and BIG!) wins our Clean Water team accomplishes throughout the year. As always, thank you for your commitment to clean water! Here are a few key dates for the remainder of 2025.

Key Dates – Council and Clean Water commission

- September 25th – Clean Water Commission interviews
- October 1st – Council Work Session School Fee Reduction Program
- October 1st - Clean Water Commission Meeting
- October 15th – Council Work Session – Stormwater Capital Plan
- October 28th – Clean Water Commission Nonpoint Source Pollution Symposium
- November 5th – Public Hearing Capital Plan Adoption
- December 3rd – Clean Water Commission Meeting

Key Dates – Clean Water Division

- October 14th – Clean Water Office Reconfiguration
- October 15th – RFP Release: Community Based Public Private Partnership Program Development
- October 21st – Clean Water Division staff retreat
- October 24th – Ecology Monitoring Grant notice of intent due
- November 17th – Department of Commerce Grant Application due
- November 18th – Vancouver Lake Intergovernmental Agreement negotiation kickoff
- November 20th – Stormwater Partners Symposium
- December 15th – Clean Water Holiday Party

NPDES Compliance Team: *Managed by Rod Swanson*

NPDES Administration

- In September, Clean Water hired current monitoring staffer, Ben Joner, for the new rate study funded Program Coordinator II position “NPDES Permit Coordinator.” Ben will start in his new role on October 1.
- Completed new employee training for July new hire Harrison Glavin. He is filling the new rate study funded business source control / Pollution Prevention Assistance (PPA) position.

Lower Salmon Creek Stormwater Management Action Plan (SMAP)

- Continued work with Osborn Consulting on the Lower Salmon Creek Stormwater Management Action Plan after signing the contract earlier this year.
- Osborn submitted a stream reconnaissance memo for lower Mill Creek & upper Curtin Creek.
- Osborn is beginning work on the enhanced stormwater management tasks.
- Continued planning for public engagement using the project name “*Salmon Creek Solutions*” for outreach.

Private Stormwater Facility Inspection and Technical Assistance

- Continued work on schedule to meet NPDES Permit’s annual inspection quotas.

Business Source Control and PPA Agreement Work

- New two-year contract with Ecology for Pollution Prevention Assistance (PPA) work was negotiated, finalized, amended and signed by the County and Ecology. (Contract time period is July 2025 through June 2027).
- Continued inspections and technical assistance on schedule to meet annual contract requirements.

Infrastructure and Mapping Team: *Managed by Jeff Schnabel*

Mapping

- Jeff hired the new rate study funded Engineering Technician Sr. position in August. Kevin Bone started August 18 and is integrating well with the mapping team!

Capital

- Eight (8) projects under construction in 2025:
 - Three (3) are PW Roads Water Quality construction,
 - One (1) Reforestation project, and
 - Four (4) external construction contracts.
 - All are on track for completion!
- 2026-2031 Stormwater Capital Plan Timeline:
 - SEPA (*complete*)
 - Planning Commission presentations (*complete*)
 - August 7 Work Session and August 22 Hearing
 - September 4 – DEAB presentation (*complete*)
 - October 1 – CWC presentation
 - October 15 - Council Work Session
 - November 2025 - Council plan adoption (November 4 or 18 TBD)

- Philbrook Farms design contract is ongoing.
- Lower Suds Creek Enhancement design contract is underway – on-site kickoff completed, preliminary design work proceeding.
- RFP 931 for Cougar Creek 3 Enhancement design
 - Selection is complete and contract negotiations are ongoing.
 - Since we only received two proposals, Jeff decided not to bother the CWC for this one.
- SMAP support
 - Currently reviewing consultant work re: project selection criteria and list of Mill Creek / Curtin Creek problem areas.
- New rate study funded Capital Program manager position will be advertised in early October.

Maintenance

- RFP for “Bioretention Facility CBP3 Program Development” will be advertised on October 15.
 - This program is grant-funded up to \$342,000.
- Bioretention maintenance plan development – contract is ongoing.
- Upgrades to Phosphosorb cartridges for existing county vault systems will start January 2026 under a Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board (LCFRB) grant.
- Routine maintenance (mowing, etc.) is wrapping up for the season.
 - Public facility defect repairs are ongoing.
- Sweeping is on track to meet goals.
- Catch basin inspections and maintenance on track.

Clean Water Grants: *Managed by Marlee Milosevich*

The following five (5) were submitted in September to Washington Department of Ecology. Together, the grant funding requests from Clark County Clean Water totals **\$2,541,077!**

Thank you to the Clean Water Commission for your letters of support for these grant requests. It helps in the very competitive process for limited resources.

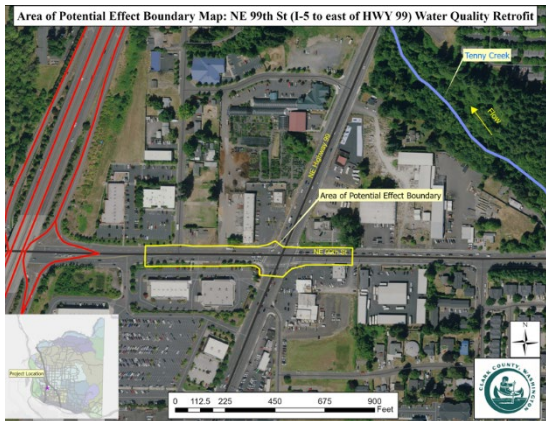
1. NE Hazel Dell Avenue (78th street to Cougar Creek) WQ Retrofit

- Grant Request: **\$708,435** Match: \$125,018
- This project will improve water quality in Cougar Creek through the installation of Technology Assessment Protocol - Ecology (TAPE) General Use Level Designation (GULD) basic treatment and Phosphorus treatment along NE Hazel Dell Avenue between NE 78th Street and the Cougar Creek crossing in Clark County. This project will provide treatment for total suspended solids (TSS) and Phosphorus.



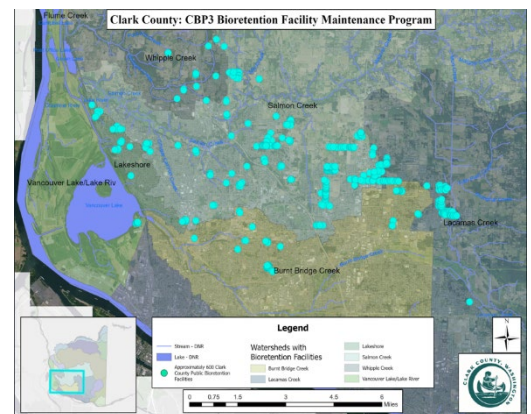
2. NE 99th St (I-5 to east of HWY 99) WQ Retrofit

- Grant Request: **\$532,580** Match: \$93,984
- This project will improve water quality in Tenny Creek through the design and installation of Technology Assessment Protocol – Ecology (TAPE) and General Use Level Designation (GULD) Phosphosorb filter cartridges along NE 99th Street between Interstate 5 to approximately 300 ft east of NE Highway 99 in Clark County. This project will provide treatment for total suspended solids (TSS) and total phosphorus.



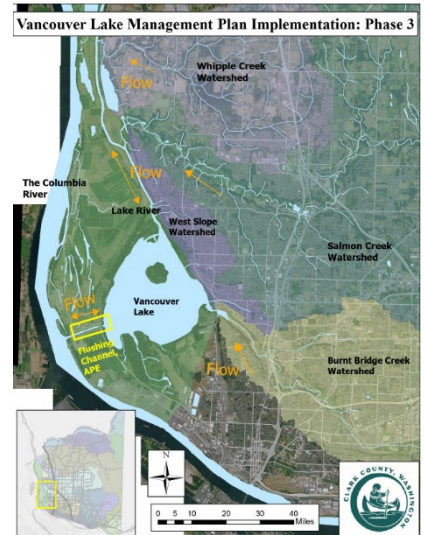
3. Bioretention Facility CBP3 Maintenance Program Pilot Implementation

- Grant Request: **\$680,062.00** No Match Required
- This project will pilot implementation of Clark County's bioretention facility community-based public-private partnership (CBP3) maintenance program.
- Optimization of bioretention facility performance will lead to improved water quality in multiple watersheds, including Burnt Bridge Creek, Salmon Creek, and Lacamas Creek. This program should enhance flow control, improve the removal of total suspended solids (TSS), dissolved metals, and phosphorous, and provide aesthetic benefit to the community.



4. Vancouver Lake Management Plan Implementation: Phase 3

- Grant Request: **\$500,000.00** No Match Required
- Two phases of Vancouver Lake Management planning are complete to address harmful algal blooms . Phase 1 recommended actions to improve lake water quality. Restoring the Vancouver Lake Flushing Channel is the most important action for long-term improvement. Phase 2 evaluated four planning-level concepts for future implementation. This Phase 3 project will complete the monitoring, survey, modeling, and stakeholder engagement necessary to select a final preferred alternative for preliminary design.



5. Stormwater Capacity Grant 2025-2027 (Non-competitive)

- Grant Request: **\$120,000.00** No Match Required
- This project will assist Phase I and II Permittees in implementation or management municipal stormwater programs.

Current Grant Awards

- **Stormwater Capacity Grant 2025-2027** (non-competitive) has been awarded to us.
 - We're currently in negotiations and expect to have it signed by the end of the year.
- **NE Highway 99 *NE Hazel Dell Plaza to 102nd Street) Water Quality Retrofit - \$659,939**
 - In negotiation and expect to have it signed by the end of the year.
- **NE Highway 99 (78th to 86th Street) Water Quality Retrofit - \$587,559**
 - In negotiation and expect to have it signed by the end of the year.
- **LCFRB Stormwater Phosphorus Filter** grant is fully executed.
 - Work will start in January 2026.
- **CBP3 bioretention facility maintenance program** grant is fully executed.
 - RFP will be issued in mid-October.

Heritage Farm Project Highlights

- Construction continues.



Community Engagement and Inclusion: *Managed by Eric Lambert*

Staffing

- New Clean Water Outreach Specialist Hailey Shannon's first day was August 18. She started onboarding into her new role, but she's been able to jump right into a few things because we're REALLY busy and Hailey is incredible. This is a new position funded by the rate study.

Project

- **Salmon Creek Mural along 117th was unveiled on Sept. 20.**
 - Planning meetings with Community Engagement team, artist consultant and volunteer community members to prepare for mural painting the first two weekends of September.
 - 'Ana the Artist' supported this resident led project to paint a mural along the retaining wall just east of I-5 on 117th St.
 - Painting occurred over the first two weekends in September by volunteer artists in the community.
 - Staff coordinated supply purchases, volunteer plan, safety plan, pollution prevention and wastewater plan, prep work from Salmon Creek road crew, parks and CVTV coverage.



Stormwater Management Action Plan (SMAP)

- Rebranded to “Salmon Creek Solutions” for community engagement.
- Started developing postcard mailer and mailing list to Lower Salmon Creek residents.
- Contracted with CELS (Community Engagement Liaison Services) and held kickoff meeting to discuss approach to involving overburdened communities.
- Worked on the StoryMap and SMAP boundary map.

Ecology Grant: Reducing Nutrients and Pesticides in SW Washington

- Selected vendor deliver Latino landscape professional training via RFQ process.
 - Kudos to new CE staffer, Celina Montgomery. This was her first time doing this type of procurement. It's so good to have additional staff trained in this process.
- Selected vendor, Kathryn Owen Consulting, via RFQ process to support survey design and program evaluation of WSU's activities (natural lawn care walking tours and resource sharing), digital lawn care campaign, and Latino landscape professional training.
- Met new staff from Changing Currents who will implement program to meet those deliverables.

Dumpster Lid Behavior Change Campaign

- Point North (consultants) drafted pilot plan for the Stormwater Partners coalition to review.

Other Activities

- Evaluated school fee reduction program submissions and plotted course to determine future of the program.
 - We will have a work session with Council in early October to get policy direction on this.
- Stormwater Partners finalized pilot site locations.
- Developed policy memo to allow incentives to be purchased and used for overburdened community engagement, behavior change programming and other areas that serve / support Public Works goals. Continuing to draft official policy for review as time permits.
- Worked with GIS and Josh Lipscomb to incorporate a storm drain medallion check box into the Cartegraph mapping program to identify storm drains that do or do not have medallions.
 - This will help us direct volunteers to storm drains that need marking and supporting our NPDES stewardship requirement.

Presentation

- Cobblestone NW HOA on Aug. 18 (HOA of Clean Water Commissioner John Chatel).
- Clark County Green Biz community at Morning Blend on Aug. 19
- Shared winning videos of the Students for Clean Water Video Contest at CoV movies in the part event on Aug. 22.
- Stormwater Partner, Sean Mulderig presented to a Clark College class in Ridgefield, Celina supported the presentation

Other News:

- Planning interview content on KPTV Fox 12 with regional partners. We do 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.
- Submitted proposal to attend and present at the 14th Annual Clark County Latino Youth Leadership Conference on Oct. 3.

Business Services and Budget Team: *Supported by Andrea Logue*

2025 Fall Supplemental Budget Adoption Timeline

- **August 4:** Final Change Requests Due to Budget Office (*completed*)
- **Sep 15 through Oct 2:** County Manager Meetings with Departments
- **October 3:** County Manager Develops Recommendations
- **October 22:** Work Session
- **November 4:** Budget Hearing by Council

2026 Annual Budget Adoption Timeline

- **August 11:** Final Change Requests Due to Budget Office (*completed*)
- **Sep 15 through Oct 2:** County Manager Meetings with Departments
- **October 6:** Department / Office Requests Published
- **October 10:** County Manager Develops Recommendations
- **November 4:** County Manager's Recommended Budget Published
- **November 12:** Work Session
- **December 1-3:** Budget Hearings by Council

Clean Water Fee

- October 1 Work Session to receive policy direction from Council on Clean Water Fee Reduction for Clark County Schools Program.
- It's been recommended to pause this program until a new Clean Water Fee Program Administrator has been hired in 2026 to evaluate, revise, codify, and administer the program.

Monitoring & Assessment Team: *Managed by Chad Hoxeng*

Lower Columbia Urban Streams (LCUS)

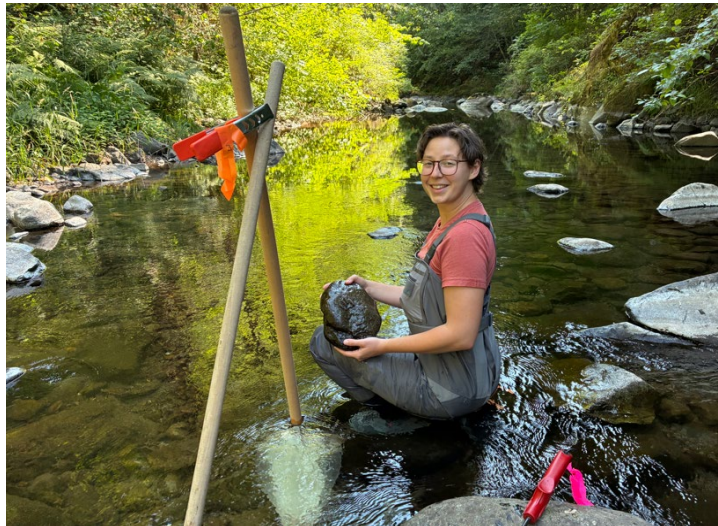
Our new team is up and running and have just completed the first five years of the LCUS project.

- Performed habitat assessments at 9 LCUS locations which wraps up out water year 2024 monitoring efforts.
 - Each assessment collects over 2,000 data points to help assess stream health. This was a huge effort that was accomplished by our 5 professional scientists.
- Uploaded over 660,000 data points to Ecology's EIM
- Submitted water year 2024 LCUS annual report to Ecology.
- Set up three water year 2026 LCUS status sites while performing routine maintenance at the five trend sites.



Wadeable Streams

Our team finished monthly water quality sampling and yearly BIBI samples for water year 2025 to assess stream health at 19 streams throughout the county. The annual **Stream Health Report** is in the process of being updated with Water Year 2024 data and should be available later this year. Check out our new data on [StoryMap](#)



Microbial Source Tracking

We once again partnered with Clark Conservation District to help identify sources of fecal coliform at eight sites within the Lacamas Creek watershed.



Hydrology

Clean Water monitors and maintains continuous stage at 14 streams throughout the county.



Our new scientists have been with us for just about four months now. They are bringing increased efficiency, new ideas and a wealth of knowledge and experience to our monitoring team.

Administration & Program Support: Supported by Alice Millward

- **Alice has been busy organizing various Clean Water staff events:**
 - **Sept 8th Staff Picnic** was held at Frenchman's Bar:
 - Our first **Lunch and Learns** was on Sept. 24. CW engineer, Subhash Poudyal, discussed our current active water quality projects (retrofit and repair both). He highlighted major accomplishments and shared construction photos.
 - Alice is currently working on the logistics for 2025 year-end staff and 2026 strategic planning retreats and various staff meetings.
- **Clean Water's space planning and upcoming office remodel** efforts are underway! We are going from having desk space for 18 to 35 employees in mid-October. This necessitates significant archiving and organization of old records; moving electrical, computer and telephone equipment; moving equipment, filing cabinets, workstations, and computers; as well as surplus old office equipment, supplies, and furniture and coordinating other logistics. Administrative staff have been providing significant support for this endeavor so that our office space will be ready for the upgrades to occur the week of October 13.
- **Refining the new employee onboarding procedures** has been a key endeavor this summer for the administrative staff. So far in 2025, Clean Water has welcomed 7 new people to the division, and we expect 3-4 more by the end of the year. There are significant behind the scenes coordination that occurs in order to facilitate the smooth onboarding process for the new employees and managers.
- **The unglamorous administrative work continues:** All of the exciting projects, grants and work being created by the other Clean Water sections mean there's 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. This also includes a lot of mailings for the community engagement, inspections and monitoring groups. We still send out pet waste pledges and prizes for our community engagement team. As part of the Ecology grant application process, Alice drafted a number of support letters for Clean Water and for other partners' projects that we're collaborating on.
- **Clean Water Commission Support:** Alice has received good feedback regarding her innovations and efficiencies she created this summer. This includes sending out the meeting packets a week early, creating this Division Digest, CWC Work Group Reports, and will be soon implementing a new Work Group meeting "notes template". She also provided support for three CWC work groups when they met and has been working closely with Commissioners DeWillie and Chatel to update the CWC bylaws for approval at the December meeting.
- **Venue logistics and catering for the CWC Nonpoint Source Symposium** on Oct. 28 has been a large focus for Alice. She has also been working closely with Hailey Shannon for the audio-video / hybrid meeting logistics and supporting the symposium work group and Devan with invitations, the agenda, and other aspects.
- **CWC recruitment** efforts are in full swing. Interviews are scheduled for Sept. 25. We hope to have recommendations to the County Manager by the October CWC meeting. We are filling two replacement and three new (effective January 2026) Clean Water Commissioner positions.

