

**COUNCIL SUMMARY BACKGROUND BRIEFING:  
KING COUNTY REGIONAL COMMITTEES AND OTHER ISSUES  
*September 2018***

This briefing summarizes recent actions taken by the three regional committees formed as a result of the merger of King County and Metro. The three regional committees are the Regional Policy Committee, the Regional Water Quality Committee, and the Regional Transit Committee. We will also include updates on other regional issues (e.g., King County Flood Control District, King Conservation District) as appropriate. In addition, the Growth Management Planning Council (GMPC), was formed in the early 1990s to comply with the Growth Management Act requirements for collaboration of counties and their cities on countywide planning policies. The GMPC meets three to four times per year to consider amendments to the countywide planning policies and to monitor progress on implementation. This is intended as a summary briefing; staff can provide more details on any of the items below.

**REGIONAL POLICY COMMITTEE (RPC)**

***August 22 meeting summary:***

- **Economic and Cultural Impact of Sports on the Region.** At the request of RPC Chair Pete von Reichbauer, this item included a panel discussion on the cultural and socioeconomic impact of sports in the region. The panel included representatives from the Seahawks, the Mariners and the Seattle Sports Commission. The panelists focused on the sports organizations' community outreach efforts, charitable donations and services as well as the broader impact of sports in bringing the community together.
- **Proposed Ordinances establishing the King County Veterans, Seniors and Human Services Levy Advisory Board and the Veterans Advisory Board.** The RPC unanimously approved two ordinances establishing the King County Veterans, Seniors and Human Services Levy (VSHSL) Advisory Board and the Veterans Advisory Board. Both boards are required by the VSHSL Governance Plan, which outlines the oversight structure of the levy. In addition to being required by the Governance Plan, the Veterans Advisory Board is required by state law to oversee the county's state-mandated veterans assistance program. Members of the Veterans Advisory Board also serve as member of the VSHSL Advisory Board.

**Background on the VSHSL**

King County voters approved the VSHSL in November 2017 to replace the expiring Veterans and Human Services Levy. The new VSHSL will expand investment in services for veterans and human services and will also fund new services for seniors and their caregivers. The VSHSL is levied at \$0.10 per \$1,000 in assessed value and is anticipated to collect a total of \$53.3 million in 2018, with approximately \$5.6 million from Bellevue property owners.

- **Introduction to the 2019 Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan.** The RPC received a brief introduction to the 2019 Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan (Plan). Pat McLaughlin, King County Solid Waste Division Director, presented an overview of the key policy choices and recommendations contained in the Plan as well as the estimated Plan

adoption timeline. The RPC is scheduled to receive additional briefings regarding the Plan from the King County Council staff in September and October.

The King County Executive transmitted the Plan to the King County Council on July 26. The last King County Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan was adopted in 2001. State law directs King County to review and update the Plan, as needed, every five years. Since 2001 there have been a series of planning efforts and reports that have informed the current version of the draft Plan.

The 2019 proposed Plan was drafted over the past two years, and representatives from the Metropolitan Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee (MSWMAC), including representatives from Bellevue, provided feedback to the King County staff as the Plan was being developed.

The Plan provides an assessment of the existing King County solid waste system, current solid waste demand, and forecasts for future solid waste demand. The Plan sets the context for key policy choices related to solid waste disposal, transfer and recycling.

The major recommendations in the Plan are consistent with previous Bellevue City Council direction regarding siting future solid waste transfer capacity in northeast King County and the development of future solid waste disposal capacity that would not expand or negatively impact the Factoria Transfer Station.

The Plan recommends: 1) the siting and construction of a new Northeast Recycling and Transfer Station to address transfer capacity needs that is in addition to the existing Factoria Transfer Station; and 2) maximizing the capacity at the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill for future disposal needs from 2028 to 2040. The Plan also contains language regarding recycling programs and notes that King County, cities and haulers have formed a Responsible Recycling Task Force to identify common ground for advancing recycling given China's restriction on accepting recyclables. Ongoing restrictions from China could impact the life of the Cedar Hills Landfill and the cost of city hauling contracts. The Task Force is still meeting to evaluate regional strategies and options.

The King County Council is expected to complete its review of the Plan this fall and will take public feedback as part of that process. In early 2019, after King County Council adoption, cities within the King County solid waste system, including Bellevue, will be asked to consider adoption of the Plan during a 120-day comment period.

In order to be an approved Plan that can be forwarded to the Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE) for final action, the Plan must be adopted by cities representing 75% of the total population of the cities that act on the Plan during the 120-day comment period. King County expects to submit an approved Plan to the DOE for final approval in mid-2019.

### ***September 12 meeting summary:***

- **Proposed Ordinance Regarding the 2019 Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan.** The RPC received a briefing from the King County Council staff that highlighted key issues in the draft 2019 Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan (Plan), consistency with adopted plans and policies, fiscal implications and other issues for consideration by the RPC. The RPC did not act on the proposed ordinance and will consider the Plan again at its October meeting. SCA representatives on the RPC raised questions and asked for additional information to help inform the next presentation. Issues raised included the implications of not codifying the new policies in King County Code given that the policies in the prior comprehensive plan were codified; annual reporting to the RPC; independent third-party review of long-term disposal costs; and whether there are any roadblocks to full development of the Cedar Hills Landfill.
- **PSERN Quarterly Briefing.** The RPC received a briefing on the status of the Puget Sound Emergency Radio Network (PSERN) project to replace and upgrade the County's emergency radio network. In 2015 voters in King County approved a nine-year, \$273 million property tax levy to fund PSERN at a rate of 6 cents per \$1,000 in assessed value. The levy expected to raise about \$32 million a year, and Bellevue property owners are expected to contribute approximately \$3.3 million of the total amount raised in 2018.

The emergency radio communications system hardware is used to dispatch responders to incidents and allow responders to communicate with each other at incidents. The current system consists of more than two dozen transmitter sites and multiple microwave and fiber systems, supporting over 100 agencies and 17,000 radios. The current system is owned by King County, the City of Seattle, Valley Communications Center, and the Eastside Public Safety Communications Agency (EPSCA). Bellevue is a member of EPSCA. Once completed, the PSERN project should increase system reliability, increase coverage, provide better security and double the number of radio transmitter sites.

King County is the lead agency for the project, and Motorola is under contract for \$117 million to provide design, development, implementation, testing, ongoing support and maintenance. Final design is now complete, and as reported in previous updates to the RPC this year, PSERN project staff reevaluated the original baseline schedule due to some key changes in project assumptions. Specifically, Motorola indicated that it needed more time for system testing, that additional radio tower sites are required, that other tower sites were no longer viable and longer than anticipated lease negotiation processes. Due to these factors, the current expected date for substantial completion of the project is February 2022, which is nine months later than previously reported at the last briefing in May. The current final closeout date for the project is May 2023, which is five months later than previously reported.

The update also included information regarding the results of an in-building task force that examined the ability of first responders to communicate with each other inside and outside of buildings during an emergency. The task force identified areas of concern for radio coverage and concluded that urban areas with taller buildings and higher density had a greater risk of a failure of in-building coverage during an incident. Downtown Bellevue and downtown Seattle

were highlighted as the highest risk areas. To address these concerns, the task force is recommending a three-part approach to add: (1) new radio tower sites in high and medium density areas, (2) distributed antenna systems (DAS) to bring the exterior PSERN system inside buildings, and (3) vehicular repeaters for sustained incidents. At least one of the additional radio tower sites would be in Bellevue, although no specific location has been identified.

The estimated cost of the additional infrastructure is approximately \$24 million in one-time capital costs and \$1.2 million in annual operating costs. In August, the PSERN Joint Board (consisting of members from King County, Seattle, Eastside Public Safety Communications Agency, and Valley Communications Center) voted to add in-building coverage to the project scope and to include three additional radio towers. The work to identify the specific impacts to the budget and schedule is underway but has not been completed.

- **Proposed Ordinances establishing the King County Veterans, Seniors and Human Services Levy (VSHSL) Advisory Board and the Veterans Advisory Board.** As noted above, the RPC voted unanimously to support the proposed VSHSL ordinances at the August 22 RPC meeting. On September 10, the King County Council took final action to support the ordinance establishing the Veterans Advisory Board (VAB) so the ordinance adopting the VAB did not need to be re-referred to the RPC.

Also, on September 10, the King County Council re-referred the ordinance establishing the VSHSL Board to the RPC. This was due to the fact that the King County Health, Housing and Human Services Committee amended the ordinance after the RPC's August 22 action. The amendment specified how the King County Council-nominated board committee positions are to be assigned. The change only impacts positions nominated by the King County Council. The RPC voted unanimously to support the amended ordinance. The amended ordinance will now return to the King County Council for final action.

The next meeting of the RPC is scheduled for October 24.

### **REGIONAL TRANSIT COMMITTEE (RTC)**

The RTC did not meet in August. The RTC met on September 19, and a summary will be included in the October Regional Issues Packet. Agenda items scheduled for September included the 2019-2020 King County Budget, an update on Metro's base capacity expansion plan, and the King County Metro Transit 2017 Strategic Plan Progress Report.

The next meeting of the RTC is scheduled for October 17.

### **REGIONAL WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE (RWQC)**

#### ***September 5 meeting summary:***

- **Contaminants of Emerging Concern and Toxics in Wastewater.** The Committee received a briefing from RWQC staff and National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

researcher, James Meador regarding recent studies of contaminants of emerging concern in Puget Sound waters, wastewater effluent, and fish tissue. Contaminants of emerging concern (CECs), including pharmaceuticals and personal care products, are increasingly being detected at low levels in surface water, and the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) notes there is concern that these substances may negatively impact aquatic life.

The Committee's 2018 Work Plan calls for briefings on pharmaceuticals and personal care products and other toxics in marine waters impacted by the discharge of wastewater treatment plants. Committee staff provided an overview of some recent King County studies on toxics and CECs, and James Meador presented information from his recent research and articles pertaining to this topic.

The recent public attention on the survival challenges of the Southern Resident Killer Whales has brought increased interest in understanding the presence and possible impacts of CECs and toxics in Puget Sound. Governor Jay Inslee issued an Executive Order in March that identified immediate actions to benefit the Southern Resident Killer Whales and established a Southern Resident Killer Whale Task Force. This Executive Order notes that both contaminants and pollutants in Washington's waters and the reduced Chinook salmon populations are linked to the decline of the Southern Resident Killer Whales. As the Governor's Southern Resident Killer Whale Task Force develops additional actions to protect the whales, new regulatory proposals may help drive removal and reduction of CECs and toxics in marine waters.

The Meador and King County studies collectively assert that local marine waters are receiving loadings of toxics, pharmaceuticals, and personal care products from many pathways including wastewater effluent. The Meador research begins to make the case that the cumulative impact of these substances in local marine waters may be a significant burden on marine life, and Chinook salmon in particular.

Bellevue does not monitor local streams and lakes in the Bellevue area for pharmaceuticals, personal care products or CECs, which are not currently regulated under state or federal water quality standards and are not regularly monitored by any agency or organization at this time. The City contributes funds to the regional Stormwater Action Monitoring Program and its Regional Monitoring Fund. The Regional Monitoring Fund is administered by the Washington State Department of Ecology with oversight by contributing cities and stakeholders. Collectively this group pays for water quality and sediment quality monitoring in the region. The Regional Monitoring Fund does not typically monitor pharmaceuticals, personal care products or CECs.

- **Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI): Utilization in Combined Sewer Overflow projects and GSI Strategies in Other Municipalities.** The Committee received a briefing regarding GSI as an element of wastewater management programs. The RWQC Chair King County Councilmember Kathy Lambert requested the briefing to gain a better understanding of what other jurisdictions are doing and the GSI work of King County's Wastewater Treatment Division.

In recent years, interest has grown nationally in strategies that employ GSI as a means of managing stormwater. While the definitions can vary, generally GSI is intended to refer to

stormwater management techniques that capture, hold, cleanse, and either release, infiltrate or store, stormwater at a location at or near its initial contact with the land surface. GSI, while considered innovative, consists predominantly of low-technology techniques applied in strategic ways to mitigate stormwater volumes. These simple techniques include: plantings, soil amendments, depressions, street trees, rain barrels, gardens, and channeled runoff.

GSI can benefit combined wastewater systems that receive both wastewater and stormwater. Retaining stormwater on-site or in a GSI feature can reduce the volume of stormwater entering the combined wastewater system and preserve capacity within the system for wastewater. This reduces the likelihood of overflows from the combined systems.

In addition to reviewing common techniques and purposes for GSI, the RWQC staff also provided an overview of examples of King County Wastewater's use of GSI and GSI programs in Philadelphia, Portland, and Seattle.

The next meeting of the RWQC is scheduled for Wednesday October 3.

### **KING COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT AND WILLOWMOOR PROJECT UPDATE**

- **Flood District Advisory Committee Update.** The Flood Control District (FCD) Advisory Committee, which is comprised of elected officials from throughout King County, is charged with making annual recommendations to the King County Council which also serves as the FCD Board of Supervisors. The Committee reviews and makes recommendations related to the annual work program and budget for the FCD, including capital improvement program projects and funding levels. The FCD Board of Supervisors reviews and approves the FCD budget.

#### **2018 FCD Advisory Committee Work**

The Advisory Committee met five times between May 9 and August 22 to review the proposed Flood Control District 2019 Operating Budget and 2019-2024 Six-Year Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The Advisory Committee prepared and submitted a letter to the FCD Board of Supervisors dated August 21 recommending approval of the annual budgets. Councilmember Janice Zahn represented Bellevue on the Committee.

The 2019 proposed FCD operating budget is \$11,297,650, down from \$11,333,238 in 2018. The proposed 2019 FCD capital budget is \$68,198,179, a significant increase in spending from the 2018 FCD capital budget of \$53,496,926 due to the timing of specific capital projects. To support these budgets the FCD estimates the 2019 levy rate would be 9.8 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value, down from the 2018 rate of 10.7 cents. This rate is estimated to generate \$58,750,870 in 2019 FCD revenue. Bellevue property owners contribute approximately 8%, or almost \$5 million annually, to the FCD.

The 2019-2024 CIP includes funds for Bellevue to complete the Lower Coal Creek /Newport Shores project which will reduce flooding and improve stream conveyance in the Newport Shores neighborhood in the areas adjacent to Coal Creek as it approaches Lake Washington. The 2019-2024 CIP also includes funding for King County to continue work on the Willowmoor project, which

aims to control lake levels in Lake Sammamish and improve conditions in the Sammamish River immediately downstream of the lake and within Marymoor Park. Additional information on the Willowmoor project is included below.

Bellevue also receives approximately \$500,000 - \$600,000 annually in FCD funds for local flood control projects from the Subregional Opportunity Fund. Bellevue has used Subregional Opportunity funds to support design and construction of capital projects including flood reduction and conveyance improvements in the Meydenbauer Basin, Sunset Creek at SE 30<sup>th</sup>, and Factoria Boulevard. FCD also provides flood reduction grants to individual jurisdictions as well as grant funding to the Watershed Resource Inventory Areas (WRIAs) for salmon recovery projects.

As part of its budget approval letter, the Advisory Committee made a number of recommendations to the FCD Board of Supervisors, including:

- Maintain regular quarterly meetings for the interjurisdictional Joint Basin Technical Committee (a staff committee that helps support the work of the FCD Advisory Committee).
- Provide opportunities for communication between the Advisory Committee and the anticipated committee that will likely be established to update to Countywide Flood Hazard Management Plan.
- Recommend that the FCD develop a definition for Multi-Benefit Projects – projects that achieve additional benefits beyond flood risk management.
- Keep the Advisory Committee informed on FCD home elevation studies and related impacts.
- Consider funding studies on emerging scientific issues related to flood management.
- Provide technical support and FCD Executive Director participation in King County's Snoqualmie Fish, Farm, & Flood Advisory Committee.
- Consider new and emerging information for capital projects.
- Move implementation of the South Fork Snoqualmie River Levee Setback Project forward to 2019.

The FCD Board of Supervisors will act on the 2019 FCD budget proposal later this fall.

- **Willowmoor Floodplain Restoration Project Update.** For close to a decade, Bellevue has been monitoring King County's management of the Transition Zone (TZ) between Lake Sammamish and the Sammamish River due to seasonal high-water levels that have impacted Bellevue property owners living along Lake Sammamish.

### ***Background***

Lake Sammamish drains north to the Sammamish River through an engineered outlet channel located at King County's Marymoor Park. The engineered channel, referred to as the TZ, is where the lake "transitions" to the Sammamish River. Designed and built by the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (Corps) in the 1960s, the TZ is a wide, relatively steep, straightened stream channel equipped with a shallow fixed concrete spillway that functions as a weir. The weir, submerged during periods when the lake is full, becomes exposed in the summer when the lake level is low, and maintains minimum lake levels for recreational purposes. The original intent of the design of

the constructed channel and weir was to provide downstream flood protection while maintaining minimum lake levels.

The degree to which vegetation grows in the outlet channel is one of several factors that affect how quickly the lake drains. In recognition of this fact, King County and the Corps agreed on vegetation maintenance plans in the 1960s that maintain the design intent of the project.

In anticipation of the 1999 listing of Chinook salmon as “threatened” under the federal Endangered Species Act, the Corps modified the Lake Sammamish outlet weir in 1998 to improve fish passage into Lake Sammamish. The vegetation maintenance plan was also modified by King County, in agreement with the Corps, to balance competing needs for high flow conveyance, maintaining minimum lake levels and providing critical shade habitat to keep the water cool for returning salmon. Annual vegetation clearing was reduced to every other year, and instead of trimming vegetation on both sides of the river each year, King County transitioned to cutting and trimming only one side each year. After the construction of the weir and implementation of the modified maintenance practices, Lake Sammamish property owners began to experience increased lake levels during winter storms and spring runoff. Landowners have indicated that higher lake levels have submerged and damaged docks and led to increased shoreline erosion from wave action.

In 2010 Lake Sammamish residents began meeting with King County to discuss the impacts of the changes, and in 2011 a new maintenance plan was approved that would increase mowing, remove cuttings and remove sediment from the TZ.

The Willowmoor project was conceived to explore landscape improvements that:

- Provide lake level controls, flow conveyance, and downstream flood control to standards that protect property and minimize shoreline erosion,
- Improve aquatic and riparian habitat within and adjacent to the TZ for migrating salmon,
- Reduce summer water temperatures in the river to improve habitat conditions for migrating salmon,
- Reduce costs, complexity, and ecological impact of operations and maintenance activities, and
- Protect and enhance recreational opportunities.

In 2013, to help scope the project, King County convened the Willowmoor Stakeholder Advisory Committee (Committee), a group comprised of lakeshore property owners, agency staff, citizens, and other advocates of Lake Sammamish. Bellevue staff participated in the Committee as the group considered project alternatives and provided feedback to the County. The Committee did not come to a consensus on a recommended option, but the majority favored the “Split Flow Channel” alternative and many Committee members provided comments on the alternatives considered by King County.

In 2016, the Bellevue City Council received a briefing by King County’s Water and Land Resources Division Director on the Willowmoor Project, including an overview of the design alternatives the County was considering at the time. Following the briefing, the City sent a letter to the King County Flood Control District supporting the “Split Flow Channel” design alternative.



The King County Flood Control District selected the “Split Channel Alternative” and approved funding to proceed to 30% design. The King County Water and Land Resources Division (WLRD) is managing the project design and construction as a service provider to the King County Flood Control District and has hired a consultant team to design the Willowmoor Floodplain Restoration Project. According to the County’s request for consultant proposals, the “Willowmoor Project seeks to improve habitat conditions within and adjacent to the TZ and to reduce the risks of high lake levels in Lake Sammamish while maintaining downstream Sammamish River flood control performance, the function of downstream storm water facilities and protection of Redmond’s shallow drinking water aquifer.”

### **2018 Update**

The contract work for the Willowmoor project will take place in two phases. The first phase of work will develop 30% design by early 2019. Phase two will include the remaining design tasks through construction of the project. At the completion of 30% design, the King County Flood District will decide whether to proceed to the next phase of design work and construction.

In addition to the flood control project elements, the project team will be evaluating options for providing cold water supplementation to the Sammamish River system. Warm water temperatures create difficult conditions for salmon and other aquatic species. Salmon recovery scientists believe that these warm river temperatures may be a significant factor in the decline of salmon within the Sammamish watershed. Salmon need cool water temperatures for optimum survival. King County has been awarded a Washington State Salmon Recovery Funding Board grant to explore cold water supplementation as a part of the Willowmoor project.

King County and its consultant team plan to reconvene the Stakeholder Advisory Committee for two meetings over the next several months. The first meeting on October 4 will focus on the possible use of a dynamic weir (a weir whose height can be seasonally adjusted) and updated hydrologic and hydraulic modeling information. The Committee will be asked to provide comment on the dynamic weir analysis and updated modeling. A second Committee meeting is expected to focus on early design elements as the design team approaches 30% design. The Committee will be asked for input on these early designs so that feedback can be considered as the team develops the final 30% design. Bellevue staff will participate in the Committee meetings.

### **Willowmoor Project Recreation Workshop**

In conjunction with the first Committee meeting, King County will also host a special public Willowmoor Project Recreation Workshop. The purpose of this workshop is to gather broad input from Marymoor Park users on possible upgrades to park amenities within the project footprint. The workshop is scheduled for:

Thursday, October 4

Open House: 5:30-6:00 pm

Workshop: 6:00-8:00 pm

Clise Mansion, Marymoor Park

6046 W. Lake Sammamish Parkway NE

Redmond, WA 98052