

# **Outcomes from 2023 SSWAB Retreat**

June 9, 2023

## *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 countywide
- 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 Comprehensive Stormwater Study’s analysis of the stormwater utility rate fee reduction program