

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

**March 18, 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	E
Britt Nederhood	District 3	P
Carla Sabotta	At Large	P
Nancy Winters	At Large	P

Staff:

Larry Schaffner Ami Peters

Guests:

Heidi Siegelbaum Lisa Rozmyn Dave Peeler

Introductions/Process/Correspondence (Casey Kramer, Chair)

Introductions were made.

Public Comment

None

Amendments to the Agenda

Nancy suggested an agenda amendment. She would like a reoccurring agenda item to review the status of the action items captured in the previous meeting's summary. It was agreed that we could add a reoccurring bullet (i.e., "update on action items") for this in the *SSWAB General Discussion* agenda item. In addition, the meeting summaries will highlight the action items generated.

Meeting Summary

Andrew moved to approve the meeting minutes for the January 21, 2021 meeting as written. Nancy seconded the motion. Motion carried.

WA Stormwater Center Presentation (Lisa Rozmyn & Heidi Siegelbaum)

The Washington Stormwater Center was created by the Legislature in 2009 because the business community wanted to have a non-regulatory and neutral party as a resource to reach out to.

In 2008 Washington State University (WSU)-Puyallup received monies to conduct large-scale low impact Development (LID)/Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) research. They created test facilities to evaluate stormwater pollutants toxicity and treatment effectiveness. The Stormwater Center is a collaborative effort with Washington State University, Puyallup and the University of Washington, Tacoma.

In 2015 WSU received almost one million dollars for research on stormwater pollutants effects on aquatics. This was an expansion of the original salmon toxicology lab.

Lisa went through the organizational chart of the Stormwater Center. Program areas include: Assistance, LID, Research, TAPE (Technology Assessment Protocol-Ecology), and Eastern WA Research & Assistance.

Program Profiles

As a university affiliate, they tend to be dominated by research but also work with Permittee stakeholders - municipal, industrial and construction. Heidi's job involves providing a solid evidence basis for stormwater best management practice and development.

Emerging Technologies (TAPE)

The emerging stormwater treatment technologies evaluation process used to be run by the Department of Ecology. It is an expensive process.

A lot of the Stormwater Center's research focuses on what works to mitigate stormwater pollution. Primary Focus Areas of Research:

- Contaminant Science-Ecotoxicology
- LID and Green Stormwater Infrastructure
- Microbial Communities and pollutant breakdown
- Soils
- Water Resources

The Stormwater Center is doing a lot of research on pre-spawn mortality (Coho specifically.) AA chemical called 6-PPD-quinone from tires, is killing Coho Salmon. They are working with tire companies to figure out what is going on. The tire dust is causing the release of this chemical on the roadways which makes its way to stream via stormwater runoff. About 1% of a tire becomes dust every year.

Britt asked about a tire bulkhead on the Cowlitz river and if there are funds to remove those tires. Lisa suggested checking with the conservation district. Heidi and Lisa will look into it and get back to SSWAB. Pollutants from road runoff also comes from fuel, engine oil, brake fluid,

engine coolant, and transmission fluid. However, the tire dust is causing the worst toxicity effects for Coho.

Roofing Materials Leach Metals

Nancy led this study on roofing materials and what they do as they age. This study looked at metals that shed from roofing materials over time and the stormwater effects.

Fungi and Plants in Bioretention

This project looked if the fungi and plants in bioretention increase the reduction of pollutants in bioretention soils.

Depths of Bioretention and Longevity of Treatment

Lane Maguire is a student working on a project to see how many storms it will take for pollutants to break loose in bioretention treatment BMPs.

Urban Trees and Stormwater Management

Ben Leonard is working on a project with trees. They have several different trees in different areas that they are collecting data on. The research has been going on for about a year. They are seeing what the roots are doing in the way of water retention to help reduce run off.

Mulch Project

This new two-year project evaluations different types of mulch for bioretention (bark mulch, shredded bark mulch and arborist chips) to look at the water quality remediation properties.

IDEA School Project

Boeing, a big supporter of the Stormwater Center, funds this project. Boeing wanted an idea on what to do with their scrap carbon fiber from their airplane wings. One of their environmental managers worked with staff at the Stormwater Center to put it into permeable pavement to see if it improves pavement durability. They installed the mixture at the IDEA School in Tacoma and will be monitoring performance for a couple years. The hope is that this material will be used widely at port facilities or areas that experience heavy loads on pavement.

LID Training Certificate

Those interested in earning a LID certificate, can now get it online rather than going to an in-person class.

Municipal Resource Program

The Stormwater Center works closely with municipalities, including Thurston County, to provide technical assistance on their MS4 permit. The staff lead has an information sharing network and a bulletin she sends out.

Municipal Program Services

This program provides added regulatory assistance without municipalities needing to go directly to Ecology.

Permit Assistant Program

This program works with businesses on their industrial stormwater permit. Also, Boeing gave a grant to start a similar program for the construction permit.

Industrial/Business Services

This program collaborates with the nonprofit ECOSS which provides information to support compliance with the Industrial Stormwater Permit.

Puget Sound Stormwater Strategy

The Puget Sound Partnership plays a role in the Strategic Investments program. The web page <https://pugetsoundestuary.wa.gov/> includes their blog.

Intersecting and Supporting Roles

The goal is to communicate the science to municipalities and others that need to comply with stormwater regulations. If there are policies to be proposed, such as the tire research project, the Stormwater Center gets the information to the people responsible for making the policies.

Toxics Monitoring in Puget Sound

Agencies, such as Department of Fish and Wildlife, have done toxics monitoring for many years. They have a searchable database that allows anyone to search for data.

Tracking Puget Sound Ecosystem Health

WA Department of Fish and Wildlife provided information on fish and shellfish and the nexus for human health. They work with WA Department of Health to make sure the standards are being met for fish consumption.

Overview of Findings

Thurston County falls within Marine Area 13 (MA13). MA 13 exceeds health thresholds for PCBs.

Thurston County Monitoring

Thurston County conducts lake and stream monitoring that reports on water levels and basic water quality parameter standards.

Focus on Toxics and Fish Strategy

Current work being done by Fish and Wildlife is key to the *Toxics and Fish Implementation Strategy*. The Puget Sound Partnership put this indicator together.

Overview of Findings – Chinook

Chinook Salmon

- PCBs Problem
- Thurston County falls within Marine Area (MA) 13
- Bad for Orcas too (Chinook as prey food)

Juvenile Chinook

- Contain PCBs and PBDEs (flame retardants)
- PCBs exceeded fish health threshold in Nisqually (and Puyallup)

English Sole

- Better results
- Met Human Health Criteria for PCBs and PBDEs
- No liver disease from PAHs (petro-by product)

Chemicals of Emerging Concern

Wastewater treatment plants aren't designed to get rid of these types of waste. This adversely affects aquatic species.

Pacific Herring

- Provide forage for other fish
- PCBs high in MA 13
- PBDEs declining

Contaminants of Emerging Concern (CECs)

A lot of toxics monitoring occurs in the Budd Inlet. These CECs bioaccumulate in the water and are water soluble.

2014 Studies – Crab and Spot Shrimp

WDFW did some research on PCBs and DOH on the risks for human consumption.

CECs in Sculpin and Juvenile Chinook

Found that the Nisqually was more contamination than expected. They suspect this is because of failing septic systems.

Stormwater Action Monitoring (SAM)

The three areas the monitoring falls into

1. Status and trend - Long term monitoring in rivers and streams
2. Effectiveness - What works
3. Source identification

Presenters' contact information:

Lisa.Rozmyn@wsu.edu

Heidi.Siegelbaum@wsu.edu

Phyllis asked where we can find toxics data for Thurston County. Heidi mentioned that they don't do testing everywhere because it is too expensive, but she will look into it and get back to SSWAB. Nancy also mentioned that Ecology's Environmental Information Management (EIM) database might have information. Phyllis is looking for information to help SSWAB make policy recommendations to Thurston County. The Permit doesn't require outfall monitoring. Most of the outfalls into Capitol Lake are owned and operated by WA Department of Enterprise Services.

Annual Municipal Stormwater Permit Reporting (Larry Schaffner)

Ecology's compliance assurance program (Audit)

Ecology is beginning to do annual audits. All municipalities have to submit an annual report. This is an opportunity for Ecology to gauge if the permittees are understanding the intent of the

permit obligations. The audit assesses compliance as well as strengths and weaknesses in the permit. It also provides an opportunity to document and positive feedback to permittees.

Thurston County recently had a desk audit on its 2019 annual report submittal and stormwater management program. Ecology sent a list of questions for the County to respond to. Then there was a follow up meeting which provided an opportunity for Ecology to seek clarity to the responses. Ecology gave the County a lot of compliments on their program. They gave kudos for the County implementing many of its program outside the Permit's regulated area, interjurisdictional coordination, and the depth and level of detail in its Stormwater Management Program Plan. Ecology shared an expectation that the policies and procedures be made available to line staff, including mobile line staff. This audit process will occur annually going forward.

Ecology's southwest region office fell behind conducting these audits as they had a relatively new permit manager (the recent audit was on the 2019 annual report). There was a short turnaround time on this one during the existing annual reporting season, but in the future, Ecology expects conduct these in a more timely fashion.

In response to a SSWAB question as to whether there are any areas the County could use more responses, Larry share that there are some challenges filling some vacant positions. Partially for engineering positions where the County's salary schedule may not be market competitive.

Why did Ecology ask the question asked about training law enforcement and fire?

The municipal permit requires staff training in certain areas. In this case, the question about training law enforcement relates to spill response and notification procedures. Unlike cities, staff explained to Ecology that the County does not have a municipal fire department, but rather independent fire districts. So, there isn't a requirement to train fire district staff as County employees, but it does suggest a possible candidate audience for external education and outreach.

Annual Reporting

- Documents the progress in fulfilling the Permit's requirements during the 2020 calendar year
- Due on March 31, 2021
- Reports compilation involved staff from multiple departments with Permit implementation responsibilities
- Involves responding to a series of questions (i.e., Yes/No, number, or short narrative) and uploading supporting documentation electronically via Ecology's reporting website
- The permit requires a review and certification of the report stating that it is as accurate as possible to their knowledge. For Thurston County, that is the Community Planning and Economic Development Department Director (Joshua Cummings)

During this reporting period the County didn't have any instances of non-compliance.

Phyllis mentioned that it would be good to have some of these reporting metrics in the SPLASH newsletter.

Appointments: Conservation Futures Ranking Committee (Casey)

The Conservation Futures program is a land preservation program that allows landowners to sell their property or future development rights. This is funded through Thurston County. Annually the County solicits project proposals for Conservation Futures funding. The proposals are evaluated by the Conservation Futures Ranking Committee who then forwards their recommendations to the County Commissioners. SSWAB has had a representative as well as an alternate participate on the Ranking Committee.

All involvement with this committee will be virtual. Phyllis was the SSWAB representative last year and is willing to do it again if nobody else is interested. The time commitment depends on the number of submittals they get. It involves an all-day Zoom meeting plus the time to review the packets on the submittals. Larry had the impression that they may provide video of the sites proposed.

Britt is willing to be a representative or an alternate. Phyllis will be the alternate.

Per Casey's recommendation, Britt accepted the representative role and Phyllis the alternate. Larry will pass on Britt's and Phyllis' contact information to Andrew Deffobis, the staff lead, who will be in touch.

SSWAB General Discussion

Casey reminded SSWAB members that the agenda subcommittee has put together an agenda topic submission form to help the committee plan meeting agendas. If there are any topics, please fill out the form and send it in for consideration.

Any SSWAB member outreach to report?

Casey mentioned he has been doing more walking by Nisqually Inlet. He had some discussion with some neighbors about property acquisition in the Nisqually Inlet basin. He referred them to SSWAB. Also, he had some good discussion with some children about snow melt runoff and why there is water in our stormwater ponds.

Updates from Larry

The County had a recent Permit non-compliance notification that we had to submit to Ecology. This was in regard to missing a February 1st deadline to complete a strategy, schedule, and evaluation plan for the required behavior change campaign. The County submitted a corrective action plan proposal and expects to be back in compliance by the end of this month.

The Deschutes Estuary Restoration Team (DERT) is a local environmental advocacy group that appears to be becoming more active in our area. The local jurisdictions recently had a meeting with them to discuss one of their programs involving a spill reporting hotline. There was a discussion around communication and messaging to the public and the importance of avoiding confusion with the municipalities existing spill hotlines. In addition to developing a spill hotline, some other program area the Deschutes Estuary Restoration Team is working on include: expanding their presence in their community, water quality monitoring, outreach and story maps,

restoration opportunities, kayak and boat patrols in the Sound, watershed mapping using a drone, and education forums and outreach events.

Casey mentioned that it might be a good idea to try to get a presentation from DERT. Others agreed.

In response to a question on the Permit's behavior change requirement, Larry suggested that that might be a good topic for staff to present to SSWAB. The agenda subcommittee will follow up on this.

Action Items

- Add "update on action items" as a reoccurring bullet under the *SSWAB General Discussion* agenda item. Meeting summaries will highlight the action items generated during meetings.
- Heidi and Lisa will look into funding options to remove tire bulkheads and get back to SSWAB.
- Heidi will look into where to find toxics data for Thurston County and get back to SSWAB.
- Larry will pass on Britt's and Phyllis' contact information to Andrew Deffobis regarding their involvement on the Conservation Futures Ranking Committee.
- In proposing agenda item topics, SSWAB members will fill out agenda topic submission form and submit the form to the Agenda Subcommittee.
- Casey will follow-on his suggestion to try to get a presentation from DERT.
- The Agenda Subcommittee will follow-up on the idea to consider a staff presentation on the Permit's behavior change requirement.

The next meeting will be May 20, 2021.

Meeting adjourned at 7:37 pm