

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

**January 21, 2021
Meeting Summary**

Representative	Representing	Present (P) Not Present (NP) Excused (E)
Casey Kramer (Chair)	District 2	P
Andrew Harding	District 1	P
Phyllis Farrell	District 1	P
Clayton Hill (Vice Chair)	At Large	P
Paula Holroyde	District 3	P
Jaclynn Simmons	District 2	P
Britt Nederhood	District 3	P
Carla Sabotta	At Large	P

Staff:

Larry Schaffner Ami Peters Tim Wilson

Guests:

Nancy Winters Greg Volkhardt

Introductions/Process/Correspondence (Casey Kramer, Chair)

Introductions were made.

Public Comment

Ms. Winters shared that she applied to be on SSWAB; she went into her background and explained her interest. Her specific interest is around toxins. Previously, she worked for Ecology's water quality program, including involvement on research which examined the pollution that runs off from roofing materials. After this project she oversaw a graduate student who worked on toxicological impacts on zebra fish and salmon. Nancy also has an educational background in teaching English to kids in East Africa.

Mr. Volkhardt joined the meeting to see what SSWAB is about. He is considering applying to join SSWAB after he retires. He is interested in trying to move our systems to be more compatible with our environment.

Amendments to the Agenda

No amendments were made to the agenda. Casey mentioned the Agenda Topic Submission Form and encouraged everyone to utilize it to make the meetings meaningful and to cover the topics that are of interest to SSWAB members.

Meeting Summary

Phyllis moved to approve the meeting minutes for the November 12, 2020 meeting as written. Paula seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Low Impact Development (LID) Code Reforms (Larry Schaffner)

Larry wanted to give an early courtesy heads up to SSWAB on this topic. Last Permit cycle, one of the requirements in the municipal stormwater permit was for the permittees to review their development code and look for opportunities to amend codes to minimize impervious surfaces and stormwater runoff. The County went through that exercise and adopted code to this effect. The commissioners directed staff to do a targeted review of those codes to ensure the codes are working as intended. Staff has started this review. Some things that they are encountering is that some key definitions in the drainage manual would help with proper interpretation and implementation of the code. The BoCC has asked staff to give them a status report on Feb 4th. It is anticipated that recommendations for clarifications/adjustments will go to the Planning Commission this year. During that time, SSWAB would be able to review as well. Hence, this topic will be brought to SSWAB again in a future meeting. Final action by the BoCC is expected by the third quarter of 2021.

Phyllis mentioned that County has tried to move toward more natural vegetation. Is this something that is going to be pushed more with the LID codes?

Larry added that some of the codes pertain to the Drainage Manual's minimum core requirements and its LID BMP design guidelines. These codes are not the ones being looked at. Rather, the codes they are looking at pertain to LID principles related land use and zoning approaches.

Annual Board of County Commissioner Briefing Preparation (Casey Kramer)

Every January, we talk about our annual briefing to the County commissioners. This year, we have a new commissioner, so we may need to provide a little more background. In 2019 and 2020 we focused on metrics around stormwater utility rates and what they pay for. For this briefing, we want to present to the commissioners what we think were the highlights.

Jaclynn mentioned that 2020 was slow in that we didn't get to all the metrics. Maybe we could reaffirm the things that we recommended that we would like the County commissioners to do.

Paula added that we need to start thinking about ways the County can make sure the stormwater that goes into the Deschutes (etc.) is cleaned up so the County is part of the solution not the problem.

Larry shared the document for last year's recommendations. There were 3 categories of recommendations. The first one included a series of performance metrics. The second revolved around pet waste pollution and prevention, including mapping utility-sponsored pet waste station locations. The third was to develop a business plan for the utility to guide proactive strategies, planning and set level of service.

One thing that was brought up around the metrics was having appropriate staff report back to SSWAB on the status of the metrics. Others agreed this was a good idea to add to the SSWAB meeting agenda.

We are currently in annual reporting season. During this period, Larry sends out assignments to staff to respond to the various annual reporting questions. Some of the metrics listed on SSWAB's recommendation list are metrics the County reports on for the annual Ecology report. The report is due to Ecology by the end of March, so Larry will have that information before then. In the past meeting, the County has presented to SSWAB on the County's annual report submittal which included some of those metrics. This information should be available by the time of SSWAB's briefing to the commissioners.

Tim suggested that if the SSWAB is interested, Ryan could give an update at the next SSWAB meeting on most of the metrics related to infrastructure. These can be queried from VueWorks at any point. We could also talk about challenges or innovative ways that staff has done these inspections on County infrastructure as well as in neighborhoods during COVID. The presentation/update can be as long or short as SSWAB would like (15minutes minimum for the metrics themselves or more if additional information is desired). The group agreed this would be a good idea to have this update at a future meeting. Pulling information on metrics from VueWorks is an easy process for staff to perform.

Paula brought up that the WSDOT mentioned, at one of the SSWAB meetings last year, that there was not enough funding to perform testing on the WSDOT outfall discharging into the Deschutes. What can we do to get more information on this? Do we need to ask the commissioners to ask for more state funding for this?

- Larry reminded SSWAB members that we covered some of this last year. Ryan from the County Water Resources Operations Group came and presented on the number of County outfalls discharging to surface waters and discharges infiltrating to the ground. The County does not have a lot of discharges to surface waters like some other jurisdictions do as large parts of the County have well- draining soils that allow for infiltration.
- Do we need more infiltration areas with all the runoff coming from the freeway?
- Larry referenced Jana Crawford's presentation (WSDOT); she talked about WSDOT's stormwater retrofit priority assessment list. Relative of other parts of the state, the Thurston County area doesn't rank high on the priority list for stormwater retrofits.
- Phyllis mentioned that just because it didn't rank high on WSDOT's list doesn't mean it isn't important to address. Some of the outfalls were put in place before the higher standard was set. Should we bring this to the attention of the County commissioners?
- Larry added that the County is working with WSDOT on assessing what projects the County could potentially take on related to runoff coming off from on state highways.
- Tim mentioned that the County is doing as study using a consultant. They are looking at the WSDOT outfalls and looking at projects to put together for the future. The consultant just asked for permission to present this at MuniCon (i.e., a statewide municipal stormwater conference). Tim will also offer up staff to present for the SSWAB on this topic as well if there is interest.

Tim added that one thing to get in front of the BoCC would be showing support for restoration as part of the stormwater CFP. SSWAB showing support of this would be helpful.

Larry asked if Tim could get a presentation to the BoCC in the March timeframe. Tim expressed that may not be possible with their staffing shortages. He will talk with Zainab about this topic.

There isn't anything set in stone about the timeframe of the SSWAB's annual BoCC presentation, but it typically happens in March. If we could coordinate the annual SSWAB briefing and restoration topic presentation, it would be good to have those close together. Tim suggested having the SSWAB briefing first, then within the next week, Public Works would give their presentation on restoration.

Tim will get back to Larry about when they could do their CPF restoration presentation and then SSWAB can plan for when they want to have their annual briefing. Amy Davis is the person staff works with in coordinating getting the briefing scheduled.

Casey asked about 1.D (i.e., flood related road closures) of the list of SSWAB recommendations to the commissioners. Per Tim, Public Works (possibly roads division) tracks these. He will do some research on who is doing that to obtain the metrics.

Casey asked about the business plan; have staff been able to work on this?

- There has been an approved budget for funding consultant services for development of the Stormwater Comprehensive Plan. There is a plan to start an RFP for these services in the next month or so. The BoCC has signaled approval by the way of the budget approval process.

Phyllis brought up Heidi Siegelbaum at the WA Stormwater Center and would like to have her present on toxics and monitoring specifically to South Puget Sound and Thurston County shorelines. Phyllis would like to learn more about the situations to make recommendations. Phyllis will submit an agenda topic form for this presentation.

Casey will draft up the briefing for the commissioners and send it for others to review. Comments can be made at that time or we can talk about it at the March SSWAB meeting and schedule the briefing a little later than usual.

Larry added that there might be a benefit of waiting till a little later in the year to do the briefing to the commissioners. This gives SSWAB more time as well as gives more time for the new commissioner to become acclimated to her role.

Casey will come up with some dates and send them around. We would like to have the most amount of people attend the briefing as possible.

Municipal Stormwater Permit's Regulated Discharges (Larry Schaffner)

Larry wanted to clarify *what is* and *what isn't* regulated under the County's Municipal Stormwater Permit.

Does regulate:

- Stormwater discharges from storm sewer systems owned or operated by the County
- Within the Permit's geographic scope (goldenrod areas on the Permit boundary map)
- To surface waters and groundwaters

Does not regulate:

- Direct discharges from private storm sewer systems to receiving waters
 - o If a resident or business collects and conveys stormwater runoff directly to a receiving water, it is not regulated under the County municipal stormwater Permit. This can be an issue but there are mechanisms to address these in some jurisdictions based on code. An example of this would be a Thurston County's health code or Ecology's authority under RCW 90.48, WA water pollution control law.
- Facilities regulated under the Underground Injection Control program
 - o This program is administered by Ecology and it doesn't fall under the Clean Water Act, but rather the Safe Drinking Water Act.
- Runoff sheet flowing to receiving waters
 - o Some refer to this as non-point source pollution.

Larry mentioned this information about what is and isn't regulated would seem to be good information to include in the onboarding packet. Others agreed.

SSWAB General Discussion

Larry asked for feedback on the SPLASH newsletter. He will forward this information on to staff members.

Paula asked about including yard watering information into the SPLASH newsletter around watering at night versus during the day. Larry asked to send these topic ideas to him, so they get on the list of potential ideas for future SPLASH newsletters.

Casey encouraged others to get in their 2021 topic submission forms to build the agendas for the year.

Britt brought up last weeks storm and the flooding that happened near Evergreen College. He was wondering if the County works with the college at all on these issues.

- Larry mentioned that Roads works road flooding issues, such as clogged culverts. Larry would have to reach out to appropriate staff to get the answer on this situation.
- Tim added that if it is County infrastructure, the first thing to look at is prevention. Staff is usually good at going out ahead of a storm and making sure it won't flood. Public Works also relies heavily on public reports of road flooding.

Casey asked their group on their thoughts on Ms. Winters and if the group would like to recommend her to the County commissioners. The group agreed she would be a great fit. Paula made a motion to recommend Nancy Winters for the vacant position. Britt seconded the motion. Motion carried. Casey will create an email and send it to the clerk of the board (Amy Davis) to communicate SSWAB's recommendation.

The next meeting will be March 18, 2021.

Meeting adjourned at 7:23 pm