

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

Thursday
February 2, 2023

City Hall & Remote
6:30 p.m.

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), Neal Hines (Vice Chair), Andy Dupertuis, Anne Howe, Negin Khanloo

COMMISSIONER ATTENDING REMOTELY: Diann Strom

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Ken Wan (excused)

COUNCIL LIAISON: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Lucy Liu, Deputy Director; Don McQuilliams, O&M Manager, Utilities; John Sizemore, Regulatory Compliance Supervisor, Water Quality, Utilities; Leslie Kodish, Senior Administrative Assistant; and Laurie Hugdahl, Minutes Taker

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion made by Commissioner Vice Chair Hines, seconded by Commissioner Khanloo, to approve the agenda. The agenda was approved unanimously (6-0).

3. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATION

Alex Tsimerman, President of StandUP-America, 14150 NE 20th Street, Bellevue, WA, spoke against fascism and criticized leadership.

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

None.

5. STAFF REPORTS

Deputy Director Liu gave an update on two billing policies that the ESC deliberated on during the last budget process. She reported that Council gave staff direction to proceed with transitioning to monthly billing and to implement a credit card transaction fee on all customers using a credit card to pay their utility bills. She thanked the Commission for their thoughtful deliberation and recommendation on these policy changes. She noted that Councilmember Lee also wanted to pass on his appreciation to the Commission.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a) January 5, 2023 Minutes

Motion made by Vice Chair Hines, seconded by Commissioner Howe to approve the 1/5/2023 minutes as presented. Upon a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously (6-0).

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

8. NEW BUSINESS

a) Public Hearing: Draft 2023 Stormwater Management Program Plan Update and Public Hearing

Don McQuilliams, O&M Manager, Utilities
John Sizemore, Regulatory Compliance Supervisor

The hearing was opened at 6:37 p.m. Deputy Director Liu introduced this item. Chair Knezevic reviewed the purpose and procedures of the hearing.

Mr. McQuilliams stated that staff is seeking feedback on the 2023 Stormwater Management Program Plan (SWMP). He briefly reviewed the history of the NPDES permit, and the 2019-2024 permit requirements, the 2023 SWMP, and the 2022 NPDES compliance report.

2022 Highlights:

- Education and Outreach – The dumpster outreach campaign has reached over 60 new businesses citywide.
- Operations & Maintenance - 10,226 stormwater structures were inspected with 1,646 requiring maintenance. This indicates a downward trend over time. 729 private drainage inspections were performed.
- IDDE – There were 269 illicit discharge responses/investigations.

- Development and Redevelopment – 632 site plans were reviewed. This is a large workload.
- Stormwater Management Action Plan – This is nearing completion.

Commissioner Khanloo asked about private drainage inspection. Do people reach out to the City to do these inspections? Mr. McQuilliams explained it is a requirement of the permit and that the City provides inspection services with follow up recommendations requesting maintenance by private drainage system owners.

Stormwater Management Action Plan (SMAP) – This is a requirement by Ecology in the 2019-2014 permit and requires preparation of a planning level document within a defined ‘catchment area’. Bellevue’s catchment area identified is within the Crossroads area.

Commissioner Dupertuis asked for a definition of source control in this context. He also asked if they would be asking businesses to fund remediation efforts. Mr. McQuilliams explained that source control is a concept where staff would identify businesses that store or potentially store some kind of pollutant outdoors. Staff would be talking with those businesses about secondary containment and how to better manage those potential pollutants so they don’t spill over and get into the stormwater system. How does it affect the businesses? It is a requirement of the permit, and for the most part it will be addressed through education and outreach. The City will help them to develop secondary containment measures through voluntary efforts. If there are repeat violators, escalating enforcement will step in, but this is very rare.

SMP Concepts:

- Identify stormwater retrofits within the catchment area.
- Develop water quality management strategies.
- Utilization of targeted and enhanced maintenance.

Moving forward:

- SMAP is in final development.
- Ecology will be releasing the draft language for the 2024-2029 permit in the summer of 2023. More to come as future permit language is developed.

Public Comments:

Alex Tsimerman, President of StandUP-America, 14150 NE 20th Street, Bellevue, WA, made comments regarding money and government corruption. He urged discussion about the costs.

The public hearing was closed at 7:05 p.m.

Discussion:

Commissioner Dupertuis thanked staff for the excellent presentation. He is looking forward to the next steps.

Vice Chair Hines asked if Ecology gives any long-term indication if things are getting better or worse. Mr. McQuilliams replied that trends indicate that things are getting slightly better, but nothing shows things are getting dramatically better.

Commissioner Dupertuis suggested a list of identified areas of concern and remediation steps for the Crossroads area. Mr. McQuilliams said that the SMAP would get into that. Commissioner Dupertuis asked if there is a sense of the range of the cost of remediations for individual businesses. Mr. McQuilliams replied that most of the efforts are around best management practices and how to manage what is on the property, so it doesn't become a potential pollutant in the system. Worst case scenario: there is a clause in the permit that says if you have an ongoing pollutant and you don't have the infrastructure to address it, you are required to develop infrastructure. He doesn't think this will be necessary. Instead, he is optimistic that they can address issues by utilizing best management practices with minimal costs. Hopefully, there will also be some grants from Ecology that will be available in the future to help businesses.

The Commission thanked staff for the presentation.

b) Remote Participation Approval March 2, 2023

There were no requests to participate remotely in March.

9. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

None

10. REVIEW OF COMMISSION & COUNCIL CALENDARS

Deputy Director Liu reviewed the Commission and Council calendars.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Chair Knezevic, seconded by Vice Chair Hines, to adjourn the meeting. Upon a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously (6-0).

The meeting was adjourned at 7:12 p.m.