

**CITY OF ISSAQUAH  
Environmental Board**

6:30 PM  
March 12, 2025

**MINUTES**

Tibbetts Manor, 750 17th Ave.  
NW, Issaquah

**BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT**

*Board members:*

Don McQuilliams, Chair  
Alix Lee-Tigner, Vice Chair  
Nancy Davidson  
Mina (Alexandra) Jun\*  
Prajakta Ghatpande  
Dixie Bair  
Tom Anderson  
Jamie Finch – excused absence  
Kiran Pan\*

*Administration/Staff:*

Mary Lou Pauly, Mayor  
Stacy Vynne McKinstry, Sustainability  
Manager  
Tina Eggers, Sister Cities Commission Staff  
Liaison  
Evan Brumfield, Environmental & Regulatory  
Program Administrator  
Mike Vermeulen, Water Resources Program  
Specialist  
Gillian Straub, Management Analyst

Anne Newcomb, Alternate  
Keith Gonzalez, Alternate  
Jonathan Smith, Alternate

\*Youth/young adult members.

**CALL TO ORDER**

CHAIR MCQUILLIAMS called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

**SPECIAL BUSINESS**

**Joint meeting with Sister Cities Commission  
Potential Joint Project, (I)**

*Presented by:*

*Mayor Pauly*

*Tina Eggers, Sister Cities Commission Staff Liaison*

*Stacy Vynne McKinstry, Environmental Board Staff Liaison*

MAYOR Pauly thanked the Sister Cities Commission for their work over many years investing and building the relationship between Issaquah and Chefchaouen and provided context for why staff are exploring opportunities to partner with Chefchaouen on environmental initiatives. VYNNE MCKINSTRY asked for general comments related to partnering with Chefchaouen on environmental programs while also sharing about an opportunity to partner with Chefchaouen through the ICLEI Race to Resilience program. EGGERS also highlighted the opportunity for student involvement in any partnership.

Board Members GHATPANDE, ANGULA and MCQUILLIAMS asked about whether the City had specific projects planned or existing projects that a partnership could build on. VYNNE MCKINSTRY noted that no specific projects are selected yet but that there are many potential projects for partnership such as the Issaquah Resilience Hub project, solar installations, and infrastructure electrification. Board Member JUN asked to what level the broader community would be involved. Mayor Pauly expressed that community involvement in this project would be valuable and the specific means of community engagement might depend on the project. Following the discussion the members of the Sister City Commission and the Environmental

Board agreed to develop a joint letter to Chefchaouen expressing interest in a partnership and identifying potential projects to pursue.

**\*\*\* END OF JOINT MEETING \*\*\***

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Chair introduced the minutes, which were included in the agenda materials. The minutes were approved as presented by unanimous consent.

- a) Minutes of February 12, 2025

## AGENDA ITEMS

- c) **Stormwater Management Program (D)**

*Presented by:*

*Evan Brumfield, Environmental and Regulatory Program Administrator*

*Mike Vermeulen, Water Resources Program Specialist*

VERMEULEN presented on the background of the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit which regulates stormwater discharge to the state. VERMEULEN then provided a summary of actions taken in 2024 and strategies for future implementation for each of 9 priority areas. Following a question from Board Member GHATPANDE, VERMEULEN clarified that the NPDES permit covers stormwater management for public and private property.

Board Members JUN, PAN, and ANDERSON asked clarifying questions related to the Adopt-a-Drain outreach program and provided recommendations for education framing. VERMEULEN noted that the debris removal numbers associated with the program were self-reported by volunteers. VERMEULEN also explained that certain drains were removed from the Adopt-a-Drain map if there were safety concerns but that individuals could still adopt those drains after a conversation with the City. As outreach programs were discussed, VERMEULEN highlighted the different groups and audiences for each of these efforts. Board Members DAVIDSON and JUN asked for more details on business outreach and internal City coordination. VERMEULEN noted that the stormwater team is coordinating with the broader environmental team to make communication with businesses smoother and clarified the specific means for business education.

Board Chair MCQUILLIAMS asked for clarification on stormwater management considerations in the NPDES permit for tree canopy cover across the City. VERMEULEN noted that staff would work on defining stormwater management considerations in coordination with the Parks team. Board Members DAVIDSON and GHATPANDE asked staff to provide additional details on the enforcement action and illicit discharge spills in 2024 and noted it is important to evaluate whether education efforts are targeted to address issues seen in 2024. VERMEULEN provided details on the incidents and offered to provide more granular analysis of spills in future communication. Board Member ANDERSON asked how natural system impacts on stormwater, such as landslides, are dealt with. VERMEULEN noted that staff would review how those incidents are dealt with in the City.

Board Member NEWCOMB and SMITH asked about City efforts related to specific pollutants such as paint, 6PPD, plastics, pesticides, and road salt. VERMEULEN and BRUMFIELD explained how these pollutants were addressed in the NPDES permit and noted City efforts to manage and reduce the impact of these pollutants when identified. Additionally, the City coordinates with nearby jurisdictions to identify resources and discuss regional challenges.

Board Chair MCQUILLIAMS asked if the City knew how much of the City stormwater system had treatment. VYNNE MCKINSTRY noted we report annually on the stormwater system treatment as a performance metric. Board Chair MCQUILLIAMS asked what the City would find helpful from the Environmental Board and reiterated questions that came up during the presentation for future discussion.

VERMEULEN explained that the City values hearing what is of interest to the Environmental Board to focus future presentations and communications.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**REPORTS**

Youth Reports

Board Member JUN provided an update on the Issaquah School District Sustainability Policy progress. Board Member JUN also described the development of a Junior Park Ranger program as part of a capstone project in partnership with the Offices of Sustainability and the Parks and Community Services Department.

2025 Workplan

Update on Wildlife/Waste Letter to the Mayor and Council

VYNNE MCKINSTRY highlighted the education, outreach, and Recology reporting efforts to address issues of wildlife getting into waste bins across the City.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 PM.

**INQUIRIES**