

**CITY OF ISSAQUAH
Environmental Board**

6:30 PM
December 8, 2021

Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT

Board members:

Nancy Davidson, Chair
Jamie Finch, Vice Chair
Dani Madan*
Don McQuilliams
Rishi Hazra*
Cameron Fisher
Lara Lebeiko (Excused Absence)
Dan Hintz
Anne Newcomb

Administration/Staff:

Gene Paul, Management Analyst
Stacy Vynne McKinstry, Sustainability
Manager
Briana Weekes, Sustainability Intern

Janet Wall, Alternate
Tom Anderson, Alternate
Surya Bollapragada*, Alternate

*Youth/young adult members.

CALL TO ORDER

DAVIDSON called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes for the 11/10 meeting will be introduced for Board approval in the January meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

David Kappler (Resident): Made comments regarding stormwater and concerns about beaver habitat and wetlands in Lake Sammamish State Park.

Connie Marsh (Resident): Made comments regarding sanitary sewer, water balance, aquifers, wetland impacts, storms, and questioned what problem the City is trying to solve. Marsh also expressed concern over use of the term “community objectives” and encouraged the use of more natural water management techniques.

AGENDA ITEMS

a) **Storm and Surface Water Master Plan (D)**

Presented by:

Gary Schimek, Utilities Engineering Manager

Schimek presented to provide an update on the progress of the Storm and Surface Water Plan. He reviewed preliminary focus areas: collaboratively plan for future needs, protect our natural

resources, invest in the employee experience, responsibly manage existing utility assets, transparent community engagement, and fiscal responsibility. The primary objective of the meeting was to gain feedback from the Environmental Board on four questions:

1. Do the focus areas cover the most important categories of stormwater, surface water and wastewater work that will support the delivery of high-quality services our community?
2. Do the purposes make each focus area “come alive” in a way customers (with technical and non-technical background) will understand?
3. Do the objectives address the most significant issues associated with each focus area and purpose?
4. And finally, do you have any specific strategies and/or actions that you want to make sure we consider in the next phase of our work

The Board provided dynamic feedback around these questions. The Board strongly suggested that the Storm and Surface Water Master Plan take advantage of the recent passing of the Climate Action Plan and collaborate between the two documents. They suggested creating an innovative approach using a ‘climate lens’ in the Storm and Surface Water Plan towards efficiency around emissions in utility management. They suggested placing metrics to keep energy consumption targets low. They are looking for strong green stormwater management and prioritization of species like fish and the beaver. They had questions around how capital improvements will be prioritized and set forth. The Board placed high priority that utilities be affordable for the City of Issaquah. They would like to see more transparency within billing around where costs are specifically going to create services. Upon potential pricing increases, they want strong communication to create community buy in. The Board collectively wanted to see more transparency and communication and hope to see regular communications for the community on the development of the Plan. Going forward, the Board is eager to see specific strategy actions and targets within the plan concerning climate action

b) **Annual Report (D)**

Presented by:

Gene Paul, Management Analyst

Review of the Annual Report on the Environmental Board to review their impact in their first year.

The Board expressed further feedback. They suggested that presenters give a common template because of the lack of clarity in what would be most valuable for the Board to place their focus upon when receiving large documents to review. The Board feels that they have been able to work well together. They agreed to submit the report.

REPORTS

PAUL provided an update on adoption of the Climate Action Plan and introduced the new Sustainability Manager, Stacy Vynne McKinstry.

VYNNE MCKINSTRY introduced herself to the Board.

PAUL announced that the tentative schedule for Board meetings is being built:

- No January Meeting
- February 24th will be a joint meeting with the PPC on Title 18
- March another joint meeting with the PPC for the Storm and Wastewater Master Plans and the Storm Water code update.

PAUL and VYNNE MCKINSTRY will meet with the Chair and Vice Chair to discuss the schedule for 2022.

OTHER BUSINESS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

12-08-21 Environmental Board Minutes

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 PM.