

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

Thursday
October 19, 2017
6:30 p.m.

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

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Diann Strom (Chair), Sanjay Kumar (Vice Chair), Anne Howe, Vanja Knezevic, Aaron Morin, Lisa Schreiner

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Gregg Takamura

OTHERS PRESENT: Andrew Lee, Deputy Director; Laurie Devereaux, Program Administrator; Andy Tuchscherer, Asset Manager; Jay Hummel, Senior Utilities Engineer; Ernie Simas, City Council Liaison

MINUTES TAKER: Laurie Hugdahl

1. CALL TO ORDER:

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

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion made by Commissioner Morin, seconded by Commissioner Schreiner, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

September 7, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Vice Chair Kumar, seconded by Commissioner Morin, approve the minutes as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

5. REPORTS AND SUMMARIES

Deputy Director Lee reviewed these items.

- ESC Calendar/Council Calendar

There are a number of changes to the ESC Calendar for the month of November. Emergency Water Supplies will not be covered. New Standardized Commission Bylaws will be on the agenda with the City Attorney. There will be a presentation on the Solid Waste Contract Performance. There will not be a briefing on the Storm and Surface Water Plan as this will be pushed to 2018. Staff will provide a status update on the AMI contract.

Staff is planning on providing the briefing on Pikes Peak and the presentation regarding awarding the AMI contract to Council on November 20.

- Conservation & Outreach Events & Volunteer Opportunities

Deputy Director Lee highlighted the volunteer opportunities as contained in the packet.

6. NEW BUSINESS

- Stream Team Update
Presenter: Laurie Devereaux, Program Administrator

Ms. Devereaux gave an overview of the Stream Team program and an update on activities this year. The Stream Team program is divided into two basic groups that are both very important to the NPDES permit. The focus of her volunteer time is on monitoring, but restoration is done on an as-needed basis. She also provides technical assistance to O&M and Engineering on some special projects.

There are 35 trained volunteer Salmon Watchers throughout the City who watch for and identify salmon. Salmon Watcher volunteers donate at least 100 hours and make hundreds of visits to the stream. Ms. Devereaux gave an update on the fish the Salmon Watchers have spotted so far this year.

Peamouth Patrol is the volunteer program in the spring similar to Salmon Watchers. Peamouth are a native fish in Lake Washington that shows up every spring to spawn in Kelsey Creek. Last year 19 volunteers made 191 stream visits that added up to 70 hours of time. Volunteers talked to 46 different citizens while out in the community. There is also a traffic camera on a pole pointed at Kelsey Creek.

The volunteer program has a great partnership with the professional monitoring with our Fish and Wildlife surveys that happen in the City. Volunteers also participate in electrofishing and macroinvertebrate monitoring in the summer.

Ms. Devereaux reviewed some of the public education and outreach messages and materials regarding storm drains, car washing, pet waste, watershed protection, dumpster care, and vehicle leaks. Outreach is done at science fairs, school presentations, farmers markets, watershed outreach campaigns, and various community events and groups. Regional programs and partners are also very important.

Questions and Comments:

Commissioner Morin asked about salmon numbers for this year. Ms. Devereaux replied that it is too early because it is only midway through the season; however, the last few years Kelsey Creek has had almost nothing, but this year volunteers have spotted over 20 fish already. Everyone is very excited. Commissioner Morin thanked Ms. Devereaux for all she does.

Chair Strom also expressed appreciation for the presentation. She suggested putting the car wash piece in the newsletters that go out in the spring. Ms. Devereaux concurred.

Commissioner Knezevic referred to an issue with lack of garbage cans in downtown Bellevue. She has noticed that people who smoke end up just dropping their cigarettes which then end up in the storm drains. She recommended looking into increasing the number of garbage cans to reduce cigarette dumping downtown. Ms. Devereaux indicated it would be necessary to do research on that, but one of the ways the City raises awareness about the storm drains is the markers. Commissioner Knezevic commented that a lot of foreigners in downtown Bellevue might not understand the signs.

- Asset Management Update
Presenter: Andy Tuchscherer, Asset Manager

Mr. Tuchscherer highlighted some of the improvement efforts the City has made this year. He stated that the goal of asset management is to maximize ratepayer investment, maximize asset life, minimize asset cost, and minimize risk. He reviewed the large depth and breadth of assets in the system in terms of water, wastewater and stormwater. He explained how the City tracks data related to things such as water main breaks and sewer overflows to develop strategies for maintaining the system in an effective manner. The 5-year roadmap was developed in 2016 and contains 16 focus areas for asset management. From those focus areas, 139 initiatives were created, 11 projects are in progress, 66 are completed, and 62 are remaining. The City is working on 32 Strategic Asset Management Plans (SAMPS) in order to have robust asset information all in one location. One of the things discovered is how to strategize the meter testing and repair replacement priorities. Having more knowledge gives the City the ability to make the best decisions about asset management. A life cycle cost analysis model provides an economic model of

individual pipe asset replacement costs, risk costs, failure probability, and optimal replacement schedule.

Acoustic testing using sound waves to measure pipe wall thickness and storm video pipe assessment have been very useful tools to help make informed decisions about the condition of and management of pipes. Through the assessment of the pipeline, staff has discovered 487 defects so far that need to be either repaired or replaced. Over 300 miles of pipe still need to be assessed. The sewer video program has been going on for years. There has been a huge increase in defects because the cameras have gone to areas that had not previously been evaluated. Most of the issues are root intrusion problems. A root chemical treatment may be a viable and cheaper alternative to digging and repairing.

Vice Chair Kumar asked if the chemical process used for roots is corrosive to the pipes. Mr. Tuchscherer replied that it is not. He noted that the Sewer department has worked with King County to make sure that it is an approved product, and it has been approved.

Commissioner Morin asked if sewer pipes leak into the ground. Mr. Tuchscherer stated there would be a potential of that if there are pipes that are corroded with holes. Leaking is only occasionally seen with force mains because they are pressurized pipes. Gravity sewer mains are generally flowing pretty empty so there is not enough water pressure for it to leak out. There is actually a problem of too much groundwater leaking in to the pipes.

Commissioner Morin asked if there is any long-term impact to the trees that have roots going into the pipes. Mr. Tuchscherer stated that staff does not anticipate that. One product the City is looking at only kills the roots five or six inches outside the pipe and another product being looked at doesn't even take it that far.

Commissioner Morin asked if it is possible that illegal tie-ins might be the cause of some problems. Mr. Tuchscherer replied that it is possible. Deputy Director Lee commented that a greater concern is when a storm drain is plumbed into the sewer because of the large volume of storm water compared to the volume of sewage. Commissioner Morin asked if AMI would be used on commercial meters as well as residential properties. Mr. Tuchscherer replied it would be used on both.

Deputy Director Lee commented that there is a strong connection between this information and the budget. The program is constantly learning more about our system and the needs that the City has.

- Pikes Peak Reservoir & Cherry Crest Pump Station Replacement
Presenter: Jay Hummel, Senior Utilities Engineer

Mr. Hummel gave some background on the Pikes Peak Reservoir project, the public outreach program, the alternatives evaluation process, and the project status. Following public concern about the initial project and a series of meetings, several reservoir alternatives were narrowed down to four options to be looked at in depth: rectangular reinforced concrete with the pump station on site, circular pre-stressed concrete with the pump station on site, circular pre-stressed concrete with the pump station moved off-site, and circular steel with the pump station moved off-site. After doing a triple bottom line evaluation, the community group and staff independently came up with the same alternative to move forward with. He pointed to this as a testimony to how well they worked together as a group.

The selected alternative is a pre-stressed concrete reservoir. This alternative stays within the boundaries of the existing lease (easement), does not permanently affect existing trails, minimizes how many trees would have to be removed, and has no pump station on site. The plan involves moving the pump station down to the Cherry Crest reservoir and pump station site. This will involve moving up the replacement of the Cherry Crest pump station by several years, but at the same time it would combine two pump stations into one which has its own advantages. From a hydraulic pumping standpoint with the change in location there is a need to upsize some existing water mains to accommodate this change.

Moving forward, staff is looking at three projects: the Cherry Crest Pump Station replacement, the off-site water main upsizing, and the Pikes Peak Reservoir replacement. Because the reservoir and the pump station are both critical for providing water to that service area, both cannot be shut down at the same time. This means the pump station needs to be done first, and then the reservoir will be replaced. Design will begin soon. By 2019, the pump station and water main work will be under construction and by mid-2020 the reservoir construction is planned to begin. It is expected that all the work will be done by mid-2021. The City will continue with community outreach by meeting periodically with the Community Advisory Group, mailers, website updates, briefings, open houses, etc.

Chair Strom commended the team for their work with the community. She reported that she received comments from someone in the community who was very pleased with the process.

Commissioner Morin asked if this project would be more expensive now that the City is doing three projects and since it will be taking seven years of life off the existing Cherry Crest Pump Station. Mr. Hummel explained that Cherry Crest was already a projected budget expenditure. The reservoir

already had a budget and so did the Pikes Peak Pump Station. The offsite watermain is driven by the fact that the pump station is moving to Cherry Crest. Deputy Director Lee explained that staff would review all the numbers during the budgeting process, but his recollection was that the combining of the two pump stations into one actually saves the City about \$1 million even with moving it sooner. The overall project cost is increased primarily because of inaccurate budget numbers that were initially established several years ago for the reservoir portion of the project. A life cycle cost analysis of the different alternatives was done and this alternative ended up having the lowest life cycle cost. There was discussion about the value of the process and how staff believes the end project turned out to be even better than the one initially planned.

Chair Strom asked if the triple bottom line model is used for all projects. Mr. Hummel replied that it is not used for all projects, but just for ones that are more complicated and require key decision making.

7. COMMISSION REPORT

Councilmember Simas thanked the staff for the excellent presentations. He emphasized the importance of staff regularly following up with the Environmental Services Commission to report on projects at periodic points during the process after the items have been forwarded to the City Council. He encouraged the ESC to continue asking good questions about the costs and cost savings, especially with AMI. He stated he sees the ESC as the representatives of the community to make sure that tax dollars are being used as effectively as possible. He commended the staff for the excellent work they do. He said he would have liked to have seen the actual cost projections as part of the Pikes Peak Reservoir/Cherry Crest Pump Station presentation.

8. DIRECTOR'S OFFICE REPORT

Deputy Director Lee reported that the City has started on the CIP and rate process. Starting in January 2018 staff will come back with many presentations. A lot of 2018 will be spent going over the budget process.

The City Council received a report on the Diversity Initiative for the City. Deputy Director Lee stated that Utilities prepared a Utilities-specific Diversity Plan which is geared at addressing diversity inside the Utilities Department as well as interacting with diverse customers. There is an increasing demand coming from customers for more diverse communications.

The rain has resulted in staff rapidly responding to events. So far there has been no major flooding, but staff will continue to be watchful and respond where necessary. He encouraged people to call if there are catch basins that need to be cleaned or to take small measures and clean away leaves themselves.

Commissioner Morin suggested that Laurie Devereaux consider producing her materials in multiple languages if she isn't already doing that. She could target certain communities based on census data. Deputy Director Lee concurred and suggested there might be ways to convey messages that don't require English. Commissioner Morin noted it would be useful to try to measure the saturation of the Stream Team's message.

9. CONTINUED ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None

10. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Commissioner Howe, seconded by Commissioner Knezevic, to adjourn the meeting at 8:13 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 p.m.