

Thurston County Board Briefing

Briefing Date/Time:	Wednesday, August 2, 2023; 9:30-10:00	
Office/Department & Staff Contact:	Storm & Surface Water Advisory Board (SSWAB) – Jake Wager, Chair; David Hartley, Vice Chair CPED – Larry Schaffner (x4106); Jeremy Davis (x2103) Public Works – Tim Wilson (x5831)	
Topic:	Annual briefing by members of the Storm and Surface Water Advisory Board	
Purpose: (check all that apply)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information only <input type="checkbox"/> Decision needed <input type="checkbox"/> Follow up from previous briefing	Optimal Time Frame for Decision is: (dd/mm/yyyy)
Synopsis/Request/Recommendation: <i>(One or two sentences identifying your primary objective for this session)</i> This informational briefing will report on the recent work and upcoming priorities of the County's Storm & Surface Water Advisory Board (SSWAB), including recommendations for the Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) consideration.		
Background <p>SSWAB members have been entrusted by the County Commissioners to provide public involvement and accountability through their recommendations for preserving and protecting the water resources of Thurston County.</p> <p>Resolution No. 15450 (<i>Attachment A</i>), directs the SSWAB to hold a special meeting with the BoCC annually to “<i>report and provide recommendations on the Storm & Surface Water Utility work programs, its progress, needs and future direction.</i>” Improving stormwater management is a critical element in recovering and improving water quality throughout Thurston County. Changing stormwater regulatory requirements and evolving responsibilities bring broader demands on the County's Storm & Surface Water Utility (Utility) staff and resources. SSWAB members continue to appreciate and welcome the opportunity to communicate directly with the Commissioners.</p> <p>The nine-member SSWAB (<i>Attachment B</i>) supports compliance with the County municipal stormwater permit's public involvement and participation requirement as well as several initiatives in the County's Strategic Plan, including <i>#13-Increase opportunities for informed and effective civic engagement.</i></p>		
Key Roles and Responsibilities of SSWAB (per Resolution No. 15450, Section 2) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide public involvement and accountability within the rate boundary where the County collects Storm & Surface Water Utility rates and charges. • Review and provide recommendations to Utility staff and the Board of County Commissioners on the Storm & Surface Water Utility annual work program, budget, Capital Facility Plan (CFP), rates, and policy proposals. 		

- Carry on regular communications with the public, other agencies, and other water resource concerned groups to bring a broad water resource perspective to the Utility.

Year in Review – Implementation of SSWAB’s Roles and Responsibilities

Stormwater Management Program Plan Review and Comment- SSWAB helped fulfill the County’s municipal stormwater permit’s requirement for public involvement and participation, including the development, implementation, and update of the County’s *Stormwater Management Program Plan*.

Utility Program Review – SSWAB requested and received presentations, reviewed, and commented upon the following:

- Outreach, including K-12 education & outreach programs
- Monitoring – 2021 lake & streams water quality reports
- Stormwater capital facilities field tour
- Storm and Surface Water Utility fiscal reporting
- Thurston County Equity Index tool
- Green Cove Creek Stormwater Management Action Plan
- Stormwater Capital Facilities Plan projects
- SPLASH (i.e., the Utility’s annual ratepayer newsletter)
- Agricultural & forestry nonpoint pollution
- Stormwater Utility performance metric updates (see *Attachment C*)
- Early draft components of the Storm & Surface Water Comprehensive Study

Collaboration with other Interest Groups - Substantive SSWAB collaboration with related interest groups, while limited, included receiving a briefing on agriculture and forestry water pollution reduction programs from Thurston Conservation District and providing a SSWAB representative to the County’s Conservation Futures Ranking committee - an interagency stakeholder group. Improvement in SSWAB’s outreach to governmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, and County residents on storm and surface water issues was a subject of discussion at SSWAB’s retreat and plans for the coming year.

June 9, 2023 SSWAB Retreat –SSWAB held a 3/4 -day retreat to strategize our goals and objectives for the coming year. The retreat was kicked off with introductions and a greeting from Commissioner Carolina Mejia and was supported by staff from Public Works and CPED. Outcomes of the retreat are reflected under “**Areas of Focus for the Coming Year**”.

SSWAB Recommendations – SSWAB has no new recommendations this year.

Areas of Focus for the Coming Year

- Continue to assist in SSWAB recruitment efforts. One vacancy remains (District 2).
- Consider developing an “on-boarding” mentor program matching a SSWAB member with a new appointee.

Commented [TC1]: Wasn’t there discussion about reaching out beyond residents?

- Investigate establishment of a monitoring program evaluating the efficacy of completed Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) tied to surface and stormwater management.
- Work with County staff to augment public outreach associated with planned CIPs with a focus on the beneficial impact on stormwater management and surface water protection.
- Continue to assess and comment on financial and staff resources needed for CIPs particularly as they relate to public health and safety.
- Examine the collaboration and coordination between regional partners (i.e. Washington State Department of Transportation, Washington State Department of Health, Thurston Regional Planning Council, Department of Ecology, PCIP and municipalities).
- Increase educational opportunities for SSWAB members to enhance SSWAB's ability to provide thoughtful advice and recommendations to the BoCC and County staff.
- Continue SSWAB's commitment to develop, refine, and track performance metrics that are meaningful and relevant to addressing storm and surface water issues.
- Assess program funding levels for adequacy in the present and future in order to fully support surface and stormwater management goals.
- Compare stormwater management funding levels and resources as practiced by other municipal stormwater permittees.
- Intensify SSWAB's engagement in Thurston County's Comprehensive Plan process currently under way.

Commented [TC2]: What does this acronym refer too?

Documents Attached:

- *Attachment A* – SSWAB Resolution 15450
- *Attachment B* – SSWAB membership map
- *Attachment C* – 2020-2023 Calendar Year Performance Metric Update
- *Attachment D – Outcomes from 2023 SSWAB retreat*

Summary & Financial Impact:

The SSWAB meets annually with the BoCC to report and provide recommendations on issues affecting the County's Storm & Surface Water Utility.

Affected Parties:

Residents, property owners, and businesses in unincorporated Thurston County; the Storm & Surface Water Utility; and County departments with stormwater and water resource-related responsibilities (i.e., CPED, Public Works, Public Health & Social Services, Central Services, and Information Technology).

Options with Pros & Cons:

Not applicable – Informational Briefing

Board Direction:**Next Steps/Timeframe:**

Not applicable – Informational Briefing

Commented [TC3]: Given *The Areas of Focus for the Coming Year* captures the key outcomes from the retreat, is a standalone attachment still necessary? If so, the narrative should refer to this attachment.