



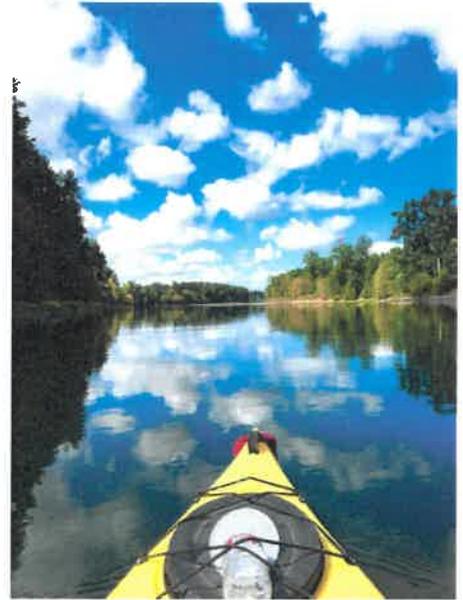
# Clean Water Commission

# ANNUAL REPORT

Clean Water Division

2019 REPORT

Approved January 8, 2020



# Clark County Clean Water Commission 2019 Annual Report



## 2019 Commissioners

Marie LaManna, Chair  
Brendan Addis, Vice Chair  
Christy Dunbar  
Michelle Girts  
Sue Marshall

Justin Maynard  
Michelle Maynard  
David McDevitt (not pictured)  
Joshua Seeds (not pictured)

On behalf of the Clark County Clean Water Commission, I approve the 2019 Annual Report to the Clark County Councilors.

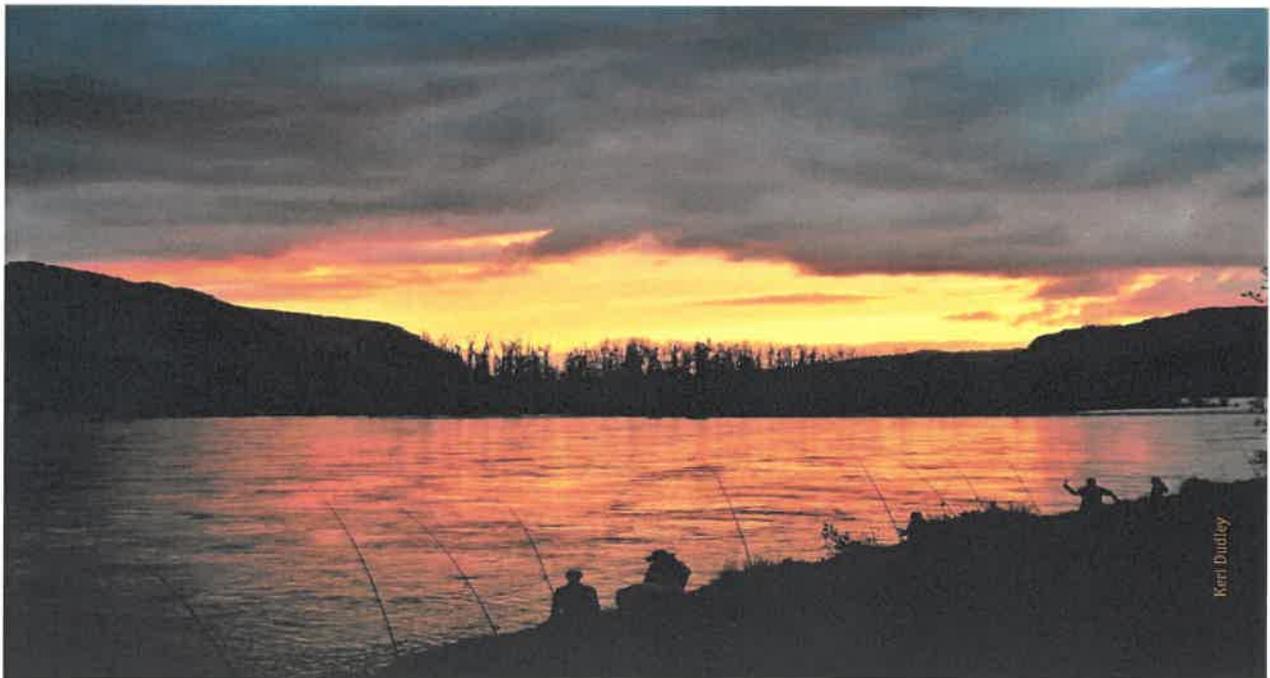
  
Brendan Addis, 2020 CWC Chair

1-8-20  
Dated

# Clark County Clean Water Commission 2019 Annual Report

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# Clark County Clean Water Commission 2019 Annual Report



## Executive Summary

Four new commissioners were appointed in 2019 to the Clean Water Commission (CWC). The Commission met for six regularly scheduled meetings and one special meeting.

The Clean Water Commission 2019 areas of focus were:

1. Working with the Clean Water Division Stormwater Infrastructure Manager to research the budget process and priorities.
2. Educate the general public at community events.
3. Further and develop regional partnerships on stormwater and watershed issues.

This annual report details scheduled meeting topics, staff reports, accomplishments, action plan, and recommendations for the upcoming year. The Clean Water Commission will continue to advise the Clean Water Division, County Manager and Clark County Council on stormwater issues.

## Mission Statement

The members of the Clean Water Commission will in all actions and recommendations strive to achieve healthy watersheds throughout Clark County and to ensure the integrity of the water cycle, guided by best available science. The CWC recognizes the importance of the community's needs, recommending practical actions that are feasible within Clark County.

The Clean Water Commission seeks to cultivate a more informed community, recognizing that all Clark County surface waters that flow to the Columbia River derive from watersheds entirely contained within Clark County (with the exception of several small headwaters). Therefore, improving our local water quality and quantity management practices yield environmental benefits both locally across the County and downstream in the Columbia River.



## Meetings

The CWC meeting schedule of every other month begins in January and ends in November. There was not a stormwater facilities tour scheduled in 2019. However, there were several special presentations by staff throughout the year which focused on the private stormwater facility inspection program, the monitoring and the capital infrastructure. Overall, the meeting attendance was excellent with only a few of the commissioners having conflicts.

## Scheduled Meeting Topics

### January

- Clean Water Commission Vacancies and Reappointments
- Welcome New Members
- Clean Water Bylaws Review
- Enviro-scape Demonstration
- Clean Water Education & Outreach Update
- Staff Liaison Update
- Approval of Clean Water Commission 2018 Annual Report
- Clark County 2019 Stormwater Management Plan Update
- Working Group Updates: Outreach, Research and Partnerships

### March

- Clark County 2019 Stormwater Management Plan Update
- Clean Water Manager Update
- Private Stormwater Outreach Update
- Clean Water Education & Outreach Update
- Working Group Updates: Outreach, Research and Partnerships
- 2018 Annual Report Presentation to Council Update
- Update on Status of Chelatchie Prairie Railroad Project Comments
- 2019 Stormwater Management Plan Update
- Clean Water Bylaw Review and Approve
- Staff Liaison Report



### May

- Mandated Open Public Meetings and Public Records Act (OPMA) Training
- Clean Water Education & Outreach Update
- Clean Water Division Monitoring Staff Presentation
- Working Group Updates: Outreach, Partnerships, and Research
- Strategic Plan Discussion
- Staff Liaison Report
  - GoogleDrive

### July

- Clean Water Education & Outreach Update
- Staff Liaison Report
- Working Group Updates: Outreach, Partnerships, and Research
- Clean Water Monitoring Staff Presentation Follow-up
- Clean Water Division 6-year Capital Plan 2019-2024
- Strategic Planning Work Session



## September

- Clean Water Education & Outreach Update
- Working Group Updates: Outreach, Research, and Partnerships
- Strategic Plan Discussion
- Staff Liaison Report
- Upcoming Field Trip Opportunities

## November

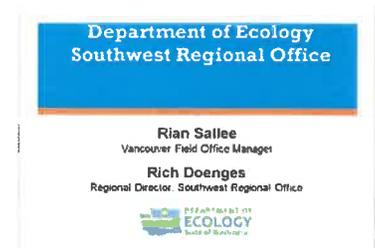
- Progress on CWC Annual Report for 2019
- CWC Strategic Planning for 2020
- Nomination and Election of 2020 Chair and Vice Chair
- Clean Water Education & Outreach Update
- Working Group Updates: Outreach, Research, and Partnerships
- Strategic Plan Discussion
- Staff Liaison Report



## Special Meetings

The Clean Water Commission held one special meeting on Oct. 2, 2019. In addition to regular business items, a number of presentations from various organizations were scheduled: Department of Ecology's East Fork of the Lewis River Ecology Project, Clark County Conservation District and Clark County's Master Shoreline Plan. (The Clark County Conservation District and Clark County's Master Shoreline Plan presentations were rescheduled.)

- Working Group Updates: Outreach and Education, Partnerships, and Research
- East Fork Lewis River Ecology Plan Presentation by Devan Rostorfer, Washington Department of Ecology
- Staff Liaison Report
- Heritage Farms – Headwater Wetland and Channel Grant Letter of Support Request
- Comments on Proposed Clean Water Commission Code Changes
- Strategic Planning Discussion



In the future, the Clean Water Commission plans to schedule at least two special meetings each year (ideally one in Spring and one in Fall) where they can dedicate more time aside for community presentations and have more flexibility to work on large group projects such as the strategic plan.

The storm water facility educational tour was postponed until spring 2020.

## Staff Reports

- Clark County Stormwater Management Plan
- Mandated Open Public Meetings Act, Public Records Act and Records Retention / Management Act Training
- 2019 NPDES Phase 1 Permit Requirements
- 2019-24 Clean Water Division 6-Year Capital Plan
- 2010 Stream Health Report
- 2020-25 Clean Water Division 6-Year Capital Plan
- 2019 Department Ecology's East Fork Lewis River Presentation
- 2018 Clean Water Commissioner Annual Report



## Community Involvement, Events, Education

### January

- 1/02 Eric Lambert demonstrated the watershed enviro-scape for the commissioners and each participated in the visual learning experience of how pollutants are introduced to our waterways

### February

- 2/10 Commissioner Girts met with City of Vancouver Engineering Stormwater Program Manager
- 2/11 Commission Girts attended the Neighborhood Associations Council of Clark County (NACCA) meeting
- 2/13 Commissioner Girts attended *Association of State Wetland Managers (AWSM) Webinar: Waters of the US*
- 2/15 Commissioner Girts attended *Association of State Wetland Managers (AWSM) Webinars: How to Work with Wetlands in Altered Landscapes*
- 2/15 Partnership Work Group met telephonically
- 2/27 Commissioners LaManna, Addis, Dunbar, Girts, and Marshall attended the 2018 Annual Report presentation to the Clark County Council

## March

- 3/01 Commissioner Addis attended “*Soaking It In - Stormwater Management in the Landscape for Professionals?*”
- 3/11 Commissioner Girts attended the NACCA meeting
- 3/18 Commissioner Girts met with floodplains staff at Columbia Land Trust (Long Beach, WA)

## April

- 4/08 Commissioner LaManna attended the NACCA meeting
- 4/13 Commissioner LaManna participated at the Klineline Fish Derby Clean Water Outreach booth
- 4/18 Commissioners LaManna and Michelle Girts attended *Women in Water Leadership Symposium*
- 4/20 Commissioner LaManna participated at the Earth Day Clean Water Outreach booth



## May

- 5/01 Research Work Group met
- 5/01 Commissioner Girts met with Glenn Lamb, Columbia Land Trust Executive Director
- 5/02 Commissioner Girts attended Planning Commission Work Session on Heritage Farms Master Plan
- 5/13 Commissioner LaManna attended NACCA meeting
- 5/23-24 Commissioner Addis attended *PCC Rock Creek Vegetated Water Quality Facility Management Training* (Two-day course on inspections and management of functional vegetated water quality facilities)

## June

- 6/10 Commissioner LaManna attended NACCA meeting
- 6/14 Commissioner Michelle Maynard received Washington reciprocity. (Now licensed Civil Engineer for Washington and California)
- 6/27 Commissioner Girts attended Columbia Land Trust Field Tour of Long Beach, WA Flood Area/Stormwater Issues



## July

- 7/08-12 Commissioner LaManna attended ERSI Conference in San Diego
- 7/25-26 Commissioner Justin Maynard attended Washington DOT water quality training

## August

- 8/12 Commissioner LaManna attended the NACCA meeting
- 8/14 Commissioner Girts participated in *WMC Webinar: Mapping Wetland Inundation Dynamics and Wetland Change using Google Earth Engine*



## September

- 9/09 Commissioner LaManna attended the NACCA meeting
- 9/20 Commissioner Girts participated in *ASWM Hot Topics Webinar: A Legal Analysis of the Clean Water Act § 401 Proposed Rule*
- 9/20 Commissioner Justin Maynard met with Department of Fish and Wildlife regarding their policies and grants for the Partnership Working Group

## October

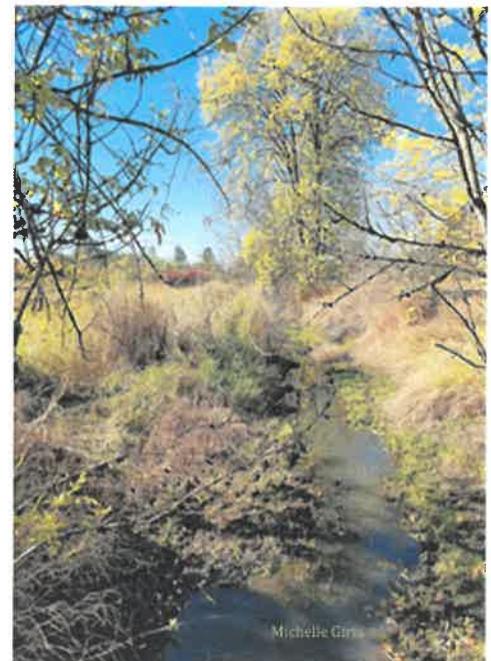
- 10/14 Commissioner LaManna attended the NACCA meeting
- 10/15 Commissioner Girts participated in *NFFA Webinar: Engineering with Nature for Flood Risk Management*
- 10/16 Commissioner Dunbar (Research Work Group) contacted Doug Steinbarger, Director of WSU Extension Office, regarding their stormwater funding
- 10/17 Commissioner Girts participated in *SWS Webinar: Toxic Pollution in Wetlands and Remediation Actions*
- 10/19 Commissioner Addis taught *Streamside Planting with Native Plants* class
- 10/19 Commissioner Addis conducted Salmon Creek Greenway planting tour with public attendees
- 10/21 Research Work Group met
- 10/23 Commissioner Girts participated in *Wetland Mapping Consortium (WMC) Webinar: National Land Cover Database 2016, General Overview and Applications to Wetland Assessments*
- 10/30 Commissioner Michelle Maynard contacted Columbia Land Trust for Research Work Group
- 10/30 Commissioner Michelle Maynard contacted Columbia Springs for Research Work Group

## November

- 11/06 Commissioner Michelle Maynard sent follow-up invitation emails to Columbia Land Trust and to Columbia Springs
- 11/13 Commissioner Girts participated in *WMC Webinar: Wetland Inventory of Canada Using Optical and RADAR EO Data and Google Earth Cloud Computing*
- 11/13 Commissioner Seeds attended the Stormwater Partnership Alliance Meeting.

## December

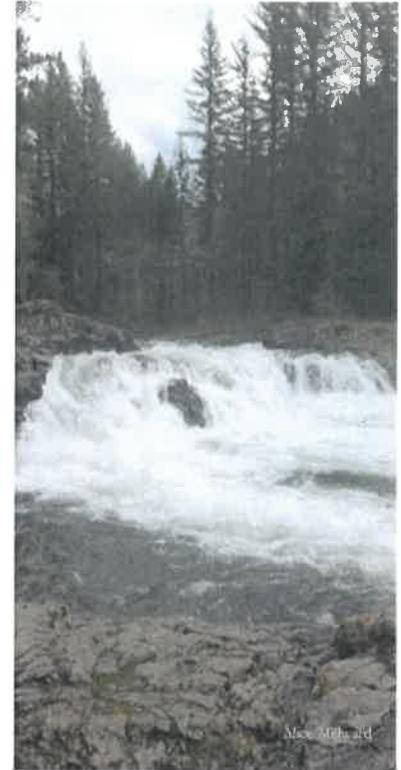
- 12/02 Commissioner Girts met with Friends of Vancouver Lake regarding lake hydrology and water quality management
- 12/03 Commissioner Girts attended Clark County Council meeting to support the Clean Water 2020-2025 Capital Improvement Plan was approved
- 12/16 Commissioner Girts attended Friends of Vancouver Lake Board Meeting



## Accomplishments

### The Clean Water Commission as a whole has:

- Updated the Commission's mission statement
- Started writing a strategic plan for commission
  - Drafting CWC values and vision statements
- Presented 2018 Annual Report to Council in February
- Submitted a written comment supporting Heritage Farm Master Plan enhancements for water quality and stormwater treatment, demonstrations, and interpretation activities in March
- Prepared 2019 Clean Water Commission Annual Report
- Interviewed and recommended three CWC for 2020 term
- Stored shared documents on the county's google drive
- CWC bylaws were substantially revised and adopted in March
- Provided Title VI tracking for their public meetings since August
- Ensured that all members received Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA) training



### The Partnerships Work Group:

- Developed a mission and goals document
- Drafted an annual action plan
- Identified contacts of potential partner organizations and initiated communication exchanges
- Interviewed the SW Region of Dept. of Ecology about their East Fork Lewis River Ecology Plan
  - Invited them to present an overview of their project to the CWC at Special Meeting
- Interviewed Heritage Farms staff regarding their Master Plan process
- Followed the Heritage Farms Master Plan process closely due to its impact on community
  - PWG drafted an additional letter of support for Commission

### The Research Work Group:

- Spearheaded extensive revision of CWC's bylaws
  - New bylaws were approved in March 2019
- Developed action plan to achieve research project
- Successfully identified groups/organizations who applied for stormwater related grants
  - Devised questions to determine factors re: how and why groups pursue funding sources
  - Began interviewing groups
  - In early stages of understanding the diverse stormwater and enhanced fish/wildlife habitat organizations and are slowly gathering info and plan report findings summer of 2020.



### The Public Outreach Work Group:

- Attended Neighborhood Associations Council of Clark County (NACCA) meetings
- Participated at the Kline Fishing Derby booth
- Assisted with Earth Day booth



## Challenges

The Clean Water Commission continues to adjust to commissioner turnover and members' ability, or lack thereof, to participate more in than the six scheduled regular meetings. Momentum is lost between bimonthly regular meetings, so the Commissioners must take initiative to stay on track and be active in the work groups, with staff and in the community.

Four new Clean Water Commissioners started in January 2019 which meant that two thirds of the commission had less than a year of experience on this advisory board. Clean Water staff actively provided educational opportunities to the CWC in order to better understand what each Clean Water program does. Education and Outreach engaged the commission in a hands-on learning with the enviro-scape teaching tool. There have been staff presentations regarding private stormwater inspections, the wide-range of testing performed by the monitoring group, the 2019 and 2020 Clean Water capital plans, and an overview of the new 2019 NPDES permit. This will continue in 2020.

As members of the community, receiving timely information regarding county policy decision making and processes through traditional means has seemed to be more difficult than in the past. The Commission encourages proactive communication with the public at all levels. The CWC would like to be more proactive and informed in order to be able to provide better advice to county. The change in leadership for the Clean Water Division Manager position has also been challenging for the commission.



## 2020 Action Plan

### Advisory Board Action Plan

The Clean Water Commission is advocating for the County to focus policy, planning, and projects with a greater focus on achieving healthy watersheds. In the past, the focus has been specific project based and not using a wider lense towards impacts many individual projects can have on the entire watershed. With this in mind, the Clean Water Commission will finalize their strategic plan and an action plan to accompany the newly revised mission statement which will align with Clean Water Division goals and mission. The Working Groups will also align their goals to help support the CWC's new strategic plan.

The CWC will continue to proactively expand their understanding of the Clean Water Division by inviting staff presentations to include Local Source Control/Pollution Prevention, Infrastructure Mapping, Code Compliance and the impacts of the 2019 NPDES permit requirements. The CWC will continue to create archives and draft the history of this advisory committee.

Clean Water Commission will increase visibility in the general Clark County community through Outreach and Partnership Work Groups' efforts. Identify and influence funding and implementation of priority areas of water quality research as identified by Clean Water staff and the Research Work Group while supporting the mission through Outreach and Partnerships Work Groups.

### Partnerships Work Group Action Plan

- Increase frequency of meetings with current and potential Clark County Clean Water partners
- Discuss opportunities to leverage assets, projects and activities, such as 78th Street Heritage Farm
- Align work group goals to support the CWC strategic plan and the Clean Water Division's mission

### Public Outreach Work Group Action Plan

- Assist CW staff at community/public outreach events and neighborhood meetings to educate the general public in the importance of and practices to achieve clean water.
- Work with CW staff to contact and educate homeowners on stormwater facility maintenance
- Participate in outreach volunteer opportunities.
- Align work group goals to support the CWC strategic plan and the Clean Water Division's mission.

### Research Work Group Action Plan

- Prepare a water resource program study by identifying and interviewing all organizations within the county on projects related directly or indirectly to water resource conservation.
- Create outline of those organizations and roughly quantify their reach; area, projects, and audience.
- Analyze the sources of funding for budgets and sustainability of these funding sources for financial viability and outline the overlap of program targets and competitive financial sources.
- Align work group goals to support the CWC strategic plan and the Clean Water Division's mission.



## Recommendations

The Clean Water Commission recommends that the evaluation of potential and likely stormwater impacts, both project level and cumulative impacts should be evaluated on a whole-watershed basis early in zoning and land use planning activities, rather than solely on a project by project basis.

The Clean Water Commission recommends that the County Councilors continue to support the Clean Water Department budget and staff activities to ensure the county is achieving NPDES permit requirements and creating the best quality of life for the Clark County community.



## Summary

The Clean Water Commission continues to define its role as a dedicated advisory board by creating action plans and long term goals, meeting with Clean Water staff on a regular basis to ensure that the board aligns its objectives to the Clean Water program goals. The Commission has formed partnerships and has introduced its face in the community by being an active participant in public outreach events, neighborhood association meetings, and school presentations.

## Acknowledgements

The Clean Water Commission has had a successful year of member engagement. Members were active in the community and continued to educate themselves to better serve the public. County staff attendance at meetings was informative and appreciated. The Commission would like to acknowledge and thank the following Public Works and Clean Water staff for their support: Ahmad Qayoumi, Greg Shafer, Dean Boening, Eric Lambert, Rod Swanson, Jeff Schnabel, Ben Joner, Cary Armstrong and Alice Millward.

## Appendix A: CWC Meeting Attendance

Bylaws state that Commissioners shall attend 75% of regularly scheduled meetings. (Excused absences are not allowed.)

Commissioners	Jan	March	May	July	Sept	Oct	Nov	Total	%
Marie LaManna	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	6	100
Brendan Addis	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	6	100
Christy Dunbar	*	P	P	P	P	P	P	5	100
Michelle Girts	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	5	83
Sue Marshall	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	6	100
Justin Maynard	P	P	P	A	P	A	P	5	83
Michelle Maynard	P	P	P	A	P	A	P	5	83
David McDevitt	P	A	A	P	A	P	P	3	50
Joshua Seeds	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	5	83

Present      Absent      October Special Meeting not required attendance.

\* Dunbar wasn't confirmed by Council until 1/8/2019 but attended January meeting.

