

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

Thursday  
February 5, 2026

City Hall & Remote  
6:30 p.m.

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

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

**ROLL CALL**

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Ken Wan (Chair), Andy Dupertuis (online), Ann Hajnosz, Gabby Lacson (online), Kurt Lutterman (Vice Chair), Michael Margolis, Mary Theisen

**COUNCIL LIAISON:** Jared Nieuwenhuis

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Lucy Liu, Director; Scott Edwards, Deputy Director, Lorissa Warren, Senior Administrative Assistant; Matt Hobson, Fiscal Manager; Emily Flanagan, Utilities Planning Senior Engineer; Eric LaFrance, Utilities Planning Manager; Don McQuilliams, O&M Manager; and Laurie Hugdahl, Minutes Taker

Welcome to Councilmember Jared Nieuwenhuis.

**2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**Motion made by Commissioner Lutterman, seconded by Commissioner Hajnosz, to approve the agenda. The agenda was approved unanimously (7-0).**

**3. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATION**

None

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

Councilmember Nieuwenhuis thanked the ESC for the warm welcome and thanked commissioners for their service and commitment to the City.

**5. STAFF REPORTS**

None

**6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A) JANUARY 8, 2026 MINUTES**

**Motion made by Commissioner Theisen, seconded by Commissioner Lutterman, to approve the 1/8/2026 minutes as presented. Upon a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously (7-0).**

**7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

**a) 2026 Draft Stormwater Management Program Plan Update - Public Hearing**

O&M Manager Don McQuilliams made the staff presentation regarding the 2026 NPDES Permit Update and Stormwater Management Program.

He gave an overview of the Phase II 2024-2029 NPDES Permit and the 2026 SWMP. He reviewed requirements and how the City is meeting requirements for:

- Stormwater Planning
- Public Education & Outreach – focusing on homeowners and teen car care
- Public Involvement & Participation – ESC meeting, posting to website
- Mapping & Documentation – preparation of outfall list, tree canopy mapping related to stormwater, mapping of MS4 tributary basins with flow control and treatment, mapping of overburdened communities in relation to stormwater treatment
- Illicit Discharge Detection & Elimination (IDDE) – comprehensive IDDE program, field screening
- Controlling Runoff from new Development, Redevelopment, and Construction Sites – BSC minimum requirements for new development and redevelopment meets the requirements
- Stormwater Management for Existing Developments – The City has formed a team of experts to complete this; providing a list of projects scheduled for funding or implementation; reporting the amount of equivalent acres managed by stormwater facility retrofits for the 2024-2029 Permit team.
- Source Control Program for Existing Development – BSC allows for

implementation of programs to meet regulatory compliance; updating source control inventory every five years

- Operations & Maintenance – comprehensive inspection and maintenance program, adoption of the 2024 Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington; street sweeping program, documentation of practices, policies and procedures to reduce stormwater impacts

Chair Wan asked if staff has any concerns about meeting the requirements by the due dates. Mr. McQuilliams responded that they do not. Chair Wan asked for more information about the 227 illicit discharges. Mr. McQuilliams explained they are mainly accidental spills.

Mr. McQuilliams reviewed accomplishments cited on the 2025 Compliance Report including:

- 11,792 public stormwater facility inspections
- 2255 public stormwater facilities cleaned (20%)
- 727 private drainage facilities inspected
- 376 business pollution prevention inspections (source control)
- 227 illicit discharges investigated
- Completion of Dumpster Outreach behavior change campaign

Chad Beck, Asst. Director, O&M, added that the City is extremely compliant and forward leaning with many of these requirements as a result of Mr. McQuilliams' excellent leadership. He stated that Mr. McQuilliams is a trusted professional in this industry, and Bellevue is the beneficiary of that. He thanked him for his excellence.

Commissioner Hajnosz thanked staff for that input regarding how Bellevue compares to other cities. Commissioner Theisen concurred.

#### Public Hearing

**Motion to open the public hearing made by Commissioner Lutterman, seconded by Commissioner Margolis at 6:59 p.m.**

Public Testimony: None

**Motion made by Commissioner Lutterman, seconded by Commissioner Theisen to close the public hearing at 7:00 p.m.**

Questions/Comments: None

#### **b) Wastewater System Plan Update**

Utilities Planning Manager Eric LaFrance introduced this item. Utilities Planning Senior Engineer Emily Flanagan made the presentation regarding the Wastewater System Plan Update. She gave an overview of the Wastewater System Plan process, the wastewater system, and Operations & Maintenance programs. She reviewed how the city is preparing for the anticipated 50% population growth by 2044, noting that there is a high level of uncertainty around middle housing numbers and locations.

Councilmember Nieuwenhuis asked how they can plan for the high level of uncertainty related to middle housing development. Ms. Flanagan explained that the impact of this type of growth is not expected to be too large. They are still working on the modeling for this. There was some discussion about middle housing regulations and impacts on utilities and other city services.

Inflow and Infiltration (I&I) studies are being done to determine flow in the sewer system that is not wastewater. This results in recommendations for correction. Hydraulic models are being calibrated with flow gauge data. Sewer extension projects will continue to be a priority in the update Plan. There are about 1500 parcels on septic tanks. Failing septic systems can impact water quality and limit growth. The Lake Lines Management Plan will be adopted with the Wastewater System Plan Update. The updated Wastewater System Plan will include policies developed with Lake Lines Implementation Plan. There was some discussion about the status of the Lake Lines project.

Asset Management has been a priority to determine condition assessment, service levels, renewal and replacement, and funding strategies. All of this information is used to develop the Capital Investment Planning Strategy.

Community engagement includes planned outreach in late spring and fall of 2026 and coordinating engagement with other Utility System Plans. This will be done via the website, social media, tabling efforts, and inserts in utilities bills. Utilities is also coordinating with local and regional agencies. Ms. Flanagan reviewed next steps.

#### Comments and Questions:

Commissioner Hajnosz urged consideration of a one water approach. She suggested doing public outreach for all the water plans so people can understand connections.

Commissioner Margolis asked if they could provide incentives to improve outreach. Mr. LaFrance explained there are guidelines but there is some opportunity for this, especially to reach underrepresented populations. Commissioner Margolis suggested they could be more proactive in targeting desired populations.

Commissioner Theisen suggested looking at the critical information they need from the public and focusing efforts on how to get that. Mr. LaFrance explained how focus groups can help with this.

Commissioner Dupertuis spoke to the complexity of the topic and commended staff for their work.

Chair Wan asked if Bellevue has any influence in trying to manage the cost of the wastewater treatment, given that it is the largest component of the utility bill. Mr. LaFrance explained the City is very involved with regional committees. He noted that over half of the sewer bill goes directly to King County to cover costs. Chair Wan wondered if the City can look at other ways to handle wastewater besides treatment. Mr. LaFrance explained it is something they can consider, but they do not have the economy of scale that King County does. They are open to some small-scale systems such as district energy, green building strategies, and addressing I&I issues.

#### **b) Utilities Financial Policies Review**

Fiscal Manager Matt Hobson made the presentation regarding Utilities Financial Policies. He commented on the importance of financial policies. He gave an overview of the budget process and the role of city financial policies in the budget process. He reviewed Utilities Financial Policies related to rate making, utilities capital funding plan, operating reserves and contingencies, and next steps.

Commissioner Dupertuis asked if they have access to the capital they need and what staff needs from the ESC related to this. Mr. Hobson reviewed the limitations on how pools of money can be used. There is sufficient capital and a plan to address asset replacement over the next 75 years with cash contributions from the rates. The pressure is with the uncertainty of rising wholesale costs. Those costs have a direct impact to the ratepayers that cannot be mitigated by the asset R&R account per city financial policy. One of the city's goals is to provide smooth, predictable rate increases which requires a conservative outlook in rate planning. There was some discussion about the importance of city representation at regional groups related to this and how to buffer the variability of costs to ensure predictable, steady rate increases.

Commissioner Lacson asked how often the basis of Operating Reserves is evaluated and what the process is for that. Mr. Hobson responded to her questions.

Commissioners praised Mr. Hobson for his work and thanked him for the presentation.

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

Deputy Director Scott Edwards reviewed the calendars.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion made by Commissioner Hajnosz, seconded by Commissioner Theisen, to adjourn the meeting. Upon a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously (7-0).**

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

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