



Clean Water Advisory Committee

June 12, 2025

Committee Members in Attendance: Lynn Bahrych, Jenny DeGroot, Bob Eagan, Vicki Heater, Ann Jarrell, Richard Locke, Judy Meyer, Melissa Rohde, Kimbal Sundberg

Ex-officio, County support staff, and members of public: Bill Bangs, Angela Broderick, Raquel Callans, Krista Chavez, Tyler Davis, Susan Eshelman, Kai Hoffman, Kari McVeigh, Ethan Schmidt

9:02 AM **Convene Meeting** *Kim Sundberg*

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

Welcome to Bill Bangs & thanks for your written comments on the water element

9:04 AM **Business Operations**

- Approve June 12th Agenda, no additions or objections, agenda approved
- Approve April 17th Minutes

MOTION: No changes or edits, Bob moves to approve the minutes Judy seconds, the minutes are approved

9:05AM **Staff & Agency Updates**

- Environmental Stewardship *Tyler Davis*

Kendra is out of the office now. We're interviewing for the new engineering tech position.

- SJC Health *Ethan Schmidt*

Received 43 water certificate applications so far this year, last year was 58, that includes applications on community systems and individual wells. There are seven new wells being constructed in the County, that's also down from last year. Two new proposed group B applications, one each on SJ and Orcas.

OSS permitting this year similar to 2024; in 2025 – 44 new design applications, 26 repair design applications

- WA DOH *Raquel Callans*

I'm the regional engineer of SJC, currently on Lopez. From office of Drinking water, Chris is on the call. DWAG is the Drinking Water Advisory Group, there was a notice that office is being reorganized. Due to loss of state funding, losing our regional manager. Krista and I are regional engineers assigned to SJC. We're concerned about this proposal meant to be implemented July 1st. Then we'll have a new Dept of Health secretary. This could dramatically impact services. In the current structure there are people available to support emergency response, this is meant to make things more efficient. We support utilities and housing. What is the capacity water system is planned for? That's a concrete way water interfaces with development. We partner with various utilities and parks. Email me if you have concerns, raquel.callans@gmail.com

Vicki: is there support from the State for the group B program?

Ethan: sometimes the State reviews a group B technical system design. There has been funding available for consolidation studies so there could be regions of the county where systems could be managed together. We have monitoring requirements through our group B renewal system, annual chloroform and nitrate monitoring, and some systems have additional testing like chloride, but not as extensive as group A

- Ecology – Kelly Hamilton

Not available today, but Kim will share some Ecology related information shortly

9:26 AM Subcommittee Updates

- Surface Water

Kim Sundberg

Jeff Cederbaum and Kelly Hamilton gave a presentation on water issues they're dealing with in SJC. We had a good feedback session about our concerns – some streams with flow issues during critical times. We discussed process for issuing new water rights; with new water applications need better ways to assess impacts. We hope for more participation from Jeff in future, he has some schedule conflicts but seemed interested. We discussed updates on the CIP projects. We went over comp plan and reviewed Bill's comments Ethan: Building permit applications this year vs. 2024 (including all permit types: SFRs, remodels, etc.); in 2024 there were 154, in 2025 (through June 12) there were 88

- Groundwater

Kyle Dodd

Ethan: I spoke with Kyle, he did not convene the Groundwater subcommittee last month

9:31 AM Ongoing Business

- USGS Report Update

Vicki

Heater

Vicki: last week Kyle, Ethan and I met with USGS hydrogeologist putting this model together and her supervisor. The original contract for this work was signed in 2021. We discussed how the model will work. We expect to have a draft by the end of the summer, the report will be published early next year but the data has been put together and models are available, we can start looking at data before the report is finished. After initial recharge report, we learned there were specific areas that needed to be looked at more closely – like Lopez Village and Eastsound since they had been designated for growth without confirming availability. Network of monitoring wells for water availability map in Eastsound. Cross-section map showing aquifer for Eastsound, one of the only glacial deposit aquifers in the County. Bill Bangs raised the issue of the need for ongoing monitoring – we don't know the answers to questions about supply and demand The Environmental Stewardship website has a lot of these documents and resources available Tyler shares screen to show Groundwater monitoring report from 2017,

<https://sanjuancountywa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/864/Eastsound---Interim-Aquifer-Protection-Report-PDF>

<https://www.sanjuancountywa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/29450/2018-Lopez-Groundwater-Monitoring-Report>

Ethan shares Environmental Health Water Resource Management page,

<https://sanjuancountywa.gov/439/Water-Resource-Management>

QUESTIONS

Bob: Eastsound Water has put dataloggers in various high-producing wells around Eastsound - some discussion of when need to start showing concern for nitrate levels as an indicator. Discussion of specific locations on North Orcas. Map showing wells and capture zones.

Ethan: we have an ongoing monitoring program in north Lopez, we put out an annual groundwater monitoring report looking more at seawater intrusion than nitrates. Those annual reports are also available, Environmental Health Water Resource Management page: <https://sanjuancountywa.gov/439/Water-Resource-Management>

Bob: this is an area where the two agencies 'clash' a bit –monitoring from DoH and H&CS provides the testing requirements but they're not linked with Ecology, so it doesn't get carried on from user to user

10:02 AM **New Business**

- Climate Action Plan Round Table

Angela

Broderick

Thanks for your work on the water element, my team has been working on the climate element. We want to get into some of the more complex topics. Water is a key area where we can bring together the most important expertise and perspectives. We hope you can guide how this will look – who should be at table, what are key issues we need to understand and if we may ultimately co-organize a ‘water round table’

Kim: what would be time commitment?

Angela: just a single meeting, a chance to gather expertise and discuss intersections between climate and water, SLR, education/outreach. One issue is that folks are interested in grey water systems but feel there are barriers in place. e.g. complexities of desalination. We hope to get the right variety of perspectives – environmental health, water districts on different islands because each island’s system is a little different.

Want to do it this summer, so it can inform the comp plan. We could tack in onto a regular CWAC meetings

Kim: sure, maybe in August

Angela: so, issues include grey water, OSS, and well monitoring and metering. Anything else?

Judy: another issue is sufficient instream flow

Kim: the issue with grey water is that you need to treat it the way you do with septic. Maybe there are cost effective ways, but the State doesn’t allow you to do that due to bacteria issues. Permitting is costly - Ethan discusses some considerations for permitting for a greywater system, in most cases not that efficient

Vicki: agree with Judy, due to climate change this is an acute and seasonal situation

Kim: temperature issues with hotter summers. Utility is trying to mitigate for that by planting riparian

Richard: Is there any technology that can be used to capture more of the rainwater in the County?

Kai: at the CD we’ve applied to fund for more riparian work. Priority has been placed on the buffer between riparian and forest plantings. This can alter hydrology and increase groundwater, improve recharge. We can put in Beaver Dam Analogs. And PALS, pole-assisted log structures that can re-meander and slow a stream

Lynn: As the liaison from CWAC to the Climate committee, I’d be glad to join in Angela’s new meeting

Vicki: I’ve been impressed with the restoration work, recreating natural systems. But there’s only so much capacity and enhancing aquifers takes serious engineering. Water is constantly being discharged. The monitoring on Lopez shows that water measurements don’t dramatically change throughout the year.

Angela: thanks everyone, I’ll follow up with Kim. And I’m happy to chat, angelab@sanjuancountywa.gov

Tyler: We can suggest other people that should be at that round table. Please email me or Angela with ideas

Angela: we’ll probably cap it around a dozen people, we don’t want it to be unwieldy

10:24 AM • 6PPD Stormwater Research Grant Opportunity

Kim Sundberg

At last week’s LIO meeting, the Integration of the Puget Sound Partnership and State agencies with the County, we had a presentation from Ecology about 6PPD – a compound in tires. It’s been found in sheds from tires, extremely toxic to coho salmon and coastal cutthroat trout. Research on this from UW and finally legislature has put forward about 3 million in a grant program. So, this is a grant opportunity. County could potentially apply and use some of these funds to screen for this contamination. We could also apply together with neighboring counties to do some joint sampling. It’s a competitive program and the ferry terminals would likely be a big focus as well as a handful of streams known to support salmonids

Tyler: we could partner on this project; Anacortes ferry terminal may also be interested in testing

Kim: we were told there was no data from the marine environment, all studies have been done in freshwater. Anadromous fish have a different physiology in salt water so that would be an interesting avenue of research

Lynn: some studies on the effects on herring; for years I’ve been wanting some grass filters at ferry terminals

Jenny: the ferry terminals are great but also Eastsound where people are braking as they come into town. It seems like such a project would also investigate options for filtering out contaminants

Kai: some analysis of charcoal filtration into PT bay, that would also be something to consider looking at

Kim: check out the link and some of the discussion on the Ecology website, they discuss charcoal as a BMP, https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias_1962/40944/6ppd_stormwater_best_management_practices_research.aspx

10:35 AM • Strategies for active capture of rainfall for aquifer recharge *Richard Locke*

We have a project in urban growth area of Lopez village, there's a wet area in the middle of the site with water running through to Fisherman Bay. Fish Bay Water Association will investigate capturing that water instead of shunting it off, slow it and help recharge the aquifer. If we succeed, I'll come back and report

10:37 AM **Housekeeping**

• CWAC membership update *Tyler Davis*

Tyler shows current membership. We're losing Laura Pitts. Three vacant spots. Three members whose terms expire next month, and they're invited to reapply. Four of you whose terms expire a year from now. Limit of two terms and then you can serve again after a year off. Please encourage anyone interested to apply

Kim: I think it's important to have a CD presence, let's see if Kai has the bandwidth for this

Judy: FYI I will be term limited and will be off 6/26. We need someone from the Conservation District

Lynn: I've already reapplied for reappointment

• Vacant Seats remaining include:

District 1 (San Juan) Position 1, District 2 (Orcas) Position 5, and District 3 (Lopez/Shaw) Position 12

ACTION: email Tyler if you're available in July and plan to meet, otherwise we'll go directly to meet in August

10:42 AM **Adjourn meeting**