

**THURSTON COUNTY  
STORM AND SURFACE WATER ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**

**January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
Meeting Summary**

<b>Representative</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Present (P) Not Present (NP) Excused (E)</b>
Jake Wager (Chair)	At Large	P
Edward O'Brien	At Large	P
Daniel Vlad	District 2	P
Britt Nederhood	District 3	P
Nancy Winters	At Large	P
David Hartley (Vice Chair)	District 1	P
Zahid Chaudhry	District 3	P
Phyllis Farrell	District 1	P

Staff:

Larry Schaffner, Nate Ensley, Brad Murphy, Miriam Villacian, Nicole Ross

Introductions/Process/Correspondence (Jake Wager, Chair)

Jake welcomed new members Zahid Chaudhry, Edward O'Brien, and Daniel Vlad. All gave a brief introduction.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Amendments to the Agenda (Jake Wager, Chair)

No amendments to the agenda were made.

Meeting Summary (Jake Wager, Chair)

No Amendments made to the meeting summary. Phyllis motioned to approve, second. Motion carried.

SSWAB Stormwater CIP Subcommittee (Nate Ensley)

During the November SSWAB meeting, Nate Ensley provided an overview of the capital improvement process. The formation of the stormwater capital improvement program (CIP) subcommittee aims to solicit feedback for staff's consideration regarding stormwater CIP projects over the next five years. Nate hopes to have three SSWAB members join him to: 1) gain feedback prior to the County's CIP annual process; and 2) report back to SSWAB on the results of the subcommittee's conversations.

Britt, Daniel, and Zahid volunteered to serve on the subcommittee with no objections by SSWAB members.

Nate expects that the subcommittee would report back to the SSWAB. As far as the SSWAB acting on recommendations, the vision is to keep it at an awareness level, not ready to commit to implementing any recommendations.

Jake suggested that the SSWAB have an opportunity to meet each other socially in the spring. With the open meeting laws, no business would be conducted. SSWAB members was agreeable to this suggestion.

#### Thurston County Equity Index Tool (*Miriam Villacian*)

Miriam Villacian presented the Equity Index Tool, an inter-active mapping tool that helps highlight over-burden communities. After review of the details of the data sets used in each category, Miriam presented the various maps that have been derived from the Equity Index project.

Miriam opened the floor to the SSWAB members for questions and discussion on how this tool might be applied.

During the discussion Miriam indicated that most of the brown areas (i.e., high burden, low participation) on the map have a lot of events already. They will not have to completely rethink how to outreach but maybe where to do it. The tool itself is not required, it is something the County and their partners chose to do to help evaluate the program. Potential exists for other applications of the Equity Index tool.

Nate commented they have kicked off Thurston County Stormwater Utility Comprehensive Study and one of the tasks involves reviewing the capital project ranking and prioritization process. The Equity Index could become a part of the CIP ranking process.

#### Draft Green Cove Creek Stormwater Management Action Plan (*Larry Schaffner*)

Larry began by reviewing the development journey of the Stormwater Management Action Plan (SMAP). In January, Larry presented a summary of the SMAP three-step process to assess the degree to which MS4 discharges effect receiving waters.

During this meeting, Larry sought feedback on the draft SMAP's proposed actions, as well as the proposed approach to track implementation and the plan's adaptive management.

1. Action Proposal 1: Capital Facilities – Water Quality and Flow Control Retrofits  
County has ownership of ten or less sites where surface water runoff falls onto our roadways, goes into the stormwater collection system, and discharges to the creek via an outfall or a discharge point. These outfalls and discharge points, and their associated County-own property, is where the retrofit opportunities lie. Kaiser Road was chosen out of eight possible locations for the initial short-term focus to evaluate retrofit feasibility opportunities.

Nate commented that they have not investigated if the capital projects could mitigate the cause of flooding that has happened in that area during heavy rain times. If there is an

overall basin study, they can help in that investigation. For now, that would be outside of the scope of the current proposal.

That decision to only include water quality treatment at the County Club Road site for Proposal 1a. was made without Nate's input. From what he has seen from the onsite conditions, providing flow control might be a challenge as the site involves a roadside with a steep high slope down into the Green Cove Creek. Edward clarified that his concern pertains to flow control to prevent stream channel erosion. Further he shared an observation that after reading the Department of Ecology SMAP guidance, it seems they expect these type of feasibility studies to have been a part of the SMAP itself.

Nate inquired if it was felt that the word *capacity* pertained to *facility capacity* or the *agency's capacity* to conduct the feasibility assessment. Edward agreed that the word is used both ways.

Larry added Ecology communicated that it would be acceptable for the SMAP to include retrofit projects that require additional feasibility assessment and reconnaissance to get a sense of what would be possible to achieve desired outcomes.

Larry indicated describing the process for selecting the priority receiving water catchment was not included in the draft as they choose to focus the SMAP on describing the proposed actions for the Green Cove Creek catchments. He ran some ideas by the SSWAB on how to convey the process, such as including more detail in the SMAP's narrative, in an appendix, or in a separate document. David responded that the SMAP refers to a lot of intricate steps in a manner that a reader cannot follow the logic or even comment on the logic that resulted in basin's selection as the priority.

2. Action Proposal 2. Stormwater management-related climate adaptation  
Phyllis expressed pleasure that the decision making, and planning factored in the climate mitigation plan.
3. Action Proposal 3. Bacteria pollution, identification, & correction  
Edward noted that he would like to see more resolve to the extent that the County can identify failing septic systems. The County's action should not just provide technical assistance as it has authority to require correction of failing septic system. Proposal 3b should also reflect the exercise of this authority. Larry agreed to add clarification on enforcement and implementation.
4. Action Proposal 4. Nutrient pollution, identification, & correction  
It was noted that the intent was to include all nutrients. The suggestion was made to also include other pollutants such as 6PPD and PFAS. However, sampling protocols are still under development. As new information emerges, it warrants consideration for incorporation into the plan.

5. Action Proposal 5: Enhance resolution of MS4 outfall catchment delineations  
Jake added that the proposal allows for identification of possible funding sources to address a specific problem that may be multi-jurisdictional.
6. Implementation Summary  
No comments or questions.
7. Funding Sources  
No comments or questions.
8. Assessment and Feedback Processes  
Edward suggested that in addition to tracking the number of outfalls that receive runoff treatment, it probably should include tracking those receiving flow control.

Larry noted currently uncertainty exists as to the future of SMAP-related obligations appearing in the reissuance of the 2024 Permit.

Larry asked SSWAB member to send him any further feedback by January 23<sup>rd</sup>.

#### SSWAB General Discussion (SSWAB Members)

1. General Updates  
Future involvement from SSWAB members in the development of the Comprehensive Stormwater Program Plan could occur by this summer. It is anticipated the plan will receive updates every 5-10 years.
2. Updates on Action Items/  
None.
3. SSWAB Reports on outreach in community  
None.
4. Topics for Next Meeting  
Jake reminded that the Agenda Subcommittee consists of Nancy, David, and himself. If members have items that they would like to be included in an upcoming meeting, please send to all subcommittee members.
5. Good of the Order  
A discussion was had on the format of the meeting minutes. Some members felt only action items should be recorded while others appreciated the level of detail provided. It was suggested to give a new format a try. Not so lengthy but provide a good sense of the discussion that occurred.

#### Action Items

- SSWAB Stormwater CIP subcommittee reports back to SSWAB on their deliberations.
- Miriam will send Larry her slide show for distribution to SSWAB

- SSWAB members will send Larry any further feedback on the draft SMAP by January 23<sup>rd</sup>. Larry will share SSWAB's SMAP feedback with the project team for consideration in its revision.
- SSWAB members will send agenda item proposal for upcoming meeting to Agenda Subcommittee members.

**The next meeting will be March 16, 2023.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm