

# SSWAB Retreat Summary

Friday June 9, 2023

## **Background**

In 1990, the Thurston County Board of Commissioners (BoCC), created the Surface and Storm Water Advisory Board (SSWAB). In subsequent years, the resolution creating SSWAB has been amended as well as being re-authorized when deemed necessary (see Attachment A).

SSWAB's purpose includes: 1) providing public involvement and accountability within the boundary of the area in which the Thurston County (TC) collects rates and charges for the Surface and Storm Water Utility; 2) reviewing and providing recommendations to the BoCC and TC staff on the annual work program, rates, and policy proposals; and 3) carrying on regular communications with the public as well as other groups and agencies concerned with water resources.

The nine-person advisory board appointed by the BoCC includes two appointments from each commissioner districts and three at-large appointments. SSWAB appointees serve with no compensation for a three year term, renewable by action from the BoCC. The Community Planning and Economic Development Department provides lead staff and administrative support. SSWAB meets, as a whole, on a bi-monthly basis for a total of six meetings per year. SSWAB members may also contribute additional time for public events, sub-committee meetings, and special meetings (e.g., SSWAB Retreat). All SSWAB advisory board meetings are subject to the Open Public Meetings Act and held in accordance with TC's hybrid meeting policy. SSWAB meetings occur on the third Thursday of the month from 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm at 3000 Pacific Ave. SE, Olympia.

In November 2022, SSWAB representation briefly dropped to five members. Both the limited number of annual SSWAB meetings and depleted ranks of serving members created some stress, but with the support of staff, SSWAB was able to manage its duties and responsibilities. In 2022, through the concerted recruitment efforts by the BoCC, SSWAB members, and staff, three new members were appointed. Unfortunately, during this same time, SSWAB incurred one resignation bringing the number of serving members to eight with vacancy remaining (District 2). Of the eight serving members, only two have served for an extended period of time. Most current appointees have served one year or less.

With the addition of new SSWAB members, a new challenge was recognized. The scope of SSWAB work involves highly technical areas and a confusing array of federal, state, and county

regulations and laws. Over the years, it's not uncommon for SSWAB members to share that it took a full three-year term to just start to become informed enough to be effective. Compounding that challenge was that during the COVID pandemic, the lack of in-person meetings, slowed the learning curve of new members.

## **Retreat**

At their March 2023 meeting, SSWAB decided to hold a ¾-day retreat to flesh out a commonly agreed to work plan. A two person sub-committee was tasked to develop a plan for the retreat and present their proposal at the May 2023 SSWAB meeting.

At the May 2023 the sub-committee presented its proposal, which included an agenda (Attachment B), approach, and logistics for the retreat. After deliberations, SSWAB voted to adopt the sub-committee's approach for their retreat.

The time selected was Friday June 9, 2023 from 8:15 am to 2:30 pm. For ease of logistics and public access (including video conferencing), the retreat was held at the County's Atrium Building – 3000 Pacific Ave. SE in Olympia. The following TC staff provided support in planning and executing the retreat:

Larry Schaffner, Storm Water Coordinator

Nathan Ensley, Senior Water Resources Engineer

Cynthia Taylor, Education & Outreach Specialist II

Nicole Ross, Fiscal Administrative Assistant

Corey Bennett, Administrative Assistant I

Sarah Smith, GIS Analyst II

Whitney Emge, GIS Analyst I

Ms. Ross and Mr. Bennett were recorders for the meeting. Mr. Schaffner, Mr. Ensley, and Ms. Taylor attended as staff liaisons in their areas of expertise, providing information as SSWAB engaged in the retreat process. In addition, reference materials, such as other documents and GeoData-generated maps, further helped inform deliberations.

The meeting was called to order with six SSWAB members present (i.e., Wager, Hartley, Winters, Farrell, O'Brien, Nederhood). Two SSWAB members (i.e., Chaudhry, Vlad) were excused due to family matters.

Commissioner Chair Carolina Mejia joined the SSWAB at the retreat's onset. Each SSWAB member presented a short bio which provided an opportunity to share with Chair Mejia the depth and breadth of experiences each member brings with them in service to the County. Following the introductory remarks, the floor was given over to Chair Mejia, who asked each SSWAB what specific thing, idea, or policy they wished to bring to the retreat. TC staff were also asked to make some remarks. Commissioner Mejia then spoke briefly about the retreat and extended her appreciation for the time and dedication of the SSWAB. Her comments were well received and very much appreciated.

Following the Commissioner Mejia's departure, the first order of business was the selection of three distinct breakout groups consisting of two SSWAB members and one TC staff member. The Chair made breakout group assignments as follows:

*Storm Water Planning/Programs*

- Jake Wager, SSWAB
- Nancy Winters, SSWAB
- Larry Schaffner, TC staff

*Public Outreach/Education*

- Phyllis Farrell, SSWAB
- Britt Nederhood, SSWAB
- Cynthia Taylor, TC staff

*Capital Projects/Facilities*

- David Hartley, SSWAB
- Ed O'Brien, SSWAB
- Nate Ensley, TC staff

Each breakout group had a designated station equipped with a flip chart and marking pens. While each breakout group had a theme, groups were not restricted to what topics or ideas they could deliberate on. Given the limited amount of time available to the SSWAB over the course of a year's worth of meetings, they sought to limit and prioritize the number of action items or initiatives that the SSWAB would take on.

Once the breakout assignments occurred, the work commenced with an open idea exchange. This exchange provided 45 minutes for members to wander from one station to another writing their individual ideas they wished the other breakout groups to consider during their discussions. Following this exercise, the members retreated to their assigned breakout group to discuss strategies, ideas, projects, and programs in the context of fulfilling SSWAB's mission. At

the conclusion of the breakout sessions, the SSWAB convened as a whole and for the next hour each breakout group presented their findings. This phase engaged all members with questions or comments directed to the presenters. There was a good sharing of thoughts and ideas, including staff who also engaged and provided timely information and the occasional correction. At 11:30 am, SSWAB adjourned for lunch. No action, beyond discussion, was taken.

At 12:30 pm, SSWAB reconvened. The remaining time involved sorting through the myriad of ideas and topics identified to create a viable path for the SSWAB going forward. The course over the next ninety minutes involved a great deal of back and forth discussion which resulted in SSWAB identifying eight goals receiving the widest support with other ideas listed as secondary. Each breakout group's primary goals and accompanying second tier are as follows:

#### *STORMWATER PLANNING*

1. Expand performance metrics and align with the County's municipal stormwater, e.g.,
  - Outreach
  - Business inspections
  - Outfalls without flow control
  - Illicit discharges – numbers and identification
  - Enforcement tracking
  - Monitoring stations, # with violations
  - SSWAB more informed?
2. Assess surface and stormwater program funding through rates and grants to fully support existing and expanded programs.
  - Evaluate budget (rate structure, credits) to meet County's storm and surface water goals
  - Compare Thurston County storm and surface water fees with other municipal permittees
3. Intensify SSWAB engagement in current Thurston County Comprehensive Plan process
  - Ensure integration if Thurston Climate Mitigation implementation that addresses surface and stormwater

#### *Additional Ideas*

- Address SSWAB governance issues
  - Increase number of meetings
  - Develop training packets for new members

- Establish a mentor program for new members
- Use standing committees
- For meetings provide background information (e.g., SWMPP chapter, what SSWAB has done previously, state of county’s current program)
- Promote a more robust storm and surface water program county-wide
- Review County’s O&M practices for facilities and infrastructure to align with SW BMPs

#### *PUBLIC OUTREACH/EDUCATION*

1. Outreach to Partner Agencies and Constituencies
  - Ascertain coordination and monitoring efforts among regional partners (i.e., Washington State Department of Transportation, Washington State Department of Health, Thurston Regional Planning Council, Department of Ecology, and municipalities.)
  - Better response to commissioner district constituents
  - Package a traveling presentation for SSWAB members
  - Consider using a stronger “voice” to encourage constituent’s behavior change (SPLASH, The Olympian, social media)
2. Increase Education for SSWAB Members
  - Receive presentations on Equity Index, South Sound Green, Stream Team, Monitoring Station Results, HABS Identification

#### *CAPITAL PROJECTS*

1. Assess and comment to the County concerning the Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) staff and financial resources with respect to county population, public health and safety needs, and aquatic resource protection needs.
2. Pursue opportunities to augment public outreach associated with Capital Improvement Projects to include public education on storm, surface water and aquatic resource protection issues.
3. Investigate the reasonableness of establishing an effectiveness monitoring program for Capital Improvement Projects.

#### *Additional Ideas*

- As a subset of #1 above, assess and comment to the County concerning the adequacy of the CIP resources to meet both: 1) the intent of the Stormwater Management Action Plan requirements of the County’s municipal stormwater

permit to apply increased effort to protect/restore the selected priority catchment, AND 2) the priority CIP needs countywide on a timely basis.

- Review and comment on the Storm and Surface Water Comprehensive Study's analysis of the stormwater utility rate fee reduction program

The moment of truth having arrived, a motion to adopt the goals was put forth. The motion was seconded and voted on. Adoption was unanimous. At approximately 2:10 pm, the SSWAB adjourned.<sup>1</sup>

Attachment A Resolution no. 15450

Attachment B Retreat Agenda

Attachment C Retreat Meeting Summary

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<sup>1</sup> SSWAB's July 20, 2023 action on retreat adopted this report and authorize its distribution to BoCC and other interested parties.

RESOLUTION NO. 15450

A RESOLUTION consolidating and amending all previous Board of County Commissioners' (BoCC) resolutions regarding the Storm and Surface Water Advisory Board (SSWAB) for the Storm and Surface Water Utility; reducing the number of SSWAB Members from 11 to 9; reconfiguring the geographic areas of SSWAB representation; replacing the two-term limits with a BoCC re-appointment option after Members serve two terms; and amending the appointment process.

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 9514 (adopted June 4, 1990) established the SSWAB and set forth its Purpose, Role of Members, Membership, Meetings, and other administrative aspects of the SSWAB; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 10329 (adopted May 19, 1993) extended the term of the SSWAB through June 30, 1996; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 10666 (adopted June 20, 1994) amended the rules and procedures of the SSWAB including its Purpose, Membership, Roles, Appointment, Term, Actions, and other administrative aspects of SSWAB; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 11245 (adopted July 15, 1996) extended the term of the SSWAB through June 30, 1999; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 12082 (adopted November 22, 1999) re-established the SSWAB after its term expired; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 12355 (adopted November 6, 2000) reauthorized the SSWAB for a four year term ending November 22, 2004; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 13228 (adopted November 15, 2004) reauthorized the SSWAB for a two year term ending November 22, 2006; reappointed current Members and Representatives; amending the Board's composition, meeting schedule and removal procedures; and removing the absentee ballot provision; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 13684 (adopted November 13, 2006) directed the SSWAB to be comprised of nine voting Members, who are ratepayers from within the currently adopted utility rate boundary, and three non-voting Representatives from within the county representing areas outside the rate boundary; reauthorized the SSWAB for a five-year term ending December 31, 2011; reappointed current Members and Representatives; and amending the meeting schedule and removal procedures.

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 14010 (adopted January 14, 2008) increased the number of voting members from nine to eleven; eliminated three non-voting representatives; and amended the appointment process for SSWAB Members; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 14363 (adopted June 15, 2010) reauthorized the SSWAB until such time as the BoCC determines the purpose and function is no longer necessary; established

3-year term limits for SSWAB Members; and amended the appointment process for consistency with other Thurston County Boards and Commissions.

WHEREAS, the SSWAB has had difficulty recruiting and retaining Members, and maintaining a full 11-member board; and has identified potential solutions to address these difficulties. These solutions were recommended to the BoCC during the SSWAB's annual briefing to the BoCC on March 2, 2017.

WHEREAS, the SSWAB and BoCC mutually desire to amend certain rules and procedures of the SSWAB to improve SSWAB recruitment, retention and maintain full membership; and to consolidate and amend certain aspects of previous SSWAB resolutions into an updated and holistic resolution for all aspects of SSWAB.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF THRUSTON COUNTY, STATE OF WASHINGTON DOES RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Resolution 14363, Section 1 (Reauthorization) is hereby incorporated and renewed without amendment as follows:

REAUTHORIZATION. The Storm and Surface Water Advisory Board is hereby reauthorized until such time as the Board of County Commissioners determines the purpose and function is no longer necessary.

Section 2. Resolution 13684, Section 3 (Purpose) is hereby incorporated and renewed without amendment as follows:

PURPOSE. The purpose of the Storm and Surface Water Advisory Board is to:

1. Provide public involvement and accountability within the rate boundary where the County is collecting rates and charges for the Storm and Surface Water Utility.
2. Specifically review and provide recommendations to Storm and Surface Water Utility staff and the Board of County Commissioners on the Storm and Surface Water Utility annual work program, budget, Capital Facility Plan, rates, and policy proposals.
3. Carry on regular communications with the public and other water resource concerned groups such as the water resource representatives from local cities, Groundwater Policy Advisory Committee, Watershed Councils, Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) Planning Committees, Education Technical Advisory Committee, Planning Commission, Agriculture Committee, Conservation District, Drainage Districts, and Thurston County's Shellfish Protection District committees to bring a broad water resource perspective to the Storm and Surface Water Utility. When requested, Storm and Surface Water Advisory Board Members may also serve on, or provide input to, ad hoc committees dealing with other water resource-related issues within Thurston County.



Section 3. Resolution 14010, Section 2 (Membership) is hereby incorporated, renewed, and amended as follows:

MEMBERSHIP. The Advisory Board shall be comprised of 9 voting Members, who are residents from within the currently adopted utility rate boundary. Two Members shall be selected from each of the three BoCC Districts, with 3 Members selected at large from the utility rate boundary. Members should represent a balance of perspectives from residents within the utility rate boundary; and shall also represent a balance between rural and urban interests. Members shall become educated in the workings of the Storm and Surface Water Utility in order to effectively represent residents and establish sound policies and a cost-effective work program.

Section 4. Resolution 14363, Section 1 (Reappointment) is hereby incorporated, renewed, and amended as follows:

REAPPOINTMENT. The current Members are hereby reappointed to the Advisory Board for the three BoCC District positions, three "At Large" positions, and remaining terms as follows:

Commissioner District 1 Members:

Barbara Craven, expiration date: 03/22/2019  
Andrew Harding, expiration date: 04/12/2019

Commissioner District 2 Members:

Tris Carlson, expiration date: 03/31/2017  
Casey Kramer, expiration date: 04/05/2019

Commissioner District 3 Members:

Diane Vasarkovy, expiration date: 04/05/2019  
Alan Vanell, expiration date: 05/15/2018

At Large Members:

Peter Heide, expiration date: 10/25/2017  
Phyllis Farrell, expiration date: 10/18/2019  
Vacant

If a current SSWAB member desires to serve beyond the expiration dates listed above, reappointment by the BoCC for each additional 3-year term will be required on a case-by-case basis. Any vacancy shall be filled as specified in Section 5.

Section 5. Resolution 14010, Section 4 (Appointment) is hereby incorporated, renewed, and amended as follows:

APPOINTMENT. Persons wishing to be considered for a position on the Advisory Board shall submit a completed "Thurston County Citizen Advisory Boards/Commissions/Committee Application" to the Clerk of the Board. The Board of County Commissioners will notify the SSWAB of all applications. The SSWAB will review the qualifications of all applicants to determine if they would contribute to the

membership balance set forth in Section 3. Upon review, the SSWAB will vote on whether to recommend BoCC appointment to the SSWAB. The BoCC will consider the SSWAB's appointment recommendations, and appoint Members to the Storm and Surface Water Advisory Board for a three-year term.

If a SSWAB member desires to serve beyond the expiration date of a three-year term, reappointment by the BoCC for each additional 3-year term will be required on a case-by-case basis.

Section 6. Resolution 14010, Section 5 (Removal of Members/Representatives) is hereby incorporated, renewed, and amended as follows:

REMOVAL OF MEMBERS: A member shall be considered resigned from the Storm and Surface Water Advisory Board following three unexcused absences in one calendar year. Such resignation shall not require any further or formal action by the Storm and Surface Water Advisory Board or Board of County Commissioners.

Section 7. Resolution 14363, Section 4 (Officers) is hereby incorporated and renewed without amendment as follows:

OFFICERS. A majority of the Storm and Surface Water Advisory Board shall elect one of its Members as a Chairperson and one of its Members as a Vice Chairperson. Officers shall serve a one-year term, but not more than two consecutive one-year terms.

Section 8. Resolution 13684, Section 7 (Quorum) is hereby incorporated and renewed without amendment as follows:

QUORUM. A quorum shall be determined by the majority of voting positions that are filled by an appointed member.

Section 9. Resolution 13684, Section 8 (Actions) is hereby incorporated and renewed without amendment as follows:

ACTIONS. A vote of the Members forming a quorum, as determined from the total membership as the time a vote is conducted, is required to take any action. Action will be taken prior to making recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners and will only be taken on agenda items.

Section 10. Resolution 13684, Section 11 (Meetings) is hereby incorporated and renewed without amendment as follows:

MEETINGS. The Storm and Surface Water Advisory Board will meet bimonthly or at least six times per year unless cancelled by the Chairperson. The meeting schedule will be determined by the Chairperson and the Water Resource Programs Manager at the beginning of each year and will be flexible during the winter season recognizing the need for staff to respond to emergencies. The public will have an opportunity to address the Advisory Board at each regularly scheduled meeting. The Advisory Board Chairperson

will meet with chairpersons from other water resource groups as necessary. Other special meetings and/or subcommittees may be established from time to time.

The Storm and Surface Water Advisory Board will hold a special meeting with the Board of County Commissioners annually to report and provide recommendations on the Storm and Surface Water Utility work programs, its progress, needs, and future direction.

Written minutes of all meetings will be provided by Utility staff and approved by the Storm and Surface Water Advisory Board. Minutes will be a summary of the meetings, containing a review of the issues discussed, actions taken, and tasks delegated.

Section 11. Resolution 13684, Section 12 (Subcommittees) is hereby incorporated and renewed without amendment as follows:

SUBCOMMITTEES. The Storm and Surface Water Advisory Board may form subcommittees to address particular issues or perform specific tasks. The Advisory Board will establish the terms of reference of subcommittees, determine the composition, and may, if necessary, invite persons from outside the membership to serve on subcommittees in order to provide special expertise or insight.

Section 12. Resolution 13684, Section 13 (Administrative Support) is hereby amended and renewed as follows:

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT. The Thurston County Storm and Surface Water Utility will provide ongoing administrative support to the Storm and Surface Water Advisory Board.

Section 13. Resolution 13684, Section 12 (Compensation) is hereby amended and renewed as follows:

COMPENSATION. Members of the Storm and Surface Water Advisory Board shall serve without compensation.

Section 14. Resolution 14363, Section 4 (Severability) is hereby incorporated and renewed without amendment as follows:

SEVERABILITY. If any provision of this resolution or its application to any person or circumstance is held to be invalid, the remainder of this chapter and the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected.

ADOPTED: April 11, 2017

ATTEST:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
Thurston County, Washington

Leticia J. Boyman  
Clerk of the Board

Bud Blake  
CHAIR

APPROVED AS TO FORM  
JON TUNHEIM  
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

Travis Burns  
Travis Burns  
Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

Val H. H.  
VICE-CHAIR

Dan Edwards  
COMMISSIONER

## Attachment B

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

**DATE: 6/09/2023**

**TIME: 8:15 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.**

**3000 Pacific Avenue SE, Room 208 or via video conference\***

*\*Link to listen/watch the meeting via the Zoom phone app, a computer, or tablet device:*

*<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89354868963>, enter Passcode: 753416; Or to join by phone using audio only, dial: 1-253-215-8782, Meeting ID: 893 5486 8963, Passcode: 753416*

### AGENDA

- |  |                |
|--|----------------|
| 1. Introductions and Opening Remarks   | 8:15 (15 min)  |
| 2. Public Comment  | 8:30 (5 min)   |
| 3. Self-selection by members to breakout groups  | 8:35 (15 min)  |
| 4. Open forum idea exchange  | 8:50 (45 min)  |
| 5. Break   | 9:35 (10 min)  |
| 6. Breakout group internal discussion  | 9:45 (45 min)  |
| 7. Breakout group presentations (20 minutes each) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Stormwater Planning/Programs</li><li>▪ Public Outreach/Education</li><li>▪ Capital Projects/Facilities</li></ul> | 10:30 (60 min) |
| 8. Lunch   | 11:30 (60 min) |
| 9. General discussion  | 12:30 (50 min) |
| 10. Break  | 1:20 (10 min)  |
| 11. Adoption of mission statement, strategies, and priorities;<br>appointment of editing committee   | 1:30 (60 min)  |
| 12. Adjourn  | 2:30           |

*To request disability accommodations, call Nicole Ross at least three days prior to the meeting at (360) 867-2101. Persons with speech or hearing disabilities may call via Washington Relay: 711 or 800-833-6388.*

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

**June 9<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
Britt Nederhood	District 3	P
Nancy Winters	At Large	P
David Hartley (Vice Chair)	District 1	P
Zahid Chaudhry	District 3	E
Phyllis Farrell	District 1	P
Daniel Vlad	District 2	E

Staff:

Larry Schaffner, Nate Ensley, Nicole Ross, Corey Bennett, Commissioner Carolina Mejia

Introduction and Opening Remarks (*Jake Wagner, Chair*)

Introductions and brief backgrounds made. Noted why Zahid and Daniel were unavailable to attend.

Commissioner Carolina Mejia visited for the *Introduction* portion of the meeting. Commissioner Mejia addresses the SSWAB and receives an introduction to each of the members, their experience, and goals for the SSWAB retreat.

David discusses the limitations of bi-monthly meetings and wants to see a more comprehensive plan/policy for storm and surface water for the entire County that goes beyond responding to regulatory policy.

Edward shares that he has ideas about what to expand into or change depending on how the retreat goes.

Phyllis wants to focus on monitoring stormwater pollution and coordinating with Thurston County and other organizations, as well as addressing future pollution.

Britt wants to focus septic and water quality issues throughout the County, regarding which Commissioner Mejia mentions a recent meeting about septic seepage, which is accessible on YouTube.

Nancy mentions that stormwater is the biggest carrier of toxins to Puget Sound and wants to see the County invest in that rather than applying for grants.

Jake looking at evaluate the effectiveness of programs being run by contrasting with other jurisdictions, wants to better educate both SSWAB and citizens, and wants to meet more frequently.

Commissioner Mejia invited brief comments from each of the staff.

There will be a presentation of the outcome of the retreat from the SSWAB to the BoCC in August.

Commissioner Mejia thanks the SSWAB members and leaves.

#### Public Comment

No public comment.

#### Self-selection by members to breakout groups (*Jake Wagner, Chair*)

Jake makes the executive decision to assign members to the breakout groups himself. Groups and member assigns are:

- Stormwater Planning/Program: Nancy Winters and Jake Wager
- Public Outreach/Education: Britt Nederhood and Phyllis Farrell
- Capital Projects/Facilities: Edward O'Brien and David Hartley

#### Open forum idea exchange (*Jake Wagner, Chair*)

A motion to go out of quorum will be sought for breaks, breakout group internal discussions, and lunch.

Jake notes to Outreach/Education group to focus on how the SSWAB needs to be better educated in order to reach out to the public.

Time provided to members to provide their ideas on flip chart to each of the other breakout groups and review the various background maps provided by staff. Breakout groups received instruction to record on the flipchart pads using red to indicated high priority items, blue for medium priorities, and black for general ideas.

Motion to adjourn by Jake.

Nancy seconds.

Motion approved.

Recording ends.

## Break

### Breakout group internal discussion

Breakout groups commenced their individual discussions and captured their ideas on the flipcharts.

### Breakout group presentations (20 minutes each)

SSWAB returns to quorum for presentations. After presentations, SSWAB will vote on highest priorities throughout the whole group.

#### *Capital Projects/Facilities Breakout Group: David Hartley presents*

High priority: concerning merits of the fee credit program. This does not relate to the capital improvement projects (CIP), but involves encouraging County to review the fee credit program for its appropriateness for businesses, business services, places of worship, schools, hospitals, etc. Not for residences. No current program to monitor CIP effectiveness unless required by a grant. Are CIP investments well spent and doing what they're supposed to do? Is the program proportionate to an expanding population and water resources affected by stormwater management?

Medium Priority: more public outreach to communities where capital improvement projects take place. Maybe create a presentation or offer ideas of how that would be conveyed. Educate more people about stormwater and stormwater management in general.

General Priority: Is the CIP program adequately resourced to follow through on Stormwater Management Action Plan (SMAP) actions? SMAP is the Department of Ecology-mandated program for Phase 2 permittees to define a focus area for stormwater plans to either improve or protect an area. What/how would SSWAB do about this question? Are we using existing CIP resources to meet priorities?

#### *Public Outreach/Education Breakout Group: Phyllis Farrell presents*

High priority: self-education and education for SSWAB members, particularly on the Equity Index and monitoring station maps. Hazardous algae blooms identification in lakes from runoff. Carry out outreach with stronger voice. Lawn care, use of pesticides, other education. Use of pesticides has gone up in 2022.

Generate ideas for how SSWAB members can reach out to their communities. Need help in how to do that. Suggested preparing a speaking kit that could be used to reach out. Suggested creating



talking points to use for engaging local organizations like Homeowners Associations (HOAs). Suggests coordinating with County to reach out. Need to increase effort to hear/learn about public issues.

Medium priority: Gain an understanding on pollution monitoring efforts between city and other organizations.

Maybe having presentations on coordination among regional partners. Looking for honest evaluation where they interacted or disagree and whether SSWAB needs to insert themselves to improve inter-jurisdiction coordination.

#### *Stormwater Planning/Program Breakout Group: Jake Wager presents*

High Priorities: intensify engagement with TC Comprehensive Plan & Stormwater Comprehensive Study. Expand performance metrics and determine what value are those metrics are. Further conversation for future meetings.

Medium Priority: Looking at how the County operates and maintains its own facilities and infrastructure. See if SSWAB has suggestions to improve these efforts. Having the money and resources to pursue these expanded programs. What is the amount of acreage receiving stormwater treatment? Consider evaluating forest canopy cover for a performance metric.

Discussing how to educate new SSWAB members – perhaps a mentor/onboarding partner.

Enforcement information needs to be added into metrics.

#### Lunch

Motion by Jake to recess for lunch  
Seconded by Edward  
Approved

#### General discussion

SSWAB reconvenes into quorum. Jake suggests prioritizing lists from the groups via vote, transferring the top priorities to the white boards.

Eight items selected in all. Jake suggests further narrowing or including additional items, if needed.

#### Adoption of mission statement, strategies and priorities; appointment of editing committee

SSWAB begins reviewing and discussing the resulting identified priorities from each breakout group as summarized below.

*Stormwater Planning/Program:*

Nancy suggests that addressing funding regarding rates and grants is not necessarily within the SSWAB's purview, that it is within the purview of the County's Commissioners and Planning Commission advises what the budget requirements would be rather than acquiring funding themselves. This leads into discussion about what is actionable by the SSWAB versus what is actionable by the County.

SSWAB would encourage staff and the BoCC to explore any and all grant opportunities, and SSWAB determines what they consider trivial and what is needed or already being done. Nancy asks what Thurston County spending is compared to other counties and other municipalities.

Action item for themselves is to get educated about the comparative needed support for stormwater programs that are underfunded.

Jake addresses the potential obstacle in not achieving greater performance with certain programs and activities and addressing the commissioners regarding the lack of resources for these programs, encouraging them budgeting appropriately for these resources. The discussion included an emphasis on SSWAB being concise and clear with their language.

If the SSWAB recommends increases monitoring, it then brings into question how to do that without the available funding. Currently the SSWAB has eight items to discuss bringing forward to the Commissioners and expanding the monitoring system and funding with it.

Phyllis suggests reviewing the entire County budget to see what room is for SSWAB, but Jake disagrees saying it is the SSWAB's job to suggest resource needs and the BoCC's to decide.

*Capital Improvement Priorities:*

Reviewing the CIP received the most votes. This flows into a discussion about the SSWAB reviewing the comprehensive storm and surface water study and potentially going to Commissioners with recommendations for greater support for the Utility.

Second priority was suggesting that when a CIP goes into the community, the scope of public outreach should be greater than what is normally provided. The existing focus centers around road closures, signage, mailboxes, timeframes, and details on the specific project itself. CIP project signage provides the opportunity to also include the project's purpose and benefits. Currently signs posted on these projects do provide this information, but only provided if the Department of Ecology or specific grants require them. Signage advertises public meetings under certain circumstances within a subdivision or neighborhood. Staff is currently trying to determine how to advertise public meetings in areas that are not located in neighborhoods such as a future project off Highway 101, and who the stakeholders involved would be. The goal is to work with staff to decide which projects to implement these strategies.

Third priority is investigating the completed project's effectiveness (i.e., are the intended project outcomes being realized). Some grant-supported projects require a post-project effectiveness monitoring requirement. Effectiveness monitoring protocols for all CIP types do not exist.

Outside grant requirements, no requirement for post-project effectiveness monitoring. SSWAB's interest involves only those CIPS that relate to stormwater.

Conducting a cost-benefit analysis of CIP and rate reduction (i.e., credit) program was not listed on the priority list but was mentioned. The credit program for some non-residential rate payers allows for discount for actions they are required to do now by regulation anyway. Larry says the staff has raised this issue too. Regarding the question businesses are getting discounts for doing what is required, Larry says that the discounts are based on inspection self-reporting, but staff suggest that this program should be sunset. One of the findings by staff involved the lack of participation in the rate credit program. Reasons include the rates were too low to justify the effort needed to realize the benefit to participation. In addition, for schools, the money saved went to general funds rather than the program areas doing the work to qualify for the rate credit benefits.

The County is utilizing consultant services for a comprehensive stormwater and surface water study. The effort includes producing two papers on topics identified that we wish to have investigated in greater depth, so the issues raised during this retreat could be candidates. SSWAB wants to hear about this study/paper in detail when the process begins.

The scope of the stormwater and surface water comprehensive study includes an analysis of revenues, funding needs, current rates and rate structure, and the effectiveness of rate system. It will also provide recommendations.

#### *Outreach/Education Priorities:*

High priority is outreach to County partner agencies and constituents which encompasses local communities, HOAs, community-run boards/groups, etc. Ascertain how the County intersects, coordinates, and supports WSDOT and Ecology's stormwater efforts. SSWAB wants to establish a two-way communication to assist with improving clarity and education between groups. This could involve reaching out to WSDOT and having them present, as well as communication SSWAB's process to others. One suggestion is to have a meeting between organizations that specifies one or two topics at the time and discussing the coordination that takes place between County staff and other jurisdictions. Outreach involves determining which agencies to reach out to with the help of staff. We can look to other counties like Kitsap to see how they handle outreach and education.

Another suggestion is for SSWAB members to reach out to local HOAs to join their meetings to present relevant topics and projects. Some HOAs are created, among other things, as financial guarantee for their neighborhoods to maintain their stormwater facilities. The discussion on HOA roles included financial liability, and how the County enforces maintenance on a case-by-case basis.

Jake asks how the SSWAB would like to proceed on the eight items discussed.

One person from each breakout group was tasked to produce written notes that will be included in the presentation to the BoCC on August 2<sup>nd</sup>. The SSWAB wants this work completed by the end of June to polish product for their approval.

Britt, Nancy and David assigned to write up breakout group notes.

David Hartley move to adopt all three breakout group key priorities.

Jake Wagner seconded.

Motion carried.

### Adjourn

David Hartley move to adjourn (2:06pm).

Britt seconded.

Motion carried.