

Island County
WATER RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

For more information about Watershed Planning in Island County, visit our web site.

<https://www.islandcountywa.gov/Health/DNR/WRAC/Pages/Home.aspx>



Meeting Notes

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

Thursday, November 2, 2017 2:30—4:30 PM

Oak Harbor Public Works Facility

1400 NE 16th Avenue, Oak Harbor

Call to Order and Introductions

Present:

Citizen Members: Maddie Rose, John Lovie, Tom Fox, Joe Grogan, Carol Gillespie, Don Lee, Al Williams, Bob Boehm, Jay Lawrence, Jim Patton

Island County Staff: Jenny Schofield and Caitlin Budd, IC Natural Resources Department; Jill Wood, IC Environmental Health Department; Nathan Howard and Nicholas Schneider, IC Planning & Community Development Department

Guests: Carly McCardle (Civil Engineer, Freeland)

Adoption of WRAC Meeting Summary Notes

Bob Boehm made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Maddie Rose seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Discussion/ Announcements

- Rick Nishi left, so the committee is back to 11 members.
- WA State is moving forward with short term action plan focused on foams and drinking water issues. This will go before the legislature in 2018. John Lovie will come back with updates.
- Board of Health petitioned WABOH at their Oct 11th meeting: explore options, their focus is on Group A systems.
- Biennium state of the sound PSP came out on Nov 1st. The PSP's goal of restoring Puget Sound health by 2020 is very far from being on track.
- Don Lee called Comm. Price-Johnson with the principal intent of expressing that the WRAC has been waiting 15 years for CWU to release money so that the PH Department would be able to have a coordinator for the committee. Opposes going to once every other month.
- Phase 2 is said to include 2 new positions (one public works, one public health) and there are currently political reasons for not moving forward with the Phase's implementation.

Group A Service Area/ Independent Wells Update

- Nathan Howard and Beverly Mesa-Zendt presented at the BICC work session a recommendation that the Group A Service Area/ Independent Wells topic be placed onto the Planning Department's 2018 work plan. Jill Johnson questioned why this would go on the Planning Department's work plan before going in front of the Board of Health. She suggested that the WRAC bring this to Board of Health. Keith will be having further discussion with Commissioner Johnson to get clarification and will provide better direction for the WRAC's next steps on this topic.
- The CWSP is a planning document. The CWSP is an ongoing item on the Planning Department's docket. Docket items can only be addressed once per year as per the Growth Management Act.
- PH has an institutionalized process that is not in code to handle Group A decisions. The idea of putting this into code started with Whidbey Island Water System Association. Island County can have conversation about why it is

important to include this in code. EH has gathered direction on how to handle these issues from a planning document (Jill Wood will identify which one at a later date).

- **Next steps:** Create a reference in CWSP that explains EH's process. Make a recommendation to restrict private well drilling within Group A systems. Jill Wood requested reflection on what are we trying to accomplish. Is code the right way to accomplish that?

CWSP Update (Nathan Howard)

- A WUCC (Water Utility Coordinating Committee) needs to be formed for the official CWSP update. The Board would have to establish the WUCC and meet specific member requirements. The WRAC can make suggestions, but they would not be able to directly implement the CWSP update.
- Whatcom updated their CWSP in 2016. In their resolution they listed things they wanted to include in their update. This could be a way for the WRAC to fit in. Develop strategy and focuses for the update/conduct a pre-update.
- Many plans are identical because they were developed by the same engineering firm. Nathan made a matrix of topics that were covered in CWSP updates regionally. Perhaps the WRAC could separate and look at several topics.
- The WRAC members want to proceed despite controversy because of the importance. The CWSP must capture what is already included in municipal water law and take into consideration whether water demand forecast is in alignment with the County's Comprehensive Plan. The state mandate is that the CWSP get updated every five years.
- The WRAC will split up the work among subcommittees that meet separately. The WRAC has done this in the past – health department staff were involved in each issue and created Topic Papers.
- Nathan will group these together with someone's assistance and then divide up the WRAC by interest. Bring any additions or retractions to the list Nathan provided to next meeting or email him directly.
- Whidbey Island Water System Association will be having a meeting in March in which they could garner ideas and discuss these ideas with forty or so Water Associations.
- GMA and UGAs were not adopted when the CWSP was put in place. There are now different considerations around demand as well as sea level rise, salt water intrusion, and climate change.
- Engineers and the public are welcome to join the WRAC's CWSP pre-update subcommittees.
- CWSP does not allow for the proliferation of small water systems.
- Hurst Decision: Island County does not have instream flow rules. No one has claimed that Island County is not compliant with the GMA.
- **Next Steps:** Nathan will relate topics and develop groupings. The WRAC will review the groupings, provide comment, and develop a process.

Public Comments

No Public Comment

Meeting Closure

Meeting adjourned at 4:20 pm.

Next Meetings:

No January Meeting

February 01, 2017 (Location to be determined)