

**CITY OF BELLEVUE
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**



Thursday
June 5, 2025

City Hall & Remote
6:30 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Wan at 6:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Ken Wan (Vice Chair/elected Chair at end of meeting), Andy Dupertuis, Ann Hajnosz, Gabby Lacson, Kurt Lutterman (elected Vice Chair at end of meeting)

COUNCIL LIAISON: None

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Michael Margolis (excused)

OTHERS PRESENT: Linda De Boldt, Utility Engineering Assistant Director; Joe Harbour, Deputy Director, Lorissa Warren, Senior Administrative Assistant; Andrew Williams, Senior Administrative Assistant; Scott Edwards, Deputy Director; Matt Thurber, Assistant Director; Brianna Pierce, Utilities Engineering Tech., Eric Lafrance, Utilities Planning Manager; Justus Stewart, Sustainability Program Manager; and Laurie Hugdahl, Minutes Taker

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion made by Commissioner Lacson, seconded by Commissioner Lutterman, to approve the agenda with a change in the order of the agenda to move the election of ESC Chair and Vice Chair to the end of New Business. The agenda was approved as amended (5-0).

3. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATION

Alex Tsimerman, 14150 NE 20th Street, Bellevue, WA, complained about the camera setup. He expressed frustration about the time limit for comments at City Council meetings and other city policies.

4. COMMUNICATION FROM CITY COUNCIL, COMMUNITY COUNCIL, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

None

5. STAFF REPORTS

Deputy Director Harbour gave an update on a recent watermain break noting that there has been good collaboration between Redmond and Bellevue to deal with the situation.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A) MAY 1, 2025 MINUTES

Motion made by Commissioner Lutterman, seconded by Commissioner Lacson, to approve the 5/1/2025 minutes as presented. Upon a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously (5-0)

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

8. NEW BUSINESS

a) Sustainable Bellevue ESI Plan Update

Justus Stewart, Sustainability Program Manager, presented on Phase II of the Sustainable Bellevue Plan Update. He reviewed objectives, background information, goals for the plan, progress/timeline, the outreach approach, and public engagement. Plan update topics include materials and solid waste management, natural systems, and climate change. Primary themes from community outreach included concern for worsening climate impacts. Community members felt that the City should prioritize environmental initiatives, even those requiring significant investment. He reminded the Commission of goals, metrics, and targets. Goals include getting to zero waste, realizing the “city in a park” vision, improving stream health, and water conservation. There is a focus on impact especially if it substantially reduces GHG emissions to meet Bellevue’s 2030 target, if it lays a foundation to reduce GHG emissions to meet Bellevue’s carbon neutrality targets, and if it meaningfully enhances resilience to climate hazards. He reviewed draft strategies and actions.

Materials and Waste:

- Continue efforts to divert all possible waste from landfill – outreach and education activities and resources
- Create and implement policies that prioritize zero waste opportunities – incorporating sustainability, Extended Producer Responsibility, and Zero Waste requirements into the future solid waste contract; evaluate creating

a Deconstruction Policy

Commissioner Hajnosz asked about the new organics management law. Mr. Stewart explained key components which require that space for three waste streams and organics collection be provided.

Commissioner Lacson asked if there are other communities with deconstruction policies that they could use as a model. Mr. Stewart explained that he is not aware of any on the eastside, but King County is working on one. A problem is that there is not a market for the materials.

Vice Chair Wan asked about Extended Producer Responsibility. Mr. Stewart explained that all of the burden should not be on the consumer to keep items out of the landfill and that more responsibility should be placed on producers. This could include something like take back programs. Vice Chair Wan asked about emphasizing e-waste in that strategy. Mr. Stewart commented that it is a major focus in Extended Producer Responsibility, but he will look into the contract language as well.

Natural Systems:

- Enhance new and existing stormwater infrastructure with low impact design - Land use incentives and/or code requirements to increase low-impact development; implement Stormwater Capital Investment Projects retrofits
- Reduce water use across the community – New water storage systems; accelerate the uptake of low-water and sustainable landscaping practices, green infrastructure, and water reuse systems

Vice Chair Wan asked how having a new water storage system would reduce water use. Mr. Stewart explained that it has to do with storing water and drawing from that instead of other sources.

Climate Resilience:

- Enhance the Bellevue community's resilience to climate hazards – communication tools for preparedness and response; resilience hub serving vulnerable populations; preparedness and response training for city staff and partner programs; consider a community-level wildlife protection plan
- Ensure Bellevue's infrastructure is resilient to climate hazards – Low- or no-emission backup power and energy storage in critical facilities; wildlife smoke-safe facility upgrades.

Vice Chair Wan asked about the wildfire protection plan. Mr. Stewart explained this is primarily focused on areas that are at the wildlife urban interface which have a very high tree canopy. Commissioner Lutterman

noted that the fire department is doing some outreach events for fire protection for homeowners this month.

Vice Chair Wan thought that there should be a mention of the hazards of trees falling down as part of climate hazards. Mr. Stewart agreed that this is an important point; there are other places where it will also be addressed as well. He noted that having redundancy in the power system helps to limit the extent of damage from downed trees. Vice Chair Wan suggested they might want to also look at the health of trees in areas where there could be a risk. Mr. Stewart commented that the tree health topic is something that Parks is looking at.

Commissioner Hajnosz was pleased that they have been working with schools. She asked if they have also been in touch with the Youth Link group. Mr. Stewart confirmed that they have. Commissioner Hajnosz asked about the community feedback that shows people are interested in prioritizing environmental initiatives, even those requiring significant investment. She asked what other funding options there are. Mr. Stewart explained they are doing funding strategy research as part of this.

Mr. Stewart reviewed next steps including a presentation to Council in July, a draft Plan to Council in October, ongoing staff vetting and testing, and ongoing public and stakeholder outreach.

c. Watershed Management Plan Update

Eric Lafrance, Utilities Planning Manager; Brianna Pierce, Utilities Environmental Data Scientist made the presentation. Mr. LaFrance explained this was an informational briefing on the Watershed Management Plan (WMP) update and other watershed planning activities. He reviewed what is in a Bellevue watershed and some background information. The goal of the Watershed Management Plan is to *improve the health of Bellevue's streams*.

He discussed public engagement efforts conducted to develop service levels, performance targets, and policies. He explained that the WMP integrates with and informs the Storm and Surface Water System Plan. This recognizes that there are competing needs and opportunities. There is ongoing work that moves WMP priorities. He noted that the Storm and Surface Water System Water Planning is underway and is scheduled to be finished by 2027. Good stewardship is a policy included in the City's Comprehensive Plan. System Planning is a description of the existing system. It plans for growth and recommends updates. It also identifies capital investments needed, financial information, and a description of O&M policies. Current work on the System Plan is early in the process

and includes data gathering, public outreach and coordinating with the WMP. Policy and Code recommendations will include Comprehensive Plan policies, WMP recommendations, NPDES permit implications, and Low Impact Development. Next steps for System Planning include evaluation levels of service, financial analysis, and development of policies and codes. Other watershed activities include the Environmental Monitoring Program and the National Flood Insurance Community Rating System Program.

Brianna Pierce reviewed the Environmental Monitoring Program (EMP) whose goal is to measure and interpret stream health. Stream monitoring has a long history in Bellevue but has been formalized as the EMP. She explained how the Streams Functions Pyramid helps to understand and assess stream health. This looks at biology; chemistry; geomorphology; and hydrology & hydraulics. Indicators are collected in each of these categories. She reviewed the EMP data collection timeline. Streams in the city are prioritized in the stream tier classification system. She explained how monitoring is done via Hydrology Stations, Water Quality Stations, Macroinvertebrate Stations, and Fish & Habitat Stations. A Data Management System is being developed to interpret the data. The data will be used to support the WMP, capital investment and system planning, Operations and Maintenance, and Sustainable Bellevue. She discussed highlights of the monitoring they have been doing regarding macroinvertebrate bugs. There are some exciting trends showing a significant increase in scores in some streams.

Mr. LaFrance reviewed the Community Rating System Program which is part of the National Flood Insurance Program. It aims to reduce repetitive losses and requires Bellevue to regulate floodplains. It offers discounts for flood insurance to residents. This ends up benefitting some residents.

He reviewed next steps:

- Complete WMP draft plan
- System Planning 2025-2026
- Environmental monitoring will continue
- Manage Flood Insurance Program

Commissioner Lutterman asked why there are separate WMP and Storm and Surface Water System Plans if they are so similar. Mr. LaFrance explained that the level of detail in the System Plan isn't as deep as the WMP. He acknowledged that it is complicated.

Commissioner Hajnosz thanked staff for their great work. She asked how they go out to the public with the message of competing needs. Mr.

LaFrance explained that public outreach in the fall would help to determine priorities.

Vice Chair Wan asked if the WMP also looks into the causes of some of the quality issues. Ms. Pierce explained they are primarily measuring and monitoring health and inferring causes; however, they are poised to look at effectiveness monitoring of specific actions. Mr. LaFrance noted that the Watershed Assessment Reports take the data and make inferences about what is happening. The Watershed Improvement Strategies comes up with ideas on how to address watershed-specific problems. The WMP will be assembling those, and the System Plan will be balancing those needs with the other infrastructure. Vice Chair Wan spoke to the importance of using the monitoring to prioritize and have a better understanding of where to put their efforts. Mr. LaFrance concurred and noted that the monitoring would help to inform their adaptive management strategy and make sure they are having the impact they want.

b) Election of ESC Chair and Vice Chair

Chair

Commissioner Lutterman nominated Commissioner Wan for Chair. There were no other nominations.

Commissioner Wan was unanimously elected Chair (4-0).

Vice Chair

Commissioner Hajnosz nominated Commissioner Lutterman.
Commissioner Wan nominated Commissioner Lacson but she declined.

Commissioner Lutterman was unanimously elected Vice Chair (4-0).

9. REVIEW OF COMMISSION AND COUNCIL CALENDARS

Deputy Director Harbour reviewed the calendars. He reported that interviews are being set up for the vacant position. The ESC Chair will be invited to attend.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Commissioner Hajnosz, seconded by Commissioner Lacson, to adjourn the meeting. Upon a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously (5-0).

The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 p.m.