

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, December 7, 2017 2:30—4:30 PM**

**Oak Harbor Public Works Facility**

**1400 NE 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Oak Harbor**

### Call to Order and Introductions

#### Present:

Citizen Members: Maddie Rose, John Lovie, Tom Fox, Joe Grogan, Al Williams, Bob Boehm, Jim Patton

Island County Staff: Jenny Schofield and Caitlin Budd, IC Natural Resources Department; Keith Higman, IC Public Health Director; Jill Wood, Doug Kelly, and Vin Sherman IC Environmental Health Department; Beverly Mesa-Zendt, Nathan Howard, Nicholas Schneider, IC Planning & Community Development Department

Guests: Robert Bennion, DCG, INC.; Jim Patton and Bethel Hart, WIWSA;

### Adoption of WRAC Meeting Summary Notes

Tom fox made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Bob Boehm seconded the motion. Motion approved.

### Discussion/ Announcements

- Keith: Vin Sherman will retire at the end of January.
- **Group A Service Area/ Independent Wells Update**
  - Whidbey Island Water Systems Association (WIWSA) asked for a recommendation from WRAC to recommend to Island County Board of Commissioners to limit independent wells in Group A service areas.
  - Don and John met with Island County (IC) staff to discuss the Group A service area wells. Have chosen to reframe as an extension of group B process which requires the individual to request to opt out and Board of Commissioners (BICC) to redraw Group A boundaries to exclude parcels which have requested the action
  - Vin Sherman- the current process includes that the developer proposes the well initialization to the Planning Department and then the service area must be redrawn by BICC who must agree to remove the land parcel from Group A system boundary. At this point, the process does not apply to individual wells.
  - John Lovie and Don Lee propose that the Group A and B code be extended to individual wells.
  - Al Williams: Finds the necessity of this recommendation questionable.
    - John Lovie: This will discourage the proliferation of new wells. This request is in line with responsible stewardship and maintenance of our water resources.
    - Doug Kelly: This should be an administrative task and not a regulation, if both sides are amenable .
      - If issue is contentious there needs to be process and a standard in place.
    - Vin Sherman: Most parcels in service areas aren't large enough to be able to ask for this to occur.
    - Doug Kelly: Contamination and abuse of resources by individual wells when multiple wells are drilled can weaken the overall system.
  - Jill Wood: Frequency of this occurring is so limited what is the real need to creating more process? Is it practical?
    - WRAC: Group A should have first right of refusal.

- Vin Sherman: Most individuals are still responsible for group A system financial costs whether or not they are connected.
  - Keith Higman: Regulations for individual wells are not in place for drilling wells ahead of time. IC only regulates them for drinking water. General regulations around this would have to be changed. There are no regulations for irrigation wells for drilling or for use. This may pose a greater threat to water systems than individual due to the lack of regulations around them.
  - Doug Kelly: Recommends the WRAC have one-on-one conversations with BICC ahead of time to check for support
  - John Lovie: Still conceptual idea needs to move forward through meetings with BICC. This is my proposal for the way forward.
  - Nathan Howard: Can these system services plan put these processes in place for themselves?
    - John Lovie: May not have legal standing if these do occur.
  - Keith Higman, Jill Wood and Vin Sherman are trying to take non-regulatory steps to do outreach and education with properties to encourage and educate about connecting to group A systems, if possible, or what the best move may be for them.

### **CWSP subcommittee Update (Nathan Howard)**

- As described in past WRAC meetings this is a review on the Consolidated Water System Plan (CWSP). If it was an update IC would be required to form the Water Utility Coordinating Committee (WUCC)
  - Merge subcommittees B & D? B will be merged with D, will now be called B
    - Estimation of capacity could be a demanding task.
      - WRAC doesn't feel this is an issue and decided to move ahead with merge.
- Overview of procedure
  - Tasks: split into subcommittees, draft, subcommittee presentations, prioritize recommendations, draft recommendation report. WRAC comment and tweaking
- Subcommittees will delve deep into its section, and then WRAC as overall committee will all discuss less in depth as a group.
- There is capacity for meeting outside of regularly scheduled WRAC meeting dates and times.
- Outside personnel with expertise (technical subject matter professionals/experts etc.) in area that are not WRAC members will be able to advise subcommittees. Keith highly recommends this approach and would like to help coordinate partnerships.
- CWSP is 27-28 years old without an update; supposed to be updated every 5 years
- Washington Administrative Code (WAC) and state guidelines must be followed, but the Committee can strengthen or add additional things.
- **Sub-committee formation**
  - **A:** John and Al, **B:** Joe, Dave, Don and Maddie, **C:** Bob and Tom
  - Carol, Jay and Julius still need to discuss and be put in group.

### **2018 Workplan Development**

- With the WRAC wanting increased responsibility, IC discussed that the WRAC should develop a 2018 Workplan to bring forward to the BICC to decide how they want proceed through 2018. This will be a good way to develop a solid relationship moving through the year with the board so everyone is on the same page. If it is on the work plan

it is just a placeholder for the WRAC to be able to discuss. WRAC can request their own time with the board. Keith believes that the board would welcome a time to meet and discuss the upcoming year.

- Incentive based LID
- CWU review
- CWSP review

### **Public Comments**

- Whidbey Water Keepers: Navy contamination issue, formed to educate. Citizen group that Bob may want to have join the WRAC to discuss their group.
  - It was mentioned that the WRAC should reach out straight to the Navy for updates on contamination issues instead of WWK.
- John Lovie will have PFAS update coming soon.
  - Time will be allotted for update on next agenda.

### **Meeting Closure**

Meeting adjourned at 3:55 pm.

*Next Meetings:*

*No January Meeting*

*February 01, 2018 WSU Extension Office, Coupeville*