



Clean Water Advisory Committee

April 16, 2026

Committee Members in Attendance: Lynn Bahrych, Bob Eagan, Vicki Heater, Kai Hoffman-Krull, Ann Jarrell, Judy Meyer, Kimbal Sundberg

Ex-officio, County support staff, and members of public: Angela Broderick, Magali Cotes, Tyler Davis, Susan Eshelman, Jane Fuller, Jessica Hudson, Ethan Schmidt, Nick Walsh

9:02 AM Convene Meeting

Kimbal Sundberg

Welcome to County Manager Jessica Hudson, standing in for Kendra

9:01 AM Public Comment

none

9:10 AM Business Operations

- Approve February 19th Minutes – No further edits. Bob moves to approve, Judy seconds. All in favor.
- Approve April 16th Agenda – No edits or additions

Susan: Kelly Hamilton and Ecology are no longer able to attend unless there's a specific agenda topic requiring their attention. They'll need an invite a month in advance; we'll keep them on the email list.

DoH isn't here today; Raquel is on leave. It's beneficial to have them here, important to keep them updated.

Judy: one of the most important inputs from Ecology was insights about Cascade Creek, maybe we can ask for regular updates about that maybe twice a year. Specific questions like about water right

- Elect a 2026 Chair and Vice Chair

Kim and three other members are rotating off the committee. Bob Eagan is willing to stand for the role of Chair. Ann Jarrell is willing to stand as Vice-Chair.

MOTION: Kim calls the vote; all are in favor of Bob for Chair and Ann for Vice-Chair.

Thank you both, Kim's and Judy's last meeting as Chair and Vice-Chair respectively will be in June. August will be Bob and Ann's first meeting in their new roles

Ann: If there's anything new people are working on, please include me on messages

Kim: I expect it'll be a lot of working with Angela on the ECB (spell out) and the Integrated Water Management efforts

9:15 AM Staff & Agency Updates

- Environmental Stewardship

Tyler Davis

Kendra is out on three-month leave. Jessica and Tillery helping in her absence. Continued SLR (Sea Level Rise) work, particularly Blind Bay and False Bay. GICU (Great Island Clean Up) this Saturday April 18th. We have a few days in May with hazardous waste round up. Recent climate convergence conference held at the Grange. Angela gave an update there on the Climate Action Plan and got some feedback

Angela: the water discussion didn't really surface at that conference, so to speak. The Madrona institute organized it, and it really focused on greenhouse gas emissions. I'm working now on priority draft actions for the Climate resiliency plan and water is top of mind. We don't want to duplicate other plans, just cross-reference. We should have a draft of the Climate Action Plan in a couple of months, by June

Tyler: Frankie is in DC now for Puget Sound Day on the Hill. She and Jamie Stephens are representing our County. We've been talking about the World Cup soon and how many extra visitors we may get

Judy: I've heard a state-wide drought has been declared, what does that mean for the County?

Tyler: State drought is defined by the low snowpack, and average temperatures for April

Jessica: shares a link with a map, The San Juans, as well as some other areas, aren't colored red/orange, <https://ecology.wa.gov/about-us/who-we-are/news/2026/april-8-statewide-drought-declared-due-to-dismal-snowpack>

Susan: one reason they declare it so early is for the opportunities that can be available, like in agriculture -some discussion of what it means to be declared drought and whether San Juans needs to ask to be included or not. We're unique here, we have no snowpack. One reason it's important for Ecology to be here

Ethan: <https://ecology.wa.gov/water-shorelines/water-supply/water-availability/statewide-conditions/drought-response>

ACTION: Susan can ask Kelly Hamilton for thoughts on SJC inclusion in drought

-more discussion of Ecology representation at these meetings. Kelly seldom has updates, but there are often topics from which we benefit from quick answers from Ecology

Vicki: the original water resource committee was formed with grants from Ecology, at that point in time when there was a moratorium on water rights. We were dealing with limited capacity by allowing folks to build with rainwater and desalination in their plans. Now there's a lot of focus on instream flow

-more discussion of the past of Ecology's involvement

9:41 AM **SJC Health**

Ethan Schmidt

Jessica Nye, Environmental Health manager was planning to be here but had a conflict she couldn't move. Still working on septic updates. Targeting next spring/early next year to present management plan and updates to code, we'll have stakeholder meetings starting in September bringing in septic industry etc.

We asked Council for approval to proceed with our source water management grant, working with hydrogeologist to get a cost estimate. Estimate came in a little over the maximum allowable grant allocation. It looks like USGS study will be presented at the June CWAC meeting. Elyse from USGS also informed me that publication of the report is moving forward as expected. There was interest in two presentations, one for Council (June 8th) which is before the June 18th CWAC meeting.

-some discussion of code changes, some are required updates, some deal with vacation rental permits' septic schedules

9:49 AM **Subcommittee Back-to-Back Meeting Recap**

- Groundwater

Ethan Schmidt

Ethan reviewed everything in the SJC Health update (above)

- Surface Water

Kim Sundberg

Largely discussed the Integrated Water Resource Management plan with Angela

9:52 AM **New Business**

2027-2032 CIP

Tyler Davis

We plan to have a final vote about this in June (while we still have a quorum). Tyler shares summary page Some numbers may change a bit. But this is the project list.

On SJI,

-False Bay Creek corridor restoration, it's about maintenance, protecting our investment there

-Garrison creek, mainly with Conservation District (CD). CD has been working on landowner outreach

-Lake Zylstra, lots of planting along False Bay Creek. Next planting season plan to finish up to upper dam.

-Yachthaven culvert, failing/restricting fish passage DFW identified as needing to be addressed. This is on Public Works' list. Not in CIP, just being considered for inclusion. Must ensure a good long-range solution.

-still working on eDNA sampling on Garrison

On Orcas,

-Westsound and Crow Valley creek corridor – riparian restoration, working with the CD

-Bayhead culvert was completed last year, that was a big one

-Judd Cove, stream and wetland restoration in partnership with Land Bank. Upsize a culvert that's too small, decommission some other culverts that are directing water away from wetlands. This could, in theory, benefit the creek flowing into Eastsound and serve as a refuge for salmon fry

Kim: the TAG is reviewing the Land Bank's grant request for Judd Cove now. How does this budget coordinate with their request. Is this supplementing/replacing what they asked SRFB for via the TAG?

Vicki: for Deer Harbor, how does Clean Water (CW) Utility differentiate between habitat restoration and stormwater management? Is this money for this project coming into the CW from CIP?

Tyler: a lot relies on grants, large projects take a long time and accumulate money for them via service fees

ACTION: Tyler can share this spreadsheet; we're looking at summary page but tabs for each project with more information. The CWAC's role is to approve this and provide critical feedback about the projects

Vicki: in terms of priorities, this Deer Harbor project is stormwater, engineering. But impacts are on a Land Bank preserve and estuary. It's been bumped in the CIP for as long as I've been on the CWAC. I'd like to give it a higher ranking. It's a source of contamination and people who live there are concerned

-Jessica clarifies some details about funding sources

-Tyler clarifies some notations with amounts shown in columns

Judy: reiterates that Land Bank needs to elaborate on the funding for their proposal to the TAG

Back to the CIP,

-the LaPorte culvert just above the recently replaced Killebrew. In scope, this will be similar to Killebrew and somewhat large. Some demanding engineering requirements. Implementation needs to be discussed

-Doe Bay culvert – must be a good size that can be maintained as is but needs a hydraulic assessment to ensure culvert can handle the water flow. The Doe Bay creek is a fish bearing stream with confirmed presence of cutthroat trout but it's non-anadromous, fulltime freshwater because of waterfall below creek. If fish get flushed out of culvert, they can't return upstream. DFW wants a solution that prevents entrapment between culvert and waterfall, like a vortex weir

On Lopez, same three projects from last year,

-Lopez village stormwater, Nick is heavenly involved. Dealing with influx of water during heavy rainfall events that doesn't require a full upgrade. And trying to solve for increased demand for freshwater, hoping for a two for one solution – capture the water, keep it from draining into Village, and retain/use somehow.

-Home creek water estuary – Port Stanley at the Hummel Creek Estuary. Looking at tidegate.

-The Davis Bay Richardson marsh – working with Friends on a feasibility study, biodiversity assessment.

Landowner outreach and well assessments.

Vicki: it's a tiny watershed, low flow regime, that tidegate was replaced not too long ago. It's high maintenance so there's a question of how well it's functioning.

Tyler: partnership with Friends, they have a hydrology consultant

-discussion of saltwater intrusion issues into wells, importance of landowner willingness to monitor

-saltwater marshes are unique and need to be protected but groundwater issues need to be resolved

Last two items are small works – no projects for Shaw, but some money set aside to address any upcoming issues there or on outer islands. Line item to keep track of money for VSP (Voluntary Stewardship Program).

Q: nothing about Blind Bay? Seems like that's the same as Port Stanley

Tyler: not in CW CIP, it's considered marine/climate sustainably. But Port Stanley is connected to Hummel creek which connects to CW utility. This is a first pass; we'll clean it up and look again at June meeting

ACTION: Tyler will send out the cleaned-up version ahead of the June meeting so we can vote

Susan: that'll be a crammed meeting, the USGS presentation will be about 45 min with 15 min for questions

Judy: will we get a copy of the report before the meeting?

Ethan: no, it won't be avail until published in June

-more discussion about the USGS presentation at the mid-May symposium, could everyone watch that?

Judy: I'm concerned about the timing in June and if there'll be enough time to ask questions about the CIP

ACTION: Susan will send out link to the Council presentation, that'll be homework for CWAC members to watch before June meeting, so Elyse will need less time to present to us and have more time for questions

ACTION: Susan will send out links to the council presentation and to participate in May symposium

10:46 AM Housekeeping

- CWAC membership update

Susan Eshelman

-creating a survey for members leaving CWAC, this practice will expand to other advisory committees

- we have two current applicants, and two interested parties. All four are invited to attend general meetings

When we get closer to mid-May we'll start on interviews and maybe discuss candidates in June meeting

Kim: was Jane working to extend memberships?

Susan: I spoke to her about all the experience being lost as members term out, and there is a possibility (not approved yet) of extending a member for about six months if not able to fill remaining positions. This would need to be approved by Council because it's out of scope of code, but this is a unique situation

Kim is available and willing if approved but he's gone for a lot of July and September

Bob: I've been attending an ad hoc committee meeting regarding Rosario. It seems they let that Cascade Creek grant lapse because couldn't come to agreement with seller. Partnership with Friends, but there was some question of whether sufficient scientific review had been done

Magali: Friends has sent two letters about setbacks, asking County to strengthen shorelines and instream buffers as part of critical area ordinance

Lynn: we have less of a setback than other counties even though we have more shoreline

- Great Islands Cleanup - April 18th, other islands' dates on website
- Hazardous Waste Roundup on SJI – May 16th

10:58 AM Adjourn meeting