

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

Thursday
February 3, 2022
6:30 p.m.

Zoom

1. CALL TO ORDER:

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

ROLL CALL

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Vanja Knezevic (Chair), Negin Khanloo (Vice Chair), Andy Dupertuis, Neal Hines, Anne Howe, Diann Strom, Ken Wan

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None

COUNCIL LIAISON: Conrad Lee (absent)

OTHERS PRESENT: Lucy Liu, Deputy Director; Utilities Operations Manager Don McQuilliams; Diana Heilman, Customer Service Representative; Uma Singh, Acting Assistant Director; Andy Baker, Fiscal Manager; and Laurie Hugdahl, Minutes Taker

2. TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF BYLAWS

Chair Knezevic and Deputy Director Liu read an introductory statement regarding online meetings and procedures.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion made by Vice Chair Khanloo, seconded by Commissioner Strom, to approve the agenda. The agenda was approved unanimously (7-0).

4. ORAL & WRITTEN COMMUNICATION

Diana Heilman read a written communication from Max Read and Nancy Guth of Larkspur Landing condominiums discussing concerns and questions about recycling services and communication with Republic Services for their condominium community.

Steve Fantle, founder of Bellevue Green and Clean, an organization built around environmental stewardship, encouraged participation in the Adopt-a-Street program to address increased litter in Bellevue.

Sherwin Chen also expressed concern about the service and lack of response from Republic Services regarding recycling services for their condominium community. He suggested the City consider looking into other service providers.

Scarlett Hendersen, resident at Larkspur Landing condominiums, explained that the group signed a contract with Republic Services for a separate weekly pickup of recycling and they still have had issues with pickups and communication. Their property has been left in disarray with pests and garbage even when Republic Services' protocol has been followed.

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

None.

6. STAFF REPORTS

Deputy Director Liu reviewed details of the Somerset neighborhood landslide and water main incident in January. The investigation into the cause is underway but is expected to take months.

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A) 01-06-2022 ESC MINUTES

Motion made by Vice Chair Khanloo, seconded by Commissioner Strom to approve the January 6, 2022 minutes as presented. Upon a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

9. NEW BUSINESS

a) Draft 2022 Stormwater Management Program Plan Update and Public Hearing

Don McQuilliams, Utilities Operations Manager

The public hearing was opened at 6:52 p.m. Chair Knezevic read introductory comments regarding the purpose of the hearing and procedures.

Staff Presentation:

Mr. McQuilliams gave the staff presentation regarding the NPDES Permit Update and the Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP) Update. He reviewed the history of the permit, specific permit requirements for this term, and details of the 2022 SWMP.

Stormwater Planning and Source Control are two elements that are significant changes from previous permits. For the 2022 SWMP, the City is including language to address Underground Injection Control (UIC) Wells owned or operated by the City. He reviewed the Stormwater Planning effort including creation of an interdisciplinary team created in 2020; Stormwater Planning Annual Report Questions completed in 2021; a watershed inventory and description of receiving waters which is currently in development; prioritization and ranked list of receiving waters which is currently in development; and SMAP (Stormwater Management Action Plan) for at least one high priority catchment area in 2023.

Regarding Public Outreach and Education, the City has joined a regional group around dumpster maintenance and outreach efforts. The City is required to annually invite the public to comment on the SWMP. Today's ESC meeting serves the purpose of public involvement and participation. The draft Plan is also posted online. The annual report will be posted no later than May 31.

For the Mapping and Documentation component, staff began to collect the size and material for all known MS4 outfalls. This is ongoing. By August, 2023 Bellevue must complete mapping of all known connections from the MS4 to a privately-owned stormwater system. The City is asked to format mapping to electronic with fully described mapping standards. The City already has fully described mapping standards. Stormwater system information is available to download via GIS Shapefiles on the City website.

The Illicit Discharge Detection & Elimination program is an ongoing program to prevent, detect, characterize, trace, and eliminate illicit connections and discharges in the City. The City has one full-time employee for this and two others who help as well. Mr. McQuilliams described training provided to employees related to illicit discharges as required by the Permit. The City also must complete field screening for an

average of 12% of the MS4 each year; on average Bellevue inspects 95% or more of the system every two years for potential illicit discharges.

Related to Controlling Runoff from New Development, Redevelopment, and Construction Sites, the City implemented an ordinance in 2016 that meets the current Permit requirements.

Operations & Maintenance: By June of 2022 the City must update the Stormwater maintenance standards to meet the requirements of the Permit. The City has administratively adopted the Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington as our maintenance standards. By December 2022, the City will document the practices, policies, and procedures to reduce stormwater impacts. By December the City also must update Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans. This is under review.

Source Control Program for Existing Development: This requirement is new for this year. By August 2022, the City must adopt and make an effective ordinance or other enforceable document, requiring the application of source control BMPs. This is currently under review. They also must establish a source control inventory by August of 2022. By January, the City must implement an inspection program for identified sites and implement a progressive enforcement policy.

2021 Compliance Report: It is expected that the City will be fully compliant for the 2021 Compliance Report but staff is still gathering final numbers for reporting to Ecology. Over 12,000 public and private structures/stormwater water facilities were inspected. Education and Outreach and training programs continue to be affected by Covid protocols. Illicit discharge investigations and private drainage inspection efforts were also affected to a lesser degree.

Comments/Questions:

Commissioner Hines asked about illicit discharge findings. How does communication back to property owners work? Mr. McQuilliams replied that each illicit discharge reported is visited personally by staff. The illicit discharges are traced back to the source and cleaned up. The causes are documented and findings are reported to Ecology.

Commissioner Wan asked for more detail about how public outreach is happening during Covid. Mr. McQuilliams gave examples of how this is happening, citing the specific example of Laurie Devereaux and her work with schools. The Stream Team used to be an in-person activity, but it is now being done virtually.

Commissioner Wan asked if staff has concerns about public comments as a result of Covid. Mr. McQuilliams replied that they have never had much in the way of public comments. Commissioner Wan referred to his question from the previous year regarding if Bellevue would move into a Phase 1 permit as a result of population size. Mr. McQuilliams replied that it is unclear, but it looks like the DOE will be merging Phase 1 and Phase 2. He thinks this will be rolled in slowly over time. The City is already pretty close to the Phase 1 requirements so it would not be a huge impact for Bellevue.

Public Comments:

Sally Lawrence, 104 - 174th Place NE, Bellevue, WA 98008, noted that part of the planning for 2022 is identifying and prioritizing watersheds and drainages for watershed management planning. She asked how the City prioritizes which watersheds will be chosen for management planning, what criteria they use, and if Coal Creek is considered one of the priority watersheds.

Mr. McQuilliams explained that watersheds are categorized into *protect*, *improve*, and *sustain*. Protect watersheds are in good condition, and we want to keep them that way. Improve watersheds need improvement to bring them up to a place where they can become viable watersheds again. Sustain watersheds are in poor condition, and the plan is to leave them as is for now until they can be addressed at some future date. He was not sure where Coal Creek is, but it is one of the better watersheds in the city and is likely in the protected category.

The public hearing was closed at 7:21 p.m.

b) Republic Services Update

Wendy Weiker, Municipal Manager from Republic Services, made a presentation regarding the recent service interruptions and apologized for the impacts to residents. Service disruptions in January were due to unsafe snowy and icy conditions for over a week plus a 3-day labor disruption. Republic Services' staff worked hard to communicate with residents about delays. A couple drop locations were set up around the city where people could drop off recycling and garbage. As of tonight, services are back to normal.

Vice Chair Khanloo commented that communication is always one of the biggest issues with Republic. It seems like the information provided by the team does not always match the actions. She also asked how the road conditions are assessed. She wondered if picking up with smaller trucks

could be a short-term solution for getting trash picked up. Ms. Weiker explained that the decision is made by the supervisors very early in the morning and is a citywide decision. Vice Chair Khanloo expressed concern about the communication with the customers. Ms. Weiker replied that robocalls were set up for phone numbers that Republic Services has. Republic's website is another option, but not as convenient. They are working on some text technology for the future.

Commissioner Wan:

- What are the next steps for Republic? Will there be credits for customers? Ms. Weiker replied that it is under review. She expressed appreciation for the community's understanding of the difficult circumstances.
- For the future Commissioner Wan suggested more dispersed drop-off spots.
- He thought the communication from Republic Services and the City was very good during the snow event. He noted that some of the concerns voiced tonight about the communication were specifically related to the Larkspur Landing condominiums. Ms. Weiker thanked him for the clarification and noted they are working on that issue.

Chair Knezevic commented that she is very supportive of Republic Services but noted that customer service has been an issue for years with Republic Services.

Commissioner Strom reported that she and Ms. Weiker used to work together. She thanked Ms. Weiker for her hard work and discussed her experience during the snow event. She attended the free drop-off event and appreciated that option. Ms. Weiker explained how Republic is working to improve communication and the customer service experience.

Vice Chair Khanloo asked for a report on how many services were missed and how long it was until it was picked up. She also asked about the volume of complaints that the City or Republic Services received and what the plan is going forward. Ms. Weiker explained that customer credits are under review so there is nothing about that to communicate with customers yet. The data for missed pickups is available from Jon. She is available to come back and talk more about that if desired. As far as missed collections, she stressed that they are back to normal now. She added that they were able to serve the critical customers, like hospitals, during the inclement weather.

Vice Chair Khanloo asked if drivers are still using paper notes in the vehicles. Ms. Weiker explained they are transferring to better technology

but not all vehicles have it yet. Vice Chair Khanloo requested a report of how many vehicles have the technology versus how many are still using paper in the vehicles.

Commissioner Howe thanked Republic for the communication during the inclement weather and the labor dispute. She expressed concern about the labor dispute and asked if that is expected to happen again. Ms. Weiker discussed this event and how it happened. She explained it was frustrating but was resolved within days.

Deputy Director Liu commented that the City received almost 100 complaints during the month of January regarding the weather and/or labor disputes. The City is working with Republic to ensure applicable credits are applied. Staff will be providing the next quarterly update to the Commission on Republic Services' action plan to address Missed Collections in March. Staff will invite Republic Services to return then to review the January missed pickup information requested by the Commission.

Vice Chair Khanloo requested that Republic's "lessons learned" also be provided.

c) 2023-2024 Budget Planning Overview and Calendar

Uma Singh, Acting Assistant Director – RMCS Division
Andy Baker, Fiscal Manager

Ms. Singh discussed the budget background. Mr. Baker discussed the ESC's role in reviewing Utilities budget. The ESC will be asked to review the proposed capital program, the budget, and rates; ask questions and provide feedback; hold a public hearing; and make budget and rates recommendations to Council. Budget guiding principles include compliance, sustainability, value, and affordability. Mr. Baker gave an overview of the 2023-2024 budget planning process which will culminate at the end of 2022.

10. REVIEW OF COMMISSION & COUNCIL CALENDARS

Deputy Director Liu reviewed the tentative ESC calendar and Council calendar.

Commissioner Howe asked who is cleaning out the AMI boxes when new meters are installed because on her walks, she has noticed big piles of dirt next to meter boxes. Deputy Director Liu stated she would follow up on that.

Commissioner Wan noted there was an extensive discussion on AMI at the last meeting. He thought that Chair Knezevic was going to develop a letter to send to the Council with the Commission's recommendation to Council. Deputy Director Liu noted that Chair Knezevic will be providing that recommendation at an upcoming Council meeting. The Commission's recommendation has been captured in a memo from the Chair to the Council on the Commission's behalf.

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion made by Chair Knezevic, seconded by Vice Chair Khanloo, to adjourn the meeting. Upon a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 p.m.