



Surface Water Subcommittee to the CWAC

December 12, 2024

Committee Members in Attendance: Lynn Bahrych, Bob Eagan, Vicki Heater, Ann Jarrell, Laura Pitts, Melissa Rohde, Kimbal Sundberg

Ex-officio, County support staff, and members of public: Sophia Cassam, Krista Chavez, Krista Davis, Tyler Davis, Susan Eshelman, Kelly Hamilton, Kendra Smith

9:03AM **Convene meeting** *Kimbal Sundberg*

9:03 AM **Public Comment** *none*

9:04 AM **Business Operations**

- Approve December 12th Agenda – no additions/corrections/objections, all in favor, the agenda is approved
- Approve October 17th Minutes – Vicki moves to approve, Bob seconds, the August Minutes are approved

9:04 AM **Staff & Agency Updates**

- Ecology

Kelly Hamilton

No updates this month. Kim has noticed a few water rights going around, including on Lopez. Reminder that you can subscribe to NW region notices from Ecology, about 20% will be from SJC. A lot from Whatcom lately
<https://statics.teams.cdn.office.net/evergreen-assets/safelinks/1/atp-safelinks.html>

9:06 AM • Environmental Stewardship

Kendra Smith

Budget and rates were approved. The CIP was approved. Kendra briefly reviews the rates, total is about \$124 per ESU for big islands and slightly lower capital rates on Shaw and other islands.

Tyler: Council discussed whether outer islands should be included at all, no capital projects there

Kendra: reminder that there's always been a set method of calculating two separate numbers are calculated; we can discuss that in the upcoming year and see if we want to adjust. But rates are consistent across County And we checked out the beaver situation at Melissa's place in the Three Meadows neighborhood

9:10 AM **Subcommittee Updates**

- Comp Plan Water Element Subcommittee

Kimbal Sundberg

We met in November, discussed what should go into water element. Consensus about the direction but final language hasn't been crafted yet, so nothing to approve at this meeting. Two main issues of focus in the memo were hauled water and the integration of the Salmon Recovery plan into water planning and management in the County. It was a Salmon Recovery Plan goal to be adopted into the County Comp Plan.

Bob: Legislature has passed the doubling of our ADU capacity statewide, I don't know if we're ready to discuss that. And I heard Ethan presented on Shaw on behalf of DH&CS and brought a brochure intended for group B and individual users he's asked me to comment on. One glaring thing missing is metering water.

ACTION: Kyle is busy, but Kendra will touch base with him about this. We have been in touch about OSS, and it would benefit us to have a regular staffer here from Health even if Kyle is unavailable and even if we need to help fund their staff to come and engage. It's important for us to be consistent in our messaging about water

Tyler: about the USGS study, he said there has been no further communication since November 1st

Kim: a definite goal for 2025 is regular DH&CS participation with the CWAC. The Clean Water Utility benefits from expertise and authorities from both ES and H&CS.

9:18 AM **Ongoing Business Discussion**

• Comp Plan schedule and process update

Sophia Cassam

Thanks for inviting me. We are about 50% through with the Comp Plan update. There was heavy lifting on the front end with various analyses. CWAC did first review over the summer. We will bring this to Planning Commission Dec. 20th. Your recommendations and Kyle's are in this draft, and Kendra has helped with some language particularly in the climate element. We hope to have another draft ready for this committee by the February 20 meeting. Planning Commission will have a public hearing in June/July and Council in August/September. The water element has a fair bit of overlap with different groups

Will CWAC's subcommittee be bringing additional recommendations following their November meeting?

Kendra: Kyle updated sections to reflect our discussion in those meetings. I went back through our notes and put in comments regarding natural resources, stormwater and surface water. There's a small section about marine waters so I referenced the recent MSA and the 2022 Salmon Recovery Chapter update. I included a specific statement regarding hauled water from our discussion in the November subcommittee meeting

Sophia: for the current version, I want to know if the meaning needs to change. We are tracking all changes.

Kendra: we have finished the draft climate element and the memo on changes.

ACTION: Kendra will send around that document; it may also be posted on 'Engage' page under climate work

Kim: we may want to put those updates on the agenda for next year at each meeting so we can follow along.

Has Sam been involved with integrating the Salmon Recovery Plan recommendations into the Comp Plan?

Kendra: We think the Salmon Recovery Plan will come in most with the SMP and Critical Area Ordinances.

Those aren't open for update yet but when they are that will come into play more

Kim: in November we also talked about the studies needed to find the realistic instream flow needs. Now with the eDNA study we hope to have more information about fish

Kendra: there is reference to integrative water resource management planning, protecting streams and instream flow. There's also verbiage in the climate element about critical resource corridors

Sophia: I wanted to respond to Bob's comment about ADU's and capacity in Eastsound. There's new direction from the State to allow two ADU's on any lot in any urban growth area that would apply to Friday Harbor, Eastsound, and Lopez village. That doesn't apply to the water element yet. We estimated that in the next 20 years about 5% of potential ADU's that could be built, would be built.

Kim: Those urban growth areas are served by water systems with certain capacity and governed by their water plans. FH is in process of updating their plan. That's where capacity analysis should occur.

Sophia: we'll be in touch with those providers about what we think those capacity needs will be

Krista Chavez: we just approved the FH plan. Their plan is tied to capacity. Although zoning allows two ADU's, they'd still need to show they can serve those

Sophia: when water systems update their plans, the County does local government consistency review to see that what's in their plans is consistent with the Comp Plan. We communicate about projected needs following our analyses, and then we also review their plans on the backend. Thanks, I'll be in touch and see in February!

9:38 AM •Clean Water Utility CIP project update

Tyler Davis

1. Lopez Island; Hummel Creek Restoration (no update) and Richardson Marsh/Davis Bay (also no update)

These are both in the CIP gearing up toward in work in 2027-9

2. Orcas Island; Crow Valley Creek including CD continued restoration, planting at JB farms, beaver analogs

3. Also on Orcas, Bayhead-Killebrew Culvert. Updating the community on the 'Engage' webpage. Design complete for the road; constructability review pending with management firm. Funding from FEMA

expires in early 2026 so work must happen in 2025. Plan a public meeting in early January, we're working with Orcas fire and rescue to be functional while that work is underway etc.

4. On SJI, Garrison Creek work continues from the CD, restoration planting and public outreach
5. Also on SJI, FB creek – along the corridor there's the Zylstra project we'll discuss next. And a lot of work at Red Mill and at Sundstrom preserve – general maintenance, CIP work coming up next year with some new plantings. 3,000 plants scheduled for Red Mill next month in Jan 2025
6. Lower Zylstra Restoration is happening now, Rainshadow and Blackcap are local firms doing planning. The ICC are harvesting live stakes to plant. The whole site to be replanted is about 18 acres; we're working on 6 acres a year for the next 3 years. Let Tyler know if you'd like to go in the field and see it

9:48 AM **New Business**

- ES easement assessment and facilities update

Krista Davis & Susan Eshelman

Krista: because we're now separate from Public Works, they're still responsible for maintenance within the right of way and we're responsible for drainage outside of that. Susan has been updating maps and easements in GIS. We've been working on a maintenance schedule for spring, making priorities by documenting assets

9:50am • General stormwater update

Krista Davis

We're looking at the operation and maintenance schedule. We've had street sweeping and catch basin cleaning but lost our inner local agreement with Skagit county. We had an agreement with FH, but they lost their street sweeper. We had been analyzing grit etc. and we're restarting the program this year. Looking at contractors/private consultants. We'll retest grit from street sweeping, we build up fine sediments over time and need to do some retesting with catch basin grit. We also haven't been able to do water quality testing due to infrastructure maintenance issues. Water quality gauges the effectiveness of the street-sweeping program. Investigating costs for our own small electric street sweeper and staffing so that we'd be self-sufficient. As far as assessment, ES has gone to third party review for land use, we're hoping to shed the stormwater review to a third-party team so we can focus on capital works projects. But we're still working with third party reviewer on maintenance needs and with homeowners on drainage issues etc. and with Public Works. Our stormwater projects are small works. Some drainage issues we're assessing in facilities. Some safety issues with some grates and overflow for drainage. Maintenance of constructed wetlands around Eastsound Lopez pool is a big project – working with building inspectors to maintain best management practices for inspections. Some low-income development and potential housing development under review for Orcas. Waiting on some code updates for some stormwater. We're currently using 2005 stormwater manual.

Kendra: one thing we've seen with stormwater reviews is that the BMP's deal with plastics and other more urban issues. We're looking into using more rural-based organic BMPs like straw bales to reduce waste. And regarding drainage, Krista's time for some of that work gets billed to the Solid Waste. For stormwater projects, it's the Fisherman's Bay stormwater issue in the village and the drainage (or lack thereof) at Deer Harbor
Bob: the issue of street sweeping – I thought Public Works had street sweepers?

Krista: yes, but when they did analysis in Eastsound found their streetsweepers don't get the small problem particles. The FH street sweeper had a vacuum-assisted system. An engineer helped show how that gets the fine particulate off the street. The Public Works sweeper is aesthetic, for leaves etc. it's basically a broom.

Kendra: they also use those same brush lines for chip-sealing so not great for water quality. We're researching 6PPD (a tire-based toxin affecting salmon) to find out how big a problem it is on County roads and how to manage it. Chip-sealed roads are rougher on tires and may be an issue so seeing if there's anything we can do.

10:05 AM Susan shares screen to show SJC Clean Water Utility Stormwater update 2024

Orcas Landing Marine Interpretative Area – Revegetation Efforts. Initially just the wall and a baseline of soil. Seeded last fall and again this September. Anticipating lots of wildflowers. Photos show the site and locations of plantings and some native plants returning. More established natives and shrubs will come in later

Also, Revegetation at Lopez Village Bioswales and Weeks Road. These photos show three different bioswales in stretch along the market. Put in sedge to support hydrology. Working on maintenance of noxious weeds. -some details about stormwater facilities assessment, covered 22 facilities on three islands looking at drainage/status and setting priorities. Susan created a map and a database. Dashboard of SJC stormwater facilities – wild fish conservancy layer, stormwater layer showing ES or Public Works list; it will be organized by the last facility maintained and by priorities. Map can be toggled through physically or click on links in the list. Pop-up shows name and type of drainage. Susan shows example with notes and files, images, etc.

Bob: do you have the Orcas Island school district stormwater?

Kendra: that's privately owned, this only includes the public stormwater facilities

Krista: but the school district stormwater management plans should be publicly available, we review those

Question: Will this be available on ES website?

Kendra: some version but not all details. We can create a version showing locations and when maintained

Kim: curious what tools people have when they see something going on that may impact a stormwater system

Krista: SJI is redoing all their easements so we're really working with inspectors on BMP's. OPALCO has the right to work within their easement, but we're trying to work with them on BMP's for run off and keep an eye on things so that conveyance and capacity systems are maintained, especially during atmospheric rivers

- more discussion of work by OPALCO and helpful tools to know what's going on

Kim: how much does one of these street sweepers cost to buy and maintain?

Krista: not sure – we can get away with a smaller one and we want an electric one. Planning to attend a workshop with Ecology that will help figure out types and pricing

10:22AM **Housekeeping**

- Membership – Nomination of Richard Locke, District 3 Seat 11 – Lopez

Richard was a lead planner in Seattle for much of his career. On Fisherman Bay Water Association board, long time/part time resident of Lopez and officially moving to WA this month for permanent residency. Good candidate, he seems eager to join. I propose that we endorse his nomination to County Council for approval

MOTION: Kim moves to advance Richard Locke's nomination. Lynn seconds. All in favor, motion passes

ACTION: Tyler can put this on County Council agenda for January

10:25AM • OPMA Training Reminder

We're all required to do this, it's due by the end of 2024. It's a video.

<https://sanjuancowa.portal.civicclerk.com/event/3047/files/agenda/4962>

10:26 AM • Confirm 2025 Meeting schedule

2025 Regular Meeting Schedule (bi-monthly, third Thursdays, 9:00-11:00am)

February 20th, April 17th, June 19th, August 21st, October 16th, December 11th (second Thursday)

2025 Subcommittee Schedule

January 16th, March 20th, May 15th, July 17th, September 18th, November 20th

Tyler: we could meet in person sometimes – that's not scheduled but we can consider it

- discussion of the benefits of meeting in-person

- a bit more discussion about USGS Aquifer Recharge and Water Budget Components of San Juan County, we're eager for their final report

Vicki: even with code updates, it's natural resource availability like water that should drive building code

10:33 AM **Adjourn Meeting**