

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

Thursday  
January 15, 2015  
6:30 p.m.

Conference Room 1E-113  
Bellevue City Hall  
Bellevue, Washington

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Vice Chair Swenson, Commissioners Howe, Mach, Wang, Morin\*<sup>1</sup>

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:** Chair Helland, Commissioner Pauley

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Andrew Lee, Deputy Director; Phyllis Varner, NPDES Permit Manager; Pam Maloney, Water Resources Planning Manager

**MINUTES TAKER:** Laurie Hugdahl

**1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Motion made by Commissioner Mach, seconded by Commissioner Wang, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed unanimously (4-0).**

**2. CALL TO ORDER:**

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

**3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

None

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

November 6, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Wang noted that “Councilmember” needs to be changed to “Commissioner” in the middle of page 6 and in a few other places in the minutes. Also in the motion in the middle of page 6, “Vice” needs to be added to “Chair Swenson”.

**Motion made by Mach, seconded by Commissioner Wang, to approve the minutes as amended. Motion passed unanimously (4-0).**

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<sup>1</sup> Commissioner Morin arrived approximately 6:40 p.m.

Commissioner Howe commented that she did not receive a copy of the packet prior to the meeting. Deputy Director Lee indicated he would check with Katie LaFree on that.

## **5. Follow-Up Questions and Answers**

- **2015 ESC Retreat**

Deputy Director Lee said he did some research on retreats and found out that other commissions and boards have them regularly. This is usually an opportunity to show appreciation for the commissioners and members. Sometimes there is an opportunity for the Mayor, Council Liaison, department director, and commissioners to have more informal conversations on topics. Some of the meetings contain team building agendas planned into the retreats. They usually review certain key topics, review the commission's activities from the previous year, and look forward or do visioning for the upcoming year.

Commissioner Wang thought it was important to have the opportunity to review the past year and discuss things coming up as well as have a more informal conversation. There was discussion about having a retreat in June or July after a new commissioner comes on board. There was consensus to have staff work with the Chair and Vice Chair to set one up.

## **6. Public Meeting**

- **Draft NPDES 2015 Stormwater Management Program Plan**

NPDES Permit Manager Phyllis Varner made a presentation regarding the Draft NPDES 2015 Stormwater Management Program Plan. She gave an overview of the Western Washington Phase II Municipal Stormwater Permit, a brief review of key Program Plan efforts for 2015, and ended with Next Steps. Ms. Varner explained that the federal Clean Water Act Permit requires municipalities to implement water quality Best Management Practices (BMPs), collectively referred to as the Stormwater Management Program. The goal of the Permit is to protect water quality and fishable, swimmable uses of lakes and streams by reducing pollutants discharged from the municipal storm drainage system into surface waters.

Ms. Varner reviewed the history of the NPDES Phase II Permit, Program components and noted that the new Permit, effective August 1, 2013, continues and builds upon the 1<sup>st</sup> Permit's Program requirements. She said that Ecology issued a modified permit and Ecology Stormwater Manual in December 2014 as a result of the Pollution Control Hearings Board decisions on Permit appeals and noted that the changes are primarily technical in nature and resulted in only a few changes to the draft 2015 Stormwater Management

Program Plan. The few pages in the draft Plan that had minor edits resulting from the Permit modification were handed out to the Commission and briefly reviewed.

Ms. Varner then discussed the permit requirement to submit an Annual Report to Ecology by March 31 each year. The Annual Report contains the SWMP Plan, describing the actions the City will take in the coming year to implement the Permit, and the Compliance Report, summarizing the actions the City took in the previous calendar year to implement the Permit. Key compliance actions and dates in the Plan (on page 1-5) were the briefly highlighted. Ms. Varner reviewed the public review schedule for the Annual Report (also a handout to the Commission).

Commissioner Wang noted that the Plan indicated that the City would begin compiling illicit discharge data by January 2014. He asked for clarification since he thought the City already did that. Ms. Varner said the City does track illicit discharge response information in City databases. The primary difference in the Program, under the new Permit, is that Ecology requires permittees to complete individual incident reports with specific response information for each illicit discharge and compile and attach the individual incident reports to the annual report. This new illicit discharge documentation and reporting requirement takes significantly more time for staff to implement than the illicit discharge documentation and reporting required by the first Permit.

Ms. Varner emphasized that the SWMP Plan is only one of the ways the City is protecting lakes and streams. Other ways include stormwater capital improvements, land use regulations, environmental stewardship initiative, and regional participation efforts.

She completed the presentation by reviewing next steps for the NPDES Annual Report. She said that she will return in February to ask the Commission to convey to City Council any public comments received tonight and the Commission's recommendation on submitting the 2015 Plan to Ecology.

Vice Chair Swenson opened the public meeting at 7:21 p.m. and solicited comments. There were none.

**Motion made by Commissioner Wang, seconded by Commissioner Morin to close the hearing at 7:22 p.m. Motion passed unanimously (5-0).**

Vice Chair Swenson noted that there has been a lot of redevelopment in his neighborhood. He referred to the definition for "redevelopment" contained in Appendix A of the draft 2015 Program Plan. It defines redevelopment as a site that is already substantially developed, having 35% or more of existing

hard surface coverage. He expressed concern that most residential sites would be exempted from stormwater development requirements, including low impact development, based on the definition in the Plan on page A-5. He said he thought that this potentially represents a huge inconsistency in the system. Ms. Varner clarified that this is a Permit definition and is used to distinguish between new development and redevelopment sites because there are different triggers for how the stormwater development requirements in the Permit are applied to these sites. Both new development and redevelopment projects are subject to stormwater development requirements. She offered to look into this further. Commissioner Mach spoke in support of Low Impact Development, but commented that it is important to distinguish between a homeowner remodeling their own home and a builder demolishing and rebuilding a home. Vice Chair Swenson stated that he would like to see more information on this.

Ms. Varner summarized Vice Chair Swenson question for follow-up as:

- What triggers stormwater development requirements for single family residential redevelopment projects, particularly tear downs or substantial remodeling projects?
- What are the criteria for being exempt from stormwater development requirements on single family residential redevelopment projects?

Councilmember Robertson noted that it might be helpful to find out what land use code requires for redevelopment. She said Council passed neighborhood livability measures to prevent tear downs from building out to the edge of property, out of proportion to the neighborhood.

## **7. REPORTS AND SUMMARIES**

- ESC Calendar/Council Calendar

Deputy Director Lee reviewed the 2015 ESC Calendar as contained in the packet.

Commissioner Wang referred to the September 17 meeting where the Mid-Biennial Budget will be reviewed. He asked if there should be a meeting before that to further discuss the AMI system. Deputy Director Lee stated that the 2015-16 Budget was approved with the exception of the AMI. What was proposed was to look at it again in the Mid-Biennial Review, but Deputy Director Lee did not think there would be enough new information to address it by then. Commissioner Wang expressed concern that further delaying the process will further increase the cost and lose the opportunity to have leak detection and other benefits of automation. Vice Chair Swenson commented that the Council has spoken. Councilmember Roberts clarified that her expectation by not approving it in the budget was not to delay the process. She expected that it would still be implemented at approximately the same time.

Deputy Director Lee affirmed that they are still expecting implementation in 2017. Councilmember Robertson stated that the Council didn't take an action for or against AMI. They basically ran out of time and kicked the decision down the road. Because of the implementation schedule Council didn't feel like they had to make a decision.

Commissioner Morin referred to the Solid Waste Performance Audit and Customer Service Survey discussion which is on the agenda in March. He asked about evaluating to whom the questions are asked in addition to what the questions are. He suggested broadening the survey to more than just those who have land lines in their homes. Deputy Director Lee commented that there are contractual limitations in the contract, but he will look into it to see what kind of flexibility they have.

## **8. NEW BUSINESS**

- **2015-16 Budget Update**

Discussed above.

- **City Comprehensive Plan Update Status Briefing**

Water Resources Planning Manager Pam Maloney highlighted an invitation to the commissioners to a Joint Boards and Commissions Forum on February 25 to review the draft Comprehensive Plan policies. As soon as the policies are released in late February staff will forward them to the Commission electronically. She will attach a memo identifying if there are any significant departures from what the ESC recommended. Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on the draft Comprehensive Plan on March 4, but will accept comments until the end of March. As soon as the comment period closes, the Planning Commission will incorporate comments and turn the draft Plan in to the City Council for review over the summer months. Council adoption of the new Comprehensive Plan is anticipated by June 30.

Commissioner Mach requested that staff send an email to the ESC about the joint meeting so they will have all the information.

Councilmember Robertson encouraged all the commissioners to go to the joint meeting to interact with other commissioners and collaborate in this process.

- **2015 ESC Work Plan**

Handled above.

**9. COMMISSIONS REPORT**

None

**10. DIRECTOR'S OFFICE REPORT**

Deputy Director Lee gave an update on the Shoreline Master Program update process. He stated that the City Council is tentatively scheduled to review the last provisions for the Shoreline Master Program on February 9 and make a recommendation to move the document forward to the Department of Ecology. Materials are being prepared at this time and will be provided to the ESC when they are available.

**11. CONTINUED ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

Betsy Hummer, East Bellevue Community Council Member, introduced herself and noted she has a great interest in utilities issues.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion made by Commissioner Morin, seconded by Commissioner Howe, to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. Motion passed unanimously (5-0).**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.