

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, May 3, 2018 2:30—4:30 PM
Coupeville Library - Sno-Isle Libraries
88 NW Alexander St, Coupeville, WA 98239

Call to Order and Introductions

Citizen Members: Don Lee, Julius Budos, John Lovie, Tom Fox, Joe Grogan, Al Williams, Dave Thomas, Bob Boehm, Jay Lawrence

Island County Staff: Jenny Schofield, Lori Clark, Matt Colston IC Natural Resources Department; Beverly Zendt, Nathan Howard, IC Planning & Community Development Department, Bill Poss IC Public Works

Guest: Katheryn Wells (Phone) Snohomish Conservation District, Matt Zupich, Island Conservation District

Adoption of April WRAC Meeting Summary Notes

Bob Boehm made a motion to approve the December meeting minutes. Dave Thomas seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Discussion/ Announcements

- **Q&A about Stormwater Utility(Bill Poss)**
 - **Bill Poss' introduction**
 - He is the Development Coordinator for IC Public Works
 - Reviews development applications on properties.
 - **Island County has a Stormwater Ordinance (SWO) and Stormwater Design Manual (SWDM)**
 - Both the SWO and the SWDM are independent of the WA State Department of Ecology (WAEcy).
 - The SWO and SWDM are not Phase II, so they have not been updated in a long time.
 - However they have certain requirements for development and they also have exemptions for development.
 - **Low Impact Development (LID) is the most commonly used of Stormwater management in Island County.**
 - Rain Gardens, barrel filtration, keeping forested areas infiltration, and retaining native vegetation in wetland buffer often are suggested by homeowner without even calling or realizing that they are LID.
 - **Difficulties and challenges to the management of Stormwater.**
 - Small parcels and platted developments from anything pre-1990's that have removed almost all native foliage. Also areas that are on high bluffs because of their lack of stability and the desire not to aggravate that. Sometime tight lines are the only way and are used as a last option.
 - These are overcome challenges by stormwater dispersion techniques, rain gardens, and rain barrels. Pervious pavements also helps concentrated areas. Island Transit has a very

impressive use of permeable pavement that is supported by a rain garden. LID is a great way to recharge of aquifers.

- LID is not required by ICC but the code contains incentives.
- (Julius Budos) What are the incentives built into code?
 - (Bill Poss) If there is a major development (one that is over 5000 sq. ft. of new impervious surface) Engineer has to complete a drainage report and plan. If a developer is using low impact strategies then they can create a Drainage Narrative which is cheaper and less intensive than a report. It is the most used method which is a deterrent for retention ponds. Stormwater management tries to emulate the way water behaved pre-development (water quality and flow).
 - (Bill Poss) Other incentives include voluntary limiting harvest trees to about 5000 board ft. of timber and retain native vegetation during clearing and grading can be exempt from forest practice rules and regulation and save 2500 dollars in permitting fees with help from WA State Department of Natural Resources (WADNR).
- (Al Williams) Who regulates the installation and the maintenance of these LID practices?
 - (Bill Poss) These measures are mostly self-maintaining. Including rain gardens. But mostly the property owners do, not the county.
 - (Al Williams) Do the rain gardens need to be able to percolate?
 - (Bill Poss) Rain gardens can be designed for all types of soil from shallow to well percolating.
 - (Al Williams) Concerns about mosquitos if built on poor soils
 - (Bill Poss) There are other options for those areas as well but the rain garden just has to be properly designed to avoid a problem with ponding.
- (Al Williams) What is the honest feasibility of permeable pavement?
 - (Bill Poss) Disclosing that he is not a road engineer explains that the pavement is designed for a certain weight capacity and usage. It's not something that semi-trucks would be running over it.
- (Don Lee) How many people approach our government for LID options?
 - (Bill Poss) 75% for residential development and 60% for commercial, mostly because they save money.
- (Don Lee) Clean Water Utility has a line item in its budget for LID. Why don't Island County not fund LID?
 - (Bill Poss) That's a decision that Board would decide.
- (John Lovie) Is there a mechanism for LID to be brought up during permitting if the designs don't include LID?
 - (Bill Poss) Yes, that is a Public Works policy requirements. On the permit there is an entire section discussing and asking about storm water flow and dispersal. Especially, when the stormwater is diverted to ditch.
 - (John Lovie) Do the conservation districts help implement LID do you refer to them?
 - (Bill Poss) Yes the conservation district is a partner.
 - (Dave Thomas) Should Island County not try to codify LID requirements?
 - (Al Williams) Enforcement of said stormwater drainage standards might be a challenge?
 - (Bill Poss) 10 years it should have been codified. Currently, there is no really need. The only places that truly need LID need to be grandfathered into LID methods are truly that is the challenge. Homeowner's associations are another tool to use during trying to manage

stormwater to make maintenance agreement. The county can enforce only then if a permit has been issued.

- (Tom Fox) Due to the ad hoc approach of the County, is there or has there ever been a method of prioritizing stormwater drainage for new commercial and residential to require LID strategies.
 - (Bill Poss) That study has not been from Public Works
 - (Lori Clark) WSU extension has and the speaker from WSU is coming in June
- (Tom Fox) Education to construction firms and builders might be the best way forward.
- (Julius Budos) Are there standards and guidelines for LID?
 - (Bill Poss) In the stormwater design manual there are standards and guidelines. Nothing to the level as a one size fits all for each property.
- (Tom Fox) How much of stormwater runoff comes into the stormwater system in the culvert system?
 - (Bill Poss) No study that could accurately report that volume. There are Critical Drainage Areas the IC Public Work acknowledges certain areas that are more prone to flooding.

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- Announcement about funding and WebEx (Lori Clark)
 - WebEx will be available for next meeting.
 - Funding released for more staffing hours with the WRAC.
- Coordinated Water Systems Plan Review [CWSP] (Nathan Howard)
 - Coordinate next few meetings to divide 12 topics of CWSP to consider for a presentation to the board.
 - Ranking subjects (No Change, More Research/outreach, and Move forward w/recommendation) to present to the Board so that there are suggestions ready for the next update to the CWSP after the meetings so there is a final report. Will give prioritization.
 - This meeting packet discusses the nature and definition of Timely and Reasonable for decision making.
 - (Joe Grogan) What is timely and reasonable for the County?
 - (Nathan Howard) County has policy but no official code on this but usually o.
- (John Lovie) Announcer- WADOH Planner Jennifer Kropack is retiring today and not is having that position filled. Letter should be written to both thank Jennifer for her service and advocate to return of Jennifer if possible to this position. (No vote)
 - (Nathan Howard) WAEcy has a lot of problems currently with new standards coming down.
- LID Incentivization Discussion (Julius Budos)
 - (Julius Budos) List updated from last meeting including some comments from Katheryn Wells
 - Incentive v. Benefit
 - (Tom Fox) There may be validity to benefits and incentives for builder's not just incentives.
 - (John Lovie) Incentives are things that can be done for construction of LID post permit issuance.
 - (Don Lee) Priority list must be made to rank incentives.
 - (Matt Zupich) Possibility of a point system for stormwater and LID designs. For the county to help even out and make development less difficult for builders.
 - (Jenny Schofield) Contacting April Hines from City of Everett government to give WRAC information about rebate system in Everett.

- (Tom Fox) Based on the presentation is the status quo satisfactory. Some kind of study might need to be done to see the volume of stormwater to analyze where the priorities of LID should be.
- (Jay Lawrence) Mosquito grants for stagnant water removal might incentivize projects.
- (Dave Thomas) Based on Bill Poss's presentation there should be a real effort to bring owners of older properties and educate them about LID.
 - (Matt Zupich) ICD has a NTA for exactly that. Volunteers teaching homeowners about the utility of LID to recharge groundwater.
- Suggestion to talk to Island Transit to see permeable pavement and try to talk with Bill Oakes during one of the meetings (No Vote)

Public Comments: N/A

Meeting Closure

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.

Next Meetings:

June 7, 2018 Coupeville Library, Coupeville

July Meeting is canceled