

03-11-26 Environmental Board Minutes

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CITY OF ISSAQUAH**Environmental Board**

6:30 PM

March 11, 2026

MINUTESTibbetts 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* - absent
 Prajakta Ghatpande
 Tom Anderson
 Keith Gonzales
 Kiran Pan* - excused absence
 Tommy DuBeau

Administration/Staff:

Stacy Vynne McKinstry, Sustainability
 Manager
 David Reedy, Sustainability Coordinator
 Evan Brumfield, Environmental & Regulatory
 Program Manager
 Mike Vermeulen, Senior Environmental &
 Regulatory Program Specialist
 James Amspacher, Water Efficiency Director

Anne Newcomb, Alternate
 Jonathan Smith, Alternate

*Youth/young adult members.

CALL TO ORDER

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

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 11, 2026

Board Member ANDERSON asked staff to correct the spelling of an emergency management tool to [EYEWARN](#).

PUBLIC COMMENTS**AGENDA ITEMS**

- b) **Stormwater Management Program Plan (D, I)**

Presented by:

*Mike Vermeulen, Sr Environmental & Regulatory Program Specialist
 Evan Brumfield, Environmental & Regulatory Program Administrator*

VERMEULEN presented on the Cities NPDES permit, providing background on the NPDES permit, highlighting work from 2025, identifying upcoming efforts for 2026, and summarizing planned stormwater addendums and code updates. BRUMFIELD shared anticipated stormwater code updates in line with required updates based on the NPDES permit. BRUMFIELD noted that the proposed changes would impact IMC Titles 16 and 13 along with updates to the Stormwater Design Manual.

Board Member ANDERSON asked for more details on the nature of spills responded to by the City. VERMEULEN noted that the City responds to all spills regardless of size or type and that the spills responded to happen both on private and public property. Board Member ANDERSON also requested clarification on the use of drywells to manage water coming from downspouts. BRUMFIELD noted that there is an increase in drywells or infiltration trenches being installed although community members might still see other management systems. Board Member SMITH asked who cleans catch basins and ditches. BRUMFIELD explained that the City maintains all City sites while catch basins and ditches on private properties are assessed during City inspections. Board Member SMITH advocated for increased maintenance of retention ponds, catch basins, and ditches to address litter contamination. VYNNE MCKINSTRY noted that using See Click Fix is a good way to report concerns.

Board Member GHATPANDE asked for clarification on screening requirements for the stormwater system and pollution prevention requirements for commercial businesses. VERMEULEN provided additional information on how screenings and business engagement occurs. Board Member DAVIDSON asked how Issaquah City Council interest in simplifying regulations would impact efforts to strengthen stormwater requirements. BRUMFIELD explained that staff will ultimately make recommendations to City Council who will then decide on which updates to adopt. Board Member DAVIDSON requested staff bring ideas for how to go above and beyond on the code in future Board presentations. Board Member NEWCOMB asked how the City addresses chemical runoff from private yards. BRUMFIELD explained that the City uses education to try and reduce the prevalence of chemical runoff from private properties.

a) **Cascade Water Alliance Conservation Programs (I)**

Presented by:

James Amspacher, Water Efficiency Director

AMSPACHER provided an overview of Cascade Water Alliance and water efficiency efforts. Water efficiency efforts include school programs, irrigation assessments, water efficient gardening education, the Lawn Be Gone grass removal program, water efficient product rebates, community events, and social media use.

Board Member SMITH asked for more detail on how Cascade Water Alliance works with schools. AMSPACHER clarified that Cascade Water Alliance actively seeks to expand school education works with schools via in-person educators and via education resource portals. Board Member SMITH suggested Cascade Water Alliance work with student clubs to reach additional youth. Board Member ANDERSON asked for current forecasts on when Lake Tapps water would flow to the Eastside. AMSPACHER noted that Cascade Water Alliance anticipates that they would not begin building infrastructure until the 2060s and that water would not flow until the 2080s. Board Member NEWCOMB asked for clarification on where the current water supply comes from. AMSPACHER explained that current water comes from the Cedar and Tolt watersheds. Board Chair MCQUILLIAMS asked for the percent of water used in Issaquah comes from Cascade Water Alliance versus from groundwater. BRUMFIELD noted that the City would identify the exact percentage and report back to the Environmental Board.

c) **Issaquah Climate Action Plan Update & Additional Action Review (D)**

Presented by:

Stacy Vynne McKinstry, Sustainability Manager

VYNNE MCKINSTRY shared progress updates for the ICAP and presented on potential additional actions identified and recommended by staff following multiple board/commission discussions.

The additional transportation and land-use actions discussed are related to evaluating parking minimums, evaluating e-bike and vehicle charging and multifamily properties, identifying incentive pathways for expanded fast charging in Issaquah, and working to evaluate opportunities to remove barriers to private climate action in City code. Board Chair MCQUILLIAMS expressed support for evaluating the feasibility of removing parking minimums on a neighborhood basis as well as for evaluating central parking facilities

for multiple multifamily properties. Board Member Gonzales asked for staff to consider ways to support community members in leveraging the Transit Center parking garage. Board Member NEWCOMB asked how many fast chargers are installed at the City and why the City is prioritizing public fast charger access. VYNNE MCKINSTRY shared that there are three main public fast charging locations. VYNNE MCKINSTRY also noted that the goal with this action was to ensure equitable access to EV charging through public charging that supports community members who cannot charge at home. Board Member ANDERSON noted that as an EV owner it is important to consider how to encourage EV charging can be incentivized in commercial areas where drivers might want to stop. Board Member SMITH encouraged the City to explore dumpsters near fast chargers to address litter near stations. Board Member GHATPANDE asked if we have a reliable electric grid that can accommodate EV charging expansion. VYNNE MCKINSTRY expressed that the City does work to maintain a working relationship with PSE to advocate for a resilient and expanded electric grid to support electrification. Board Member NEWCOMB suggested assessments of existing EV Charging use to ensure we are not overbuilding infrastructure. Board Member NEWCOMB suggested that the City explore using CO2 heat pumps as an action in the ICAP. VYNNE MCKINSTRY noted that actions could be expanded to ensure that the code is not limiting new, more efficient technology.

Board Member NEWCOMB asked if the City can consider adjusting how transportation GHG emissions are calculated to remove passthrough traffic and I-90 emissions from the City's inventory. REEDY noted that the City could consider adjusting how transportation emissions are calculated at the next GHG inventory update.

The additional buildings and energy actions discussed are related to a voluntary energy benchmarking program for smaller buildings, and expanding outreach to non-Energy Smart Eastside contractors on electrification. Board Chair MCQUILLIAMS and NEWCOMB expressed support for the actions.

VYNNE MCKINSTRY concluded with a summary of next steps on the ICAP update process and additional Environmental Board engagement.

REPORTS

Metrics Committee (Verbal Update)

REEDY summarized the recommendations from the Metrics Committee and noted that staff would highlight the recommendations more fully at the next Environmental Board meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

VYNNE MCKINSTRY asked for any Board Members interested in participating in a Sister Cities project or the Sustainability Fair Environmental Board booth to reach out to staff.

REEDY provided an update on the Pickering Barn Solar project installation.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.