



Clean Water Advisory Committee

October 16, 2025

Committee Members in Attendance: Jenny DeGroot, Vicki Heater, Ann Jarrell, Richard Locke, Kimbal Sundberg

Ex-officio, County support staff, and members of public: Angela Broderick, Sophia Cassam, Krista Chavez, Tyler Davis, Kari McVeigh, Ethan Schmidt, Kendra Smith, Nick Walsh

9:03 AM **Convene Meeting**

Kim Sundberg

9:03 AM **Public Comment**

9:04 AM **Business Operations**

- Approve October 16th Agenda

Kendra has addition to new business: discussion of an interfund loan between CW and the Marine Program

- Approve August 21st Minutes – *return to this later in the meeting when there's a quorum*

9:05 AM **Staff Agency Updates**

- Environmental Stewardship

Kendra Smith

The CIP was approved by Council, rates will remain the same as last year. We were able to recapture homes not included in previous analysis (picked up 1300 ESU's) allowing the cost to spread over a broader number.

Nick Walsh can share what he's working on in the position previously held by Krista Davis.

Nick: The biggest project is the street sweeping, particularly in Eastsound and in Lopez village. I reached out to Anacortes; we're putting together an interlocal agreement. Anacortes has the equipment and the team that can come out and do the work once the paperwork is place. I'm getting into the stormwater review work.

Kendra: and we were able to complete the Bayhead Killebrew culvert, road was closed for just 8 days. They completed this project in less than a month. The crew was great, engineer was on site. The False Bay planting is scheduled for later this fall, that's another capital project. And we've been doing sea level rise workshops involving risk of flooding from surface waters as well as seawater encroaching – more planned for December.

Angela: I'm the climate and sustainability coordinator. I've been working with the team on preparing a grant application funding the IWoRM (Integrative Water Resources Management plan). It's a two-year award for 2026-27, plan to gather pertinent data and then second phase is a series of workshops to gather feedback.

Kendra: also hope to encourage the campaign for voluntary metering on private wells to address gaps

Kim: we've discussed metering for a long time but the problem with monitoring static water levels in bedrock areas is that you can't extrapolate a lot from individual wells. They're isolated data

Kendra: we do have access to a contract hydrogeologist. Need to find data gaps are to target certain properties

Vicki: Ethan and I have been talking about metering and monitoring as well

Rick: in Lopez Village, it appears water from the development will be collected in a series of culverts and sent back down to SJ Channel, like we're moving precious water off our aquifer

Kendra: they've followed Ecology's requirements. They needed to put that pipe in. But it highlights the issue of managing stormwater, shouldn't be shunting it off the landscape but capture and recharge wherever possible. Retaining water will happen further up above in that system because the development is close to the sea. Nick will be taking on Lopez village stormwater management -that's another capital project -more discussion of upstream infrastructure to capture water, it's already in the CIP for Lopez.

Kim: Are they putting in sediment control or settling ponds? That's usually required for raw stormwater

Kendra: there's a bioswale to treat run-off. Not building detention/retention facilities because close to the sea

Rick: can Fish Bay water request a site-visit with the County? temperature around this issue is rising on Lopez

ACTION: Kendra will plan that meeting in the field with Rick

9:28 AM • SJC Health

Ethan Schmidt

Ethan shares screen presentation with statistics since 2019 for well construction activity (fairly low in 2025) and also well decommissions – there's a WAC to decommission any well that's unusable or abandoned etc. Ethan also shares numbers for certificates of water availability for 2025 so far, and applications 2019-2025 showing trends. 2025 data is through mid-September (a spike in applications in 2021 and even since then) Then for septic design submittals & approvals 2019-2025, and sewage repair & redesign (generally following a failure). Sewage Installation permits (2019-2025). One part of our review process is the seawater intrusion protection assessment; these are criteria for both individual and community wells. Ethan shows location and groundwater criteria (i.e. If within 1000' of the shoreline). If a well meets two or more of these parameters and warrants additional review, we bring in contract hydrogeologist to review, they may request additional data

Lastly, Ethan shows the Island County hydrogeology dashboard – monitoring wells. Data that can be used in developing reports. Interactive maps for well information, can choose specific analytes, e.g. chloride. There are a couple long-term monitoring wells. Can track static water level over time.

Ethan shows SJ County and a web map we've started to work on showing individual wells, some missing data that needs to be added back in. Wells are located on the centers of property, don't have exact placement

Kim: does the well decommissioning process start with a complaint?

Ethan: it shows up on septic test process. Occasionally we encounter it in the field as a public safety issue. It's difficult to enforce WAC that I referenced, unless it's infringing on a septic installation

Kim: thanks for all that Ethan! I think quarterly or annual reports would be sufficient

Jenny: I loved seeing Island County's database, I know we were heading that direction with San Juan County. - more discussion of tracking water among property owners

Rick: could this lend itself to an early warning system? Once we're within a certain set of parameters

Vicki: the monitoring network we set up on Lopez is the basic first step in an early warning system. There have been analyses of those data by hydrogeologist. Geology on Lopez is different than the bedrock on Orcas and SJI, more sensitive. The goal was always to add more monitoring wells around the county.

Krista: have you been in touch with Chelsea Cannard in Office of Drinking Water? There is some funding available to support some of the work you're talking about

ACTION: Krista will email to set Ethan up with this person

Ethan: another issue is regional variability, correlation between rain and aquifer recharge and ways to measure.

In our rainwater catchment design system packet, we have a map that shows lines of rainfall across the lines, it would be interesting to compare that with more current data

10:01 AM WA DOH

Krista Chavez

We are not affected by the government shutdown. But we are in a travel freeze. We lost foundational public health funding, that group was coordinating efforts with local health jurisdictions to bolster group B programs.

We're in a formal comment period now for a PFAS rule revision. The rule revision will be in place in 2029, this is a stopgap to ensure guidelines until then, <https://sboh.wa.gov/rulemaking/agency-rules-and-activity/group-public-water-supplies-pfas-current-rulemakings>

We have a funding cliff coming up in 2027, we're encouraging water systems to apply for funding by November 30 2026, that includes source water grants, <https://doh.wa.gov/community-and-environment/drinking-water/source-water/local-assistance-grant-program>

- Ecology No update, Kelly Hamilton isn't present

10:05 AM • Approve August 21st Minutes

Ann: in the first line of the minutes there's an acronym, PSP – please spell out in parentheses
With that change, all in favor of approving the August minutes. So moved and approved.

10:07 AM **Subcommittee Updates**

- Surface Water – No September meeting

- Groundwater

Vicki Heater

Kyle Dodd has resigned. Ethan and Mark Tompkins were both unable to attend but we discussed the USGS report; they're committed to being part of this committee process going forward. Kari McVeigh was there too. Discussed water resource management plan. Interest in revising Ron Mayo's desalination report, looking at systems that use it and review costs/volumes, etc. Desal is an important element of alternative water supply. We discussed metering, what's required to report and what data are needed.

The USGS report looks county-wide based on group A water systems, and we're hopeful there may be some underlying data that are still useful. The report talks about how much water is recharged into system. The graphs show an even balance of water in equaling discharge, with a slight deficit for three summer months. The report USGS developed 20 years ago was a major tool. One thing that came out of our discussion about Angela's climate round table is that several group A water systems were there, their information was extremely valuable, and the importance of having regular meetings for water purveyors to get together. Monitoring means not just well levels, but stream/lake and rain levels. During the Climate action summit, the idea of aquifer enhancement came up. Need to do a feasibility study first. It's questionable whether feasible in SJC

Kim: low-yield bedrock wells aren't ideal for monitoring unless they're not being regularly pumped

Vicki: that's the idea, to invest in drilling wells specifically for monitoring

Ethan: when the town stopped providing hauled water, most users turned to Roche. But there were times during the summer when they were restricted and just had too much demand on their own system
-more discussion of water use, hypothetical caps on water amounts, sustainability and resilience

10:31 AM **Ongoing Business**

Comp Plan Update

Sophia Cassam

The Planning Commission held a public hearing last month about the Comp plan, no additional changes proposed to water element beyond edits made in June/July with CWAC's help. This will be presented to Council soon, heading for final approval by end of the year. Environmental Stewardship has been reviewing the plan.

Jenny: reminder to be sure the point about coastal cutthroat trout will be included in this comp plan

Sophia: it'll be included in the Critical Areas Ordinance; Sophia will update Jenny directly about that

10:37 AM **New Business**

- CWAC Member Nomination: Kai Hoffman-Krull

Kim Sundberg

New member nominated. Kai works for the CD, being put forward as their representative on this committee. I've known Kai working on restoration projects in SJ valley, he's familiar with surface water riparian restoration to improve water quality in streams. I'm recruiting another member who's manager of Cattle Point Water, the largest desalination system in the County. His expertise on desal operations would be very valuable

Kendra: we still want someone else from Lopez and Shaw.

Vicki: I want to endorse Kai as well

MOTION: All in favor of Kai's nomination, none opposed. We'll forward this to County Council to confirm.

- 2025 Water Year Precipitation Report

Kim Sundberg

I want to show data I've been collecting over 16-years, with a nationwide citizen science program coordinated by Colorado State University called Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network,

<https://www.cocorahs.org/> It produces local precipitation reports that can be accessed by the public

Kim shares data from his site, shows trend in rainfall for the past year (we had a wet last fall in October/November but then a dry spring and summer). Explains the way data is collected/recorded (i.e. single or multi-day). It also records snowfall. Now we're going into a La Nina period which generally means more winter rain. We have some dozen people in the county doing this at different specific sites.

Vicki: there's the NOAA station at UW labs, and I understand there's also an ag weather station in SJ valley.

There are some good weather data available that could be accumulated

Kendra: we can investigate that

10:54 AM **interfund loan between CW and the Marine Program**

Kendra: The County is working through some challenging times, working to keep our system whole. One fundamental aspect of our program is the work done over in the marine program, that's where our salmon recovery work sits, and the climate and sustainability work. The Clean water Utility has some funds available that could be used to fund marine staff while waiting for grants to come in. That would mean marine program borrowing that money until their grant comes through and then it'll be reimbursed. We've been discussing this with the Auditor's office, looking at the WAC's and our code. We have a lot of overlap with our missions, water is coming up as a major element of the climate work, nexus between the two programs.

-Kendra reviews amount in the fund. This loan is only for the float and won't be consumed by the program.

- A few questions/clarifications regarding amounts and timing

No objections, Kendra will pull the pieces together on this with Auditor and PA office and keep CWAC aware

11:06 AM **Housekeeping**

Next meeting is December 11th, the second Thursday of December. Chair and Vice Chair Nominations by then

Vicki: I'd like to have another groundwater meeting in November, Nov 20th

-should we also have a SW meeting in November? Angela has some info to share from the round table

Jenny: Land Bank is meeting tomorrow for their monthly meeting, Doug will likely talk about the Rotenone application to remove invasive pike there. I listened to WDFW's argument for it as well

ACTION: Let's hold November 20th for both surface subcommittees meetings

And reminder for Dec. 11 – think about nominations for chair and vice chair. And some folks will term out and need to take a break. Kim, Judy and Vicki term out next June

Kendra: think about folks willing to step up into that space

2026 Proposed Schedule

Regular: February 19th, April 16th, June 18th, August 20th, October 15th, December 10th (2nd Thursday)

Subcommittees: January 15th, March 19th, May 21st, July 16th, September 27th, November 19th

Vacant Seats remaining include: District 1 (San Juan) Position 1, and District 3, (Lopez/Shaw) Positions 10 & 12
December 11th Meeting!

11:11 AM **Adjourn meeting**

DRAFT