

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

**November 16th, 2023  
Meeting Summary**

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

Staff:

Larry Schaffner, Corey Bennett, Ashley Arai, Miriam Villacian

Guest:

Tris Carlson

Introductions/Process/Correspondence (Brett Nederhood, Chair)

Introductions made.  
No correspondence.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Amendments to the Agenda

No amendments to the agenda.

## Meeting Summary

Ed noted two details not mentioned in the draft September meeting summary regarding the rundown of proposed requirements for the reissued stormwater permit presented by Larry. First item was regarding the permit proposal to require mapping of municipal stormwater drainage areas and their outfalls and discharge points, second was about proposing street sweeping requirements and times of year when sweeping would take place.

Motion by Britt Nederhood to approve meeting summary as amended.

Seconded by Phyllis Farrell.

Motion approved.

## SSWAB's Role/BoCC Deliberations (*Brett Nederhood, Larry Schaffner, Ashley Arai*)

The Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) has directed the Thurston County Departments to look at their respective advisory boards to reassess the purposes of each advisory board, determine whether their work is being done elsewhere, as well as staff workload implications. Management proposed considering sunseting SSWAB, or perhaps reducing the number of SSWAB meetings.

If SSWAB remains, the bylaws in the existing resolution will need to be updated to reflect any changes in future direction.

SSWAB members feel as though SSWAB provides a needed service in terms of representation, including underserved communities that aren't receiving stormwater-specific services or communication. Most members agreed that sunseting SSWAB is not the correct path forward and expressed a desire to find ways to solve issues regarding their resource and staff support needs.

Another concern express by SSWAB members involves the fate of their current efforts currently in progress as result of the outcomes from the retreat and past meetings. SSWAB plans to present a new set of recommendations at their next annual BoCC briefing.

One option presented to the BoCC involved converting SSWAB into an ad hoc advisory group instead of a standing advisory board. There was discussion on addressing what the BoCC specifically wants from SSWAB, for example, whether it is having input on the stormwater program's budget or focus on outreach and education.

Discussion continued onto what changes for SSWAB might look like, including reducing staff support time, adjusting meeting schedules, etc. Ashley Arai recommends SSWAB reach out directly to BoCC.

SSWAB continued this discussion later in the meeting. Larry shared the recommendations he had provided for SSWAB's composition : reconfiguring existing members, keeping appointments to nine members, with one appointee for each Commissioner District and four At

Large members. Existing member district appointees would be based on who has seniority of representation within that District with the other(s) filling an At Large role. There is further discussion about how SSWAB members should be more broadly representative of rate payers, not just residential ratepayers.

After further discussion about the proposal to sunset SSWAB, members concurred that David would take the lead on crafting a letter to the Commissioners reflecting their discussion for the SSWAB member endorsement to send by the following Monday.

#### Thurston 2045 – Comprehensive Plan Update Process (Ashley Arai)

Ashley Arai gave an overview of what the Comprehensive Plan does and its last periodic update in 2019. The next update will occur in 2025. The update, required by state law, will reflect trends and build off of the current plan. She also described where this update fits in the hierarchy of Countywide Planning Policies.

Since 2003, there has been a 30% increase in population in Thurston County, which provides some idea of the growth that could occur over the next 20 years.

Required updates for the Comprehensive Plan involve land use, natural resources, housing, transportation, capital facilities & utilities, natural environment, parks, climate, and historic locations.

They are currently scoping the update and collecting feedback on scoping. The project timeline shows the upcoming steps through June 2025. The project involves building a cross-departmental team that also includes participants from outside the County. More surveys to solicit input will be released at different points during the Comprehensive Plan revision process. Ashley Arai then discussed the plan for upcoming engagement and community outreach as well as ways to get involved.

SSWAB members asked about the priorities of the Comprehensive Plan updates, Ashley notes that housing and climate will be primary focuses.

#### Draft Stormwater Management Program Plan (SWMPP) (Larry Schaffner)

David mentions that the SWMPP read more like a review of past efforts rather than a plan for moving forward. Ed suggested the plan describe the program efforts that will continue in the coming year, including an indication of the level of effort. Larry noted we are in an unusual year because the Permit reissuance process and next year's reissued Permit will prescribe the expectations for the future .

Phyllis mentioned comments she sent to Larry focusing on SWMPP Sections 11 and 12, as well as whether there is opportunity for Thurston County to address untreated outflows, especially for

discharges to the Puget Sound. She also wanted to see the data of the waterbodies being monitored.

She also asked Larry if there is monitoring data that is shared with the Lake Management Districts. Larry will follow up with Stuart regarding whether the data gets shared with Lake Management Districts and with Phyllis regarding resources to look up data.

### Formation of Subcommittees

Britt discussed previous discussions where each subcommittee would meet during alternate months and then present their progress at the following regular SSWAB meeting in the hope that this might help them make more progress on their priority topics.

SSWAB formed the following subcommittees:

- *Stormwater Planning*: Phyllis Farrell and Zahid Chaudhry
- *Public Outreach/Education*: Britt Nederhood, Daniel Vlad, and Zahid Chaudhry
- *Capital Projects*: David Hartley and Ed O'Brien

SSWAB discussed having presentations from each subcommittee with the aim of producing specific recommendations or actionable items to present the BoCC at their annual SSWAB briefing in July.

Britt asked about assigning an applicant to the SSWAB board to a subcommittee. Larry cautioned that it would be premature to add new SSWAB members while we don't yet know the BoCC's decision regarding SSWAB's composition, if SSWAB will continue to operate, if members must reapply, or if SSWAB's operation will change.

The members discussed taking into consideration the subcommittees that Nancy or Jake may want to join since they are not present for this meeting and offered to move people around as needed. Britt will follow up with Nancy and Jake regarding subcommittee assignments. Depending what Britt heard back, Ed expressed a willingness to serve on either the Stormwater Planning or Capital Projects committee.

### SSWAB General Discussion (SSWAB Members)

Britt noted that Larry responded to several questions from Jake regarding street sweeping and monetary reserves and whether the other SSWAB members also desired the level of detail requested. Members proposed to pause this conversation until Jake can be present.

Ed makes a motion to wait until Jake is present to discuss his concerns.

David seconds.

Motion approved.

Britt moved forward with reports on SSWAB's outreach in the community. David discussed his informal querying of people in Boston Harbor about a recent completed capital project and reported that the community was satisfied with the project overall. Britt mentioned standing water on a neighbor's property near Evergreen State College, which he confirmed with Larry is a private issue since no County-owned property is involved.

Topics for the next meeting include: subcommittee reports, outcomes from communications with the BoCC regarding sunseting SSWAB, and Stormwater Planning subcommittee start considering input for the Comprehensive Plan revision effort.

### Adjourn

Britt motions to adjourn.

Zahid seconds.

Motion passes.

**Next meet is on January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024.**