

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, October 4, 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, Tom Fox, Bob Boehm, Al Williams, Dave Thomas

Island County Staff: Jenny Schofield, Matt Colston, Lori Clark IC Dept. of Natural Resources; Doug Kelly, Aneta Hupfauer IC Environmental Health; Beverly Mesa-Zendt, IC Planning & Community Development Department

Guest: Jim Patton

Adoption of WRAC Meeting Summary Notes

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

Announcements

Discussion

- **Coordinated Water Systems Plan (CWSP) Review Discussion – Timely and Reasonable** (Beverly Mesa-Zendt)
 - **Beverly Mesa-Zendt:** Introduction: Tackle CWSP on a topic by topic basis, Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC) will provide comments and comments will be reviewed in meeting which will provide staff with direction. IC Planning staff created a timeline for CWSP Review to have a reasonable approach to the review. Typically when we do work with other committees the way it works is to discuss topics and then staff will draft language and as part of that we will draft additional questions and build arguments from discussion. For Example: we are currently discussing timely and reasonable, and we received some comments about other county CWSP where there is more defined language available we would take these comments from the WRAC and build arguments for the changes. Advise the Island County Board of County Commissioners (ICBOCC) on why the changes are reasonable, based on research of other similar communities in our region, best management practices, and based on ground truthing here in Island County. When we do a final report that includes recommendations, it not only includes recommendations but we have some of the arguments that have been presented here in the WRAC meeting.
 - Timeline topics include the topics that Nathan Howard had provided packets to everyone on for research. **See timeline in documents section of WRAC website.**
 - At some point we will have to discuss the creation of the Water Utilities Coordinating Committee (WUCC) which is the committee that will have to be formed to actually amend the CWSP. We will have to discuss that further with the ICBOCC
 - The WUCC is authorized to or has been delegated the task of actually updating the CWSP. Ultimately the WUCC is responsible for updating. We will have to talk to the ICBOCC about how this committee with coordinate with that committee.
 - **Tom Fox:** Seems like we are all going in a lot of different directions. The thing is that way back we were going to try and revise the CWSP and make a presentation to the ICBOCC. That was almost two years ago and then we learned that was an unacceptable way to go about it. We don't even know if they want to make any changes at all. We then agreed to look at these components of the CWSP and see if there were any changes that needed to be made or additional language added and we would take these recommendations to the

ICBOCC to see if they want to take the next step of revising with CWSP and somewhere down the road the WUCC would be formed. I see the WUCC is far down the road from where we are now.

- **Julius Budos:** I understand that, however the CWSP is long overdue for updating and I was under the impression that Keith Higman came to us and wanted this to be done. This is the first time I have ever seen a schedule and I appreciate that. The overall picture of where we are going and the final product will be a recommendation report to the ICBOCC.
- **Beverly Mesa-Zendt:** I have spoken with one of the ICBOCC and requested that since staffs are becoming much more involved that the ICBOCC be clearer about their objectives. They have been a little reticent because of the amount of money it does take to overhaul the whole thing.
- **Al Williams:** At the September WRAC meeting Doug Kelly made a comment that was are the current set of rules working? Do the components of the plan even need to be corrected? What should we fix if it's not broken? One of the things we need to know is there complaints with what we have now?
 - **Beverly Mesa-Zendt:** That's a good point. I had a question about that today, when it came to a peer review committee being set up and I had the question of had we had any disputes and is this something that needs to be a standing committee. That question should be at the top of our list at each step.
 - **Doug Kelly:** I think we're taking a step back and looking at the process that were using and I think that's a great idea. We really are at the level of just trying to present something to the ICBOCC, so they can make a decision about whether or not they want to pursue this or not. I wonder if this is too detailed and if we should be going at this a little more high level, big picture. Here are some big ticket items and not get way down in the weeds if they aren't going to pursue this. Could get further distilling this information and taking questions to the ICBOCC instead of just taking recommendations on how things need to change.
 - **Beverly Mesa-Zendt:** The report could provide information to the ICBOCC, for example, do we need to update our timely and reasonable standards? All ready from the comments there have been gaps identified. So in the report their will be recommendations in the report that identify these areas and give reasoning on why they have been identified. If it's too broad we have a report that is so voluminous that we know we should've updated it, we know there are outdated procedures, and there are consequences for having those in place. I think as Doug said I think it will be most useful to work through these topics, figure out why these are a problem or not, what are the consequences if they aren't updated, gather comments and questions, and if direct not recommendations, a series of options for the Island County about how these topics can be addressed.
- Timely and Reasonable Comments from WRAC members
 - **Tom Fox:** At this point I am not sure I am ready to discuss my comments because I am in the realm of where are we and what are we trying to accomplish? I want to preface my comments with let's get an overarching policy discuss on what we want to accomplish here. What is the problem? Where are the problems? I don't know how far into the weeds we want to get here.
 - **Julius Budos:** We're still not all on the same page.
 - Member Comments: **See Document on WRAC website**
 - **Julius Budos:** The Island County Code isn't detailed enough. If this is the only thing you have to go buy it's like having one hand tied behind your back.
 - **Beverly Mesa-Zendt:** What are the cases in which we have seen conflict occur or what can we forecast being issues in the future and how will our recommendations help solve these?
 - **Tom Fox:** The reason we probably haven't seen cases trying to resolve this issue are that if there is someone within the service area boundary and the Group A system says no to service your lot, we don't know if it's timely or reasonable because they don't have to take it up. They just simply say ok and drill their

own individual well, rather than having a resolution. If you prohibit drilling within service areas and make the water systems and individuals work together you are going to get more conflict.

- **Doug Kelly:** Group B does already have to get a denial from the Group A so that door is closed. It's the individual wells that can dart around the issue of timely and reasonable if they have a large enough lot to drill on, which isn't always the case. The County becomes aware of a well being drilled when the land owner files for a building permit and they have to get water availability, by that time the well is often already drilled.
- **Julius Budos:** Something we need to decide on is: are we trying to minimize the drilling of individual wells? Is that a policy we should pursue?
- **Don Lee:** Are we saying the plan should state "you cannot drill individual wells in a service area?"
- **Tom Fox:** I think what we are trying to say is that in the service area of a Group A or Group B service area you have to resolve the question of timely and reasonable. If the utility says they will provide it in a certain timely and reasonable way then, yes you shouldn't be able to drill an individual well.
- **Al Williams:** What's the rationale for limiting individual wells?
 - Doug Kelly: Resource management and reducing vulnerability to our underground water source.
- **Beverly Mesa Zandt:** As we come to the ICBOCC and say here are our recommendations I don't think were too far out there say that we think this has the potential to increase contamination. It is a more efficient way to manage resources and here are some of the concerns that this would address and here are some options. Reduces potential for contamination. The more we encourage consolidation the more we have an economy of scale in terms of maintenance of infrastructure, the bigger the system the greater the chance of them managing the system and having the resources to keep the system going and testing to standards. Will summarize comments and bring a draft to the November meeting.

Public Comments

Meeting Closure

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.

Next Meetings:

*November 1, 2018 Camano Island Library
December 6, 2018 WSU Extension- Coupeville*