



Thurston County Board of Commissioners

Work Session Summary

Date of Work Session:	Wednesday, July 28th, 2021
Time:	11:30 am – 12:00 pm
Office/Department:	Community Planning and Economic Development
Subject:	Storm and Surface Water Advisory Board (SSWAB) Annual Briefing
Staff Contact/Author:	Name/Title: Ami Peters Phone: 360-867-2101
Attendees:	Commissioners Present: Tye Menser Gary Edwards, Carolina Mejia-Barahona
	County Manager: Ramiro Chavez
	Other Staff: Larry Schaffner, Tim Wilson SSWAB Members: Casey Kramer, Clay Hill, Phyllis Ferrell, Jaclynn Simmons, Britt Nederhood, Nancy Winters, Paula Holroyde
Discussion Points:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSWAB is voice for communicating the public's value for the storm and surface water utility rate payers. There is one current vacant SSWAB position in District 1, to which a citizen has applied. Attachment A describes SSWAB's key roles and responsibilities. These responsibilities include: providing public involvement and accountability within the rate boundary; reviewing and providing recommendations to storm and surface water utility staff as wells as County Commissioners on storm and surface water annual work program, budget, capital facilities plan, rates, and policy proposals; and carrying on regular communications with the public and water resources groups to bring that broader water resources perspective to the Utility. Also aiding in fulfilling public engagement as required in the County's municipal stormwater permit. Over this last year, SSWAB has received several presentations from staff and other municipalities on stormwater treatment and monitoring, utility fiscal reporting. SSWAB also reviewed the City of Lacey Stormwater Plan to see how it compared to Thurston County's plan. SSWAB reviewed Department of Ecology's audit, received presentation from WSU Stormwater Center, and provided feedback for the SPLASH newsletter, which goes out to all the utility ratepayers. SSWAB performs ongoing efforts to stay connected to other groups. Members from SSWAB attend other meetings related to clean waters in Thurston County as well as actively invite others our County's SSWAB meetings. Some groups that interact with SSWAB are Thurston County Shellfish Protection District, Department of Transportation, Lake Management Districts, League of Women voters, and other municipalities. Provided a follow-up on the three overarching recommendations SSWAB proposed at last year's briefing. This includes adoption for the Utility to use SSWAB's performance metrics in Appendix C, effectiveness of the County's pet waste pollution prevention program, and development of a business plan for the utility. The SSWAB performance metrics discussion is driven by questions such as, where do ratepayer's dollars go and what do they get for the fee they are paying? SSWAB created metrics to measure performance

	<p>to convey this information. Measuring pollution prevented is very expensive. Rather, the County implements programs and best management practices that are expected, based on studies, to result in protection. Some things that can be measured are whether you are taking care of your assets and inspecting the best management practices (e.g., inspecting catch basins, outfalls, and flow control facilities). There are 56 untreated outfalls and the ask by SSWAB is that this number be reduced over time. This might be a conversation to be had after the level of service study is completed. SSWAB would also like to see a report on the number of stormwater maintenance deficiencies identified and the corrective actions taken in the course of conducting inspections. That is now being done. Another item that SSWAB asked to be measured is flood-related road closures with a goal of zero for up to a 10-year flood event. The SSWAB fully supports funding the Pollution Identification and Correction Program (PIC). SSWAB supports dedicated and consistent funding of PIC. This program is mostly grant-funded now, and that funding can be intermittent. This program is how we can get to environmental solutions by homing in on where the pollution is occurring, the type of pollution, and develop solutions for correcting those problems.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In addition to the performance metrics, the SSWAB would like to recommend creating a business plan for the Utility. This plan will include roles, responsibilities, and expectations for each department within the County. The plan would also provide goals and program mission, as well as an organizational chart to display where rate dollars are going. • Looking ahead, SSWAB looks forward to the business plan's development; continuing public involvement on metrics; and providing feedback on proposed Stormwater Capital Improvement Projects, Stormwater Management Program Plan as well as the SPLASH newsletter. • SSWAB has been proactively discussing membership transition and succession planning since there are several members whose terms will be ending soon.
Results/Board Direction:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Commissioners will further discuss SSWAB's recommendations. • Commission Edwards encouraged SSWAB to promote what they do and recruit members. • Commissioner Edwards asked about the 56 untreated outfalls and how this may fit in with lakes (those with and without lake management districts). Is this a place we can put settling basins or plants in or take some other action before the pollutions reaches the water? The reason SSWAB has this type of metric is to prompt this conversation and investigation on how to treat these outfalls. • Commissioner Edwards mentioned the concern of homeless encampments and runoff impacts from those areas. Does SSWAB discuss this? To the extent homeless encampments are in Department of Transportation (DOT) right of ways, they pay fees to the County to address stormwater-related impacts from their assets. This might be an area to ask staff to follow up. • Ramiro stated there are over 40 advisory boards and commissions; this advisory board is extremely organized and effective. Thank you for your commitment in this unpaid position.