

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

Thursday  
March 7, 2024

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), Andy Dupertuis, Ann Hajnosz, Gabby Lacson, Kurt Lutterman, Michael Margolis

**COMMISSIONER ATTENDING REMOTELY:** None

**COUNCIL LIAISON:** Conrad Lee

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:** Vanja Knezevic (excused)

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Lucy Liu, Director; Linda De Boldt, Utility Engineering Assistant Director; Joe Harbour, Deputy Director, Cheri Brignon, Senior Administrative Assistant; Chad Beck, Asst. Director, Operations and Maintenance; Don McQuilliams, Operations & Maintenance Manager; Tanya MacFarlane, Senior Engineering Technician; and Laurie Hugdahl, Minutes Taker

**2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**Motion made by Commissioner Lutterman, seconded by commissioner Hajnosz, to approve the agenda. The agenda was approved unanimously (6-0).**

**3. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATION**

Alex Tsimerman, 14150 NE 20<sup>th</sup> Street, Bellevue, WA, commented on the food and expressed concern about the time limit for speaking.

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

None

**5. STAFF REPORTS**

Deputy Director Joe Harbour announced that Scott Edwards was recently hired as Utilities Deputy Director providing oversight for the Resource Management and Customer Service Division and the following corporate functions: smart water and technology, performance management, workforce development, communications, and intergovernmental relations.

**6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A) FEBRUARY 1, 2024 MINUTES**

Commissioner Lutterman referred to page 6 and noted that “Bridal” should be corrected to “Bridle”.

**Motion made by Commissioner Lutterman, seconded by Commissioner Lacson, to approve the 2/1/24 minutes as amended. Upon a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously (6-0).**

**7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

**a) ESC Recommendation – City Comprehensive Plan Utilities Element Updates**

**Motion made by Commissioner Hajnosz, seconded by Commissioner Lutterman, to approve the ESC recommendation and transmittal memo to the Planning Commission for the City Comprehensive Plan Utilities Element Updates. Motion passed unanimously (6-0).**

**b) ESC Recommendation – BelRed Look Forward Environmental Policy Updates**

**Motion made by Commissioner Lutterman, seconded by Commissioner Lacson, to approve the ESC recommendation and transmittal memo to the Planning Commission for the BelRed Look Forward Environmental Policy Updates. Motion passed unanimously (6-0).**

**c) Draft 2024 Stormwater Management Plan – Public Hearing**

*Don McQuilliams, Operations & Maintenance Manager, NPDES  
Coordinator  
Tanya MacFarlane, Senior Engineering Technician*

The hearing was opened at 6:45 p.m. Vice Chair Wan read the script and reviewed the purpose and procedures.

Mr. McQuilliams explained they are seeking feedback on the 2024 Stormwater Management Plan. He reviewed some City of Bellevue background on the NPDES Permit. The Stormwater Management Program (SWMP) Plan is part of the NPDES program and is required to be updated annually. He reviewed the components of the plan including:

- Stormwater Planning – An interdisciplinary team was convened; responded to questions twice; submitted a watershed inventory; documented and prioritized watersheds; and developed a Stormwater Management Action Plan.
- Public Education & Outreach (E&O) – E&O is done every year. A dumpster outreach campaign was conducted over the last several years for behavior change. The team led a regional approach to this and reported on the campaign.
- Public Involvement & Participation – The City is required to invite public comment, hold a public hearing at the ESC annually, post notice to social media channels and on the website, and post the final SWMP and the annual report on the City website.
- Mapping & Documentation – The City is required to map the stormwater outfalls and connections from city-owned stormwater system to private stormwater system and make those available electronically.
- Illicit Discharge Detection & Elimination (IDDE) – The City must establish and maintain an ongoing IDDE program, provide training to staff, and conduct field screening.
- Controlling Runoff – The City must implement an ordinance or other mechanism that addresses stormwater runoff from development.
- Operations & Maintenance – Staff conducts ongoing inspection and maintenance of stormwater facilities; updates the stormwater maintenance standards as necessary; documents the practices, policies, and procedures; and updates the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan.
- Source Control Program for Existing Development – This is a new program where staff engages with businesses and talks to them about anything that could potentially leak and get into the stormwater system and into the stream. Staff works with businesses to better manage their pollutants. A new ordinance was adopted to address this, an inventory of businesses to look at was

created, and inspections were implemented.

Commissioner Margolis asked how they measure success on the E&O campaign. Mr. McQuilliams explained it is measured by how many businesses they touch. Staff also did drive-by surveys to see if the dumpster lids were closed on the businesses they reached out to.

Vice Chair Wan asked if there are repeat illicit discharges from the same location. Ms. MacFarlane explained there are several repeat customers and a lot of 'one-offs'. There is an escalating enforcement policy, but the first approach is always voluntary compliance.

Mr. McQuilliams reviewed the 2023 NPDES Compliance Report and explained they would be fully compliant again this year.

#### 2023 Highlights:

- Citywide staff involvement from Utilities, Parks, Facilities, Development Review and Legal to ensure we meet our NPDES obligations annually.
- Education & Outreach: completion of the dumpster Outreach Campaign reaching 364 businesses across Bellevue.
- Operations & Maintenance: 8,109 Stormwater structures were inspected with 1926 requiring maintenance; 734 private drainage inspections were performed.
- Pollution Prevention: Over 500 source control inspections were performed.
- Stormwater Planning: Completion of the Stormwater Management Action Plan

#### 2024-2029 NPDES Permit changes:

- Tree Canopy Goals – Establish tree canopy goals for the City.
- Additional Stormwater Management Action Plan requirements – Building off the previous SMAP, either develop a new SMAP area or expand existing plan goals.
- Basin mapping of Water Quality Treatment facilities – Begin mapping of contributing basins to WQ/FC facilities.
- Increased runoff controls for new and redevelopment - Reduced impervious areas that trigger stormwater controls.
- Stormwater Management (new section) - Provide treatment for 15 equivalent acres of existing stormwater infrastructure.
- Enhanced Street sweeping – Develop a street sweeping program focused at reducing pollutants contributing to significant waterways.

Public Comments:

Alex Tsimerman, 14150 NE 20<sup>th</sup> Street, Bellevue, WA, President, Stand Up America, referred to the management plan and questioned who profits. He expressed concern about the City appearing to support corporations.

The public hearing was closed at 7:08 p.m.

Commission Comments:

Commissioner Dupertuis complimented staff and commented on the strategic incremental improvements, especially related to the tree canopy goals and additional Stormwater Management Action Plan requirements. Mr. McQuilliams said it looks like there will be a 45% tree canopy goal. He explained the relationship between tree canopy and stormwater management.

Commissioner Hajnosz said she is very proud of the efforts Bellevue is making. She asked if they are seeing results from education efforts. Ms. MacFarlane affirmed that they are seeing changes in people's awareness. 70% of people typically do the right thing when they know what the right thing to do is. Just getting the information in their hands makes a big difference. Spending time on education pays off.

Commissioner Lacson wondered about the difference between Phase 1 and Phase 2 and if the Department of Ecology is planning on updating the threshold between Phase 1 and Phase 2. Mr. McQuilliams explained that Bellevue is a Phase 2 city. Department of Ecology has no intention of updating the threshold, but there is a track to have the two permits merge into one.

Commissioner Margolis asked how they manage the runoff from federal highways. Mr. McQuilliams said that the WSDOT has their own permit. Bellevue collects drainage fees from DOT, and those fees have to be specifically spent for treating DOT runoff.

Vice Chair Wan referred to the upcoming permit changes and asked if there is a completion date for each of these. Mr. McQuilliams replied that dates will be set, but they are in draft form right now.

**d) Emergency Response – Bellevue Way Case Study**

*Chad Beck, Asst. Director, Operations and Maintenance; Linda De Boldt, Utility Engineering Assistant Director*

Mr. Beck gave a briefing on a recent water main break with information on how the City responded to the incident. The response involved personnel from all five sections of the O&M division (Operations, Water Maintenance, Stormwater, Wastewater Maintenance, Water Quality) as well as partners from the Engineering Division and the Streets Maintenance section of Transportation Department. Asst. Director De Boldt further discussed Engineering's coordination between departments and divisions to address the need for replacement of the waterline through the whole intersection where the break occurred. Engineering was able to put in place a change order to a nearby waterline replacement project for this work.

### 3 Key Takeaways:

- Large watermain breaks involve an “All Hands Response” with multiple divisions and departments.
- Utilities ensures the safety and health of our community through well-orchestrated emergency response.
- Our coordination ensures efficiencies that save on time and money, plus reduce impacts to the public.

### Questions/Comments:

Commissioner Dupertuis commented on what a great job Bellevue does at putting money away for a rainy day. He asked for more information about the budget implications of this event and events like it. Where specifically does the money come from? How do they do approvals that rapidly? Ms. De Boldt explained that they were able to quickly respond to this because there is some contingency money built into the contracts. If there is enough funding in the contract, they can do a change order up to a certain percentage. Anything over that would need to be addressed outside of the contract. Because this was small enough in dollar value, they were able to include it in the contract. Otherwise, the City has the ability to declare an emergency and do an emergency contract that will take care of the whole project cost. They are able to fund that through the different programs in the capital program, but sometimes it requires other projects in the program to be delayed. Mr. Beck explained that from an operational perspective they plan for these main breaks to happen throughout the year, and they also budget for them. From a cost perspective the difference is not that great between a planned and unplanned repair.

Deputy Director Harbour commented that O&M and Engineering make the work they do in this kind of event look routine, even though it is challenging and stressful, because they are so skilled.

Councilmember Lee discussed a notice he received in the mail about shutting off the water between certain hours for a different project. He had some questions about it, so he called O&M and was impressed with the quick response. He wondered when there are risks of contamination in the water. Mr. Beck did not think there was anything to be concerned about in his situation because of the way they prepared for that work. The reason the SE 10<sup>th</sup> St water main break had a concern about backflow was because of the unplanned break and lack of pressure. Mr. Beck recommended that everyone should know how to turn off their water. Vice Chair Wan expressed appreciation that the notices are multilingual.

Vice Chair Wan asked about the cause of the watermain break. Mr. Beck explained that it was asbestos cement from 1953 and when it fails, it fails catastrophically. Asst. Director De Boldt discussed possible reasons why this particular main might have failed.

Commissioner Lutterman said that if anyone is interested in coming to the Office of Emergency Management's Community Emergency Response Training this fall, they will give participants the special tool needed to turn off the water meter and the gas meter.

## **9. REVIEW OF COMMISSION AND COUNCIL CALENDARS**

Deputy Director Harbour reviewed the calendars.

## **11. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion made by Commissioner Margolis, seconded by Commissioner Lutterman, to adjourn the meeting. Upon a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously (6-0).**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.