

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



Thursday  
March 6, 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), Andy Dupertuis, Ann Hajnosz, Gabby Lacson, Kurt Lutterman, Michael Margolis

**COUNCIL LIAISON:** None

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Lucy Liu, Utilities Director; Joe Harbour, Deputy Director; Scott Edwards, Deputy Director; Matt Thurber, Assistant Director; Don McQuilliams, O&M Manager; Tanya MacFarlane, Sr. Eng. Tech Utilities; Justus Stewart, Sustainability Program Manager; Lorissa Warren, Senior Administrative Assistant; 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**

None

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

None

**5. STAFF REPORTS**

Deputy Director Joe Harbour thanked everyone for understanding the cancellation of the last meeting due to snow conditions.

**6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A) JANUARY 9, 2025 MINUTES**

**Motion made by Commissioner Lutterman, seconded by Commissioner Hajnosz, to approve the 1/9/2025 minutes as presented. Upon a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously (6-0)**

**7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

**a) Environmental Stewardship Plan Update**

Justus Stewart, Sustainability Program Manager, presented Phase 1 draft goals and targets of the Sustainable Bellevue Plan 5-year update.

He explained that the current plan was adopted in 2020 and is set to be updated every five years. This is a one-year process with three phases. Staff has completed Phase 1 (Draft Goals and Targets) and is entering Phase 2 (Draft Strategies) before Phase 3 (Draft Plan). He reviewed the outreach approach of this project where, in addition to the usual outreach to residents, community, and stakeholders, they have attempted to reach a broader group and under-represented community members.

To date, GHG emissions have been climbing as we come out of the pandemic. The overall reduction compared to baseline has been 8% but this is in combination with a large population and job growth which equates to a 26% reduction in per capital emissions. The 2030 goal is a 50% reduction and the 2050 goal is net carbon neutral. Based on the numbers, we are progressing but not on track to meet those targets although numbers are expected to improve. He reviewed progress made in implementing the 2020 Plan.

Proposed Plan update topics: Materials Management & Waste and Natural Systems –They are looking at adding a new metric for Materials Management & Waste. For Natural Systems they are looking at adding a new metric for Streams with increasing the Benthic-Index of Biotic Integrity. Regarding water conservation, final targets will depend on measurement approach (total vs. per capita use).

Staff will use input collected in Phase 1 to update strategies in Phase 2. Potential strategies under consideration for updates include implementing emissions reducing operations at parks and other facilities; creating community climate resilience hubs at Bellevue's municipal facilities, such as community centers; and preparing Bellevue's parks and forests for the impacts of climate change (climate resilient ecosystems). The current plan has a light focus on climate resilience. The newly adopted Comp Plan has an increased focus on this; as a result, the new updated Sustainable Bellevue Plan will have an increased focus. He reviewed next steps. Staff will be going to Council on April 1 to provide an update.

He requested feedback on the materials Management and Waste goals. He also asked if the commission had feedback on the proposal to add a metric that tracks overall waste reduction.

Commissioner Lutterman noted that the proposed new metrics looked like they are per capita rather than overall. Mr. Stewart confirmed this is true but noted that they always track both.

Commissioner Hajnosz asked how they balance recycling when the market isn't always there. Mr. Stewart explained there are parts of every goal that are within the City's control and parts that are not. One thing they are looking at is developing land use code that helps to make sure that composting facilities are available for new buildings when there is space available to do so. He affirmed that the recycling market is something outside the City's control. Commissioner Hajnosz agreed it was tricky and that they would need to consider the message they are sending. She referred to outreach and asked if they had a way of prioritizing the feedback they are receiving from the community. Mr. Stewart explained they have completed a summary report on the outreach they have conducted and could share that with the commission. The feedback depends on who they are asking. A lot of people are concerned about climate resiliency. People are also concerned about equity considerations.

Commissioner Margolis asked if there are any dependencies on federal funding. Mr. Stewart replied that there are not, but there is some dependency on state pass through funding. They will be looking at more grant funding in the future. Commissioner Margolis asked if the team thinks they will reach the targets. Mr. Stewart replied that there are certain trends that are international and national where it appears that the markets themselves have turned a corner, such as electric vehicles. It looks as though that is the direction that vehicle emissions are going. Power generation is a similar issue. He thinks things look quite promising with the big trends, but the timing is a more difficult to discern.

Vice Chair Wan suggested it would be nice to hear more about the risk profile of federal funding. He wondered how much of the work here would be impacted or be at risk. He also referred to the GHG emission chart where things are starting to

creep back up. He wondered if they are adjusting goals based on what they are seeing. Mr. Stewart replied that most of the targets are not changing. The ones that are changing are becoming more aggressive, not less aggressive. Those are being driven by regional, county or city policies. The City can't set less aggressive targets or they would be out of alignment. If additional action is required, they would propose that to Council. Vice Chair Wan wondered if they can be more aggressive in areas where they are able to have an impact (such as tree canopy) if the results of other areas are more tenuous. Mr. Stewart confirmed that they can do that, especially where goals overlap.

**b) 2025 Draft Stormwater Management Program Plan Update – Public Hearing**

Don McQuilliams, O&M Manager and Tanya MacFarlane, Sr. Eng. Tech Utilities made a presentation on the 2025 NPDES Permit Update and Stormwater Management Program. The Draft 2025 Stormwater management Program Plan and 2024 compliance Report is available on the website. Staff is seeking feedback on the plan. Ms. MacFarlane reviewed the history of the NPDES permit.

Mr. McQuilliams reviewed significant changes for the 2024-2029 term:

- Section 4 - Mapping and Documentation – mapping of the tree canopy for stormwater management purposes; identify and begin assessment of tributary basins containing stormwater treatment and flow control facilities for basins with greater than a 24" outfall
- Section 6 - Controlling Runoff from New Development and Redevelopment – reduces total square feet of pervious subject to stormwater treatment/flow control. Adds language around 'replaced' hard surfaces potentially increasing requirements.
- Section 7 – Stormwater Management for Existing Development – provides treatment to 24.6 equivalent acres (retrofitting existing stormwater system or non-structural investments (25%) 75% has to be done through retrofitting.)

Ms. MacFarlane reviewed the Stormwater Management Program (SWMP) Plan components including Stormwater Planning; Public Education & Outreach; Public Involvement & Participation; Mapping & Documentation; Illicit Discharge Detection & Elimination (IDDE); Controlling Runoff from New Development/Redevelopment; Stormwater Management for Existing Development; Source Control Program for Existing Development; and Operations & Maintenance. She also highlighted accomplishments from the 2024 Compliance Report.

## 9. PUBLIC HEARING

**Motion made by Commissioner Lutterman, seconded by Commissioner Lacson, to open the public hearing at 7:35 p.m. Motion passed unanimously (6-0).**

Sondra Earley, 4406 149<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE, Bellevue, WA 98006, praised the ESC for the work they do and spoke in support of the report. She also mentioned that she is concerned about the stormwater process that goes on with contractors and development. She thinks they need a little more surveillance on this. She applauded the City for their public outreach and education.

**Motion made by Commissioner Margolis, seconded by Commissioner Lacson, to close the public hearing at 7:40 p.m. Motion passed unanimously (6-0).**

Commissioner Hajnosz asked if all the other surrounding cities are following similar requirements. Mr. McQuilliams explained that they are all under the Western Washington NPDES permit. He explained how they coordinate discussions and efforts.

Commissioner Lacson referred to the IDDE Inspections target where Bellevue is way above the target on the number of completed inspections. Mr. McQuilliams explained that this is just something Bellevue staff is trained to do as part of their work process.

Vice Chair Wan asked if Bellevue has moved categories based on the change in the census. Mr. McQuilliams explained that Ecology is merging the two permits for Phase 1 and Phase 2 NPDES Cities and eventually all the requirements may be the same.

## 10. REVIEW OF COMMISSION AND COUNCIL CALENDARS

Deputy Director Harbour reviewed the calendars.

## 11. ADJOURNMENT

**Motion made by Commissioner Hajnosz, seconded by Commissioner Lutterman, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously (6-0).**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

**CITY OF BELLEVUE  
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMISSION  
PUBLIC HEARING  
VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT**

Thursday  
March 6, 2025

City Hall & Remote  
6:30 p.m.

**2025 Draft Stormwater Management Program Plan Update – Public Hearing**

Sondra Earley, 4406 149<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE, Bellevue, WA 98006

I'm Sondra Earley. I'm a resident of the Eastgate Community and have been there over forty years. I want to applaud the Commission for all the work that you do and the engineering that you do. The report sounds really great. I'm here for more education, not just a complainer, but I want to learn more about it because I live in a community where there are probably 8 to 10 construction projects going on and am really concerned about the stormwater process that goes on with contractors. I'm not the sheriff of my street, but there are two of us that really pay attention to the stormwater management. And so, periodically, I do call in and say, "I think that we need a little more surveillance out here," because there are things that the community cannot clean, cannot access. But I applaud you for public outreach and education. I've been involved in construction for a number of years so I'm taking another look at how well you guys do. And, you know, I certainly want to be an advocate for what you do. Thank you.