



Thurston County Board of Commissioners Work Session Summary

Date of Work Session:	July 8th, 2020
Time:	1:30 – 2:30 pm
Office/Department:	Community Planning and Economic Development
Subject:	Annual Storm and Surface Water Advisory Board (SSWAB) Briefing
Staff Contact/Author:	Name/Title: Ami Peters Fiscal Administrative Assistant Phone:360.867.2101
Attendees:	Commissioners Present: John Hutchings, Tye Menser, Gary Edwards County Manager: Ramiro Chavez <u>Staff:</u> Larry Schaffner, Jennifer Davis, Tim Wilson, Robin Campbell, Ami Peters <u>SSWAB:</u> Casey Kramer, Clay Hill, Paula Holroyde, Phyllis Farrell
Discussion Points:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSWAB is a voice to communicate the public's values to the utility as well as determining appropriate level of service. SSWAB is a group of 9 people. There is one At-Large position currently open. • SSWAB's key roles and responsibilities (per Resolution No. 15450, Section 2) include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide public involvement and accountability within the rate boundary where the County collects Storm and Surface Water Utility (Utility) rates. - Review and provide recommendations to Utility staff and yourselves on the Utility annual work program, budget, Capital Facility Plan (CFP), rates, and policy proposals. - Carry on regular communications with the public and other water resource concerned groups to bring a broad water resource perspective to the Utility. <p style="text-align: center;">In addition, SSWAB helps fulfill the County's Municipal Stormwater Permit requirement for public involvement and participation, including the development, implementation, and update of the County's Stormwater Management Program Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over the last year, SSWAB invited other groups to provide the following presentations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Capital Facility Plans (CFP) - Water quality and physical monitoring - Post construction site inspections - The Utility's communication/newsletters to rate payers - Stormwater facilities mapping and asset monitoring - Review and provide input to the proposed stormwater CFP riparian restoration guidelines - Met with Public Works and CPED directors to discuss re organization <p>SSWAB focused on developing key performance metrics, in collaboration with staff, to effectively communicate priorities to Utility ratepayers. These metrics reflect the community values of good environmental stewardship, responsible fiscal management, protection of private property, and enhancement of economic opportunity. As such, SSWAB recommends adopting or instructing the Utility to utilize the following performance metrics:</p>

- A. Report on the percentage of all County-owned outfalls, catch basins, and stormwater treatment and flow control facilities inspected annually, with a goal of achieving the following annual inspection rates:
- Outfalls: annually inspect 100%
 - Catch basins: annually inspect 50% within the Permit-regulated area (consistent with requirement); 25% outside the Permit-regulated area (this target depends on staff availability and workload; utility).
 - Stormwater treatment and flow control facilities: annually inspect 100%
- B. Report on the number of untreated (i.e., no runoff treatment BMPs) County-owned outfalls, and document progress toward a goal of reducing the number of untreated outfalls.
- C. Report on the number of deficiencies identified/corrective actions taken in the course of conducting inspections listed in A.

A-C are segregates for measuring environmental progress. These three metrics are about inspecting infrastructure and keeping it in top working order as well as reducing the number of untreated outfalls.

- D. Measure the number of flood-related road closures, with a goal of zero (0) for up to a 10-year event.

D speaks to the connection between stormwater rate fees and public safety and the protection of property from flood damage.

- E. Measure the increase in pollution identification and correction program funding directed at County-owned municipal stormwater discharge locations where pollution poses risks to shellfish.

This metric is an example of a win-win relationship between an environmental priority and a vibrant and diverse economy.

In addition, SSWAB recommends:

- Undertaking an effectiveness study of the County's pet waste pollution prevention program as there is interest in ensuring that pet waste bag stations are distributed fairly and being stocked.
- Developing a business plan for the Utility to articulate the roles, responsibilities, and expectations for each of the different departments/programs and how they support each other. Providing a description of goals (such as levels of required service) and mission, coupled with an organization chart would help communicate to ratepayers how their fees are utilized.
- Commissioner Edwards expressed concern about the effects of pollution from homeless camps and aerial spraying on commercial forest lands. He also inquired about who does the inspections and how many outflows/catch basins does the County has?
 - Tim shared we have a robust inspection processes and are performing above permit compliance levels. Larry added that the County has 135 stormwater outfalls to surface waters; 82 of those empty into freshwater and 53 to marine water.
- The topic of the homeless encampments hasn't come up as a focus topic with SSWAB. Commissioner Menser mentioned that this is something that we should look at. He also told SSWAB that they don't have to wait until their annual briefing to communicate with the Commissioners.
- Paula mentioned that Thurston County has a Water Resource Monitoring Report that includes the nitrates that might answer some of Commissioner Edward's questions. The issue of stormwater runoff from I-5 needs to be addressed with the state.
- Recognizing the overlapping issues, Commissioner Hutching inquired how many members of SSWAB also sit on other boards and committees?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Phyllis is on the Weed Management Board and the citizen representative on the Chehalis Basin Partnership. - Paula is the chair for the League of Woman voters, water quality/quantity study. - Casey is on several national academy of sciences boards dealing with water resource topics. He also used to work for WSDOT. - Clay does policy work for the Legislature, staffing an economic development committee and an energy and environment committee. • Commissioner Edwards mentioned the BoCC might be willing send a letter of concern to Enterprise Services regarding the 6 untreated outfalls into Capital Lake. • SSWAB plans to continue: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Communicating to ratepayers via key performance metrics (i.e., level of service provided) and Utility fiscal reporting (i.e., revenue and expenditures) on how their rate dollars are being utilized - Refining key metrics based on public input. - Providing feedback to the County on proposed: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stormwater capital facilities projects 2. Stormwater Management Program Plan revisions 3. Efforts to integrate restoration projects into the CFP 4. Identifying opportunities for stormwater management collaboration with other municipalities and WSDOT 5. Gaining additional insight into the County's stormwater facility design review process 6. Reviewing upcoming proposed low impact development (LID) code amendments 7. Continuing to be proactive in developing calendar agenda topics <p>Finally, as noted previously, SSWAB is seeking the board's direction on their proposed recommendations.</p>
<p>Results/Board Direction:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ramiro mentioned that the list of recommendations is great and appreciates the work of the SSWAB. He will work with staff to discuss cost and employee workload implications around these topics. This will be included in the conversations in the fall with the 2021-2022 budget.