

## AGENDA

DES MOINES CITY COUNCIL  
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE  
City Council Chambers  
21630 11th Avenue S, Des Moines, Washington  
Thursday, May 9, 2024 - 5:00 PM

**Environment Committee:** Chair JC Harris, Vice Chair Yoshiko Grace Matsui, Gene Achziger

### CALL TO ORDER

### AGENDA

- Item 1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF 04.11.2024  
[04.11.24 Draft Environment Committee Minutes](#)
- Item 2. OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE OVERVIEW (20 MINUTES)
- *Staff will provide a summary of operations and maintenance within the City's Surface Water Utility.*
- [Operations and Maintenance Overview](#)
- Item 3. COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE MEMO (FOLLOW UP TO THE 04.11.2024 PRESENTATION)
- *Community Development staff memo provided as an informational item.*
  - *Community Development staff will not be in attendance*
- [04.29.2024\\_CPUMemo\\_Final](#)

### ADJOURNMENT

**DRAFT MINUTES – ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING 04.11.2024**

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The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM, Thursday, April 11, 2024 in the Council Chamber with the following in attendance:

**Council Members**

J.C. Harris (Chair)  
Yoshiko Grace Matsui (Vice Chair)  
Gene Achziger

**City Staff**

Tim George – Interim City Manager  
Tyler Beekley – Surface Water/Environmental Engineering Mngr  
Denise Lathrop – Community Development Director  
Laura Techico – Planning and Development Services Mngr  
Jason Woycke – Senior Planner  
Peyton Murphy – Land Use Planner II  
Alicia Jacobs – Land Use Planner I  
Cong Nguyen – Civil Engineer I  
Matt Hutchins – Assistant City Attorney  
Taria Keane – City Clerk  
Sara Lee – Deputy City Clerk  
Jodi Grager – Admin. Coordinator I

Guests – Mayor Traci Buxton, Councilmembers Matt Mahoney and Harry Steinmetz  
Barbara McMichael

**AGENDA**

1. Approval of the minutes from the 03.14.2024 meeting
2. Comprehensive Plan Update – Conservation and Environment Element
3. CIP Project Updates
4. Southwest Suburban General Sewer Plan Update

**MEETING:**

1. Unanimous approval of the 03.14.2024 minutes.
2. Senior Planner Jason Woycke introduced this item which included; a background memo, Chapter 4 of the Comprehensive Plan with mark-up comments and a PowerPoint reviewing the Comprehensive Plan proposed changes related to state, regional and county requirements. The goal of the presentation was to receive council feedback and engagement on policy considerations. The committee discussed HB 1717 concerning tribal participation under the growth management act and HB 1181 related to climate and the natural environment. Director Lathrop stated that the Comprehensive Plan is considered a policy document rather than a regulatory document, in general, references to DMMC code are not included. As the update

process continues the Conservation and Environment Element will be added to an Environment Committee agenda for additional discussion.

3. Manager Beekley introduced Cong Nguyen, Civil Engineer I for a Capital Project Update review. CE I Engineer Nguyen summarized the projects under current construction and projects that are in the planning stage. Details on a couple of projects from the list were highlighted:
  - The Massey Creek Pocket Estuary and Fish Project has hit a couple of roadblocks concerning a large PSE easement through private property. PSE will not allow for the estuary to encroach on their easement and private property owners are not interested in working with the City for providing an easement. The is project will likely be shelved after the design work is complete.
  - The Des Moines Creek Pocket Estuary which will promote salmon habitat is in the information gathering stage. Consultants are using feedback to guide their design work. Since this project focuses on the restoration of salmon habitat outside funding will be more readily available.
4. Manager Beekley provided the Southwest Suburban Sewer District Comprehensive Sewer Plan that is required to be submitted to the state every five years. Engineering and Community Development staff are working to organize City concerns and comments which are due by April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

Meeting adjourned at 5:48 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Jodi Grager, Admin Coordinator



## SURFACE WATER UTILITY OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE MAY 2024

### NPDES OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE OVERVIEW

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Each Permittee shall implement and document a program to regulate maintenance activities and to conduct maintenance activities by the Permittee to prevent or reduce stormwater impacts.

(Western Washington Phase II Municipal Stormwater Permit S5.C.7).

- **Asset Management and Tracking**
  - Cityworks Asset Management Program is used to facilitate and track inspection and maintenance of the City's stormwater assets
  - ArcGIS online mapping of all public stormwater infrastructure
- **Public Stormwater Facility Inspections**
  - 241 total facilities (9 oil water separators, 90 control structures, 4 hydrodynamic separators, 15 infiltration basins, 14 bioswales, 13 detention ponds, 46 detention tanks/vaults, 6 dispersion trenches, 4 infiltration trenches, 2 modular wetlands, 1 rain garden, 9 stormfilters, 16 stormwater wetlands, 2 wet bioswales, 4 wetponds, and 6 wetvaults)
  - 21 total facilities were maintained in 2023
  - Inspected annually
- **Private Stormwater Facility Inspections**
  - 89 total facilities (7 oil water separators, 17 control structures, 4 detention ponds, 18 detention tanks/vaults, 2 dispersion trenches, 3 infiltration trenches, 3 modular wetlands, 6 permeable pavements, 5 rain gardens, 17 stormfilters, and 5 stormwater wetlands)
  - 3 total facilities required maintenance
  - Inspected annually
- **6 Month Construction Inspections**
  - Stormwater assets within active subdivision construction sites are inspected every 6 months.
- **Public Catch basin inspections**
  - 5,068 total CBs - Inspected bi-annually
  - 1,778 CBs inspected in 2023
  - 454 CBs maintained in 2023



## SURFACE WATER UTILITY OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE MAY 2024

- **Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) for City maintenance & storage facilities**
  - A SWPPP was developed for all City heavy equipment maintenance and storage yards, and material storage facilities (Public Works Building Mechanic Shop and Public Works Storage Yard). The maintenance and storage facilities are inspected on an annual and quarterly basis to identify locations of all materials that could cause pollution if spilled or otherwise released into the environment.

### ASSET MANAGEMENT & PROGRAMS

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- **Drainage Concerns**
  - Citizens contact Public Works with drainage concerns that are investigated and addressed as needed. The most common way concerns are received is through the online Fix-it Form.
- **Corrugated Metal Pipe (CMP) Inspections**
  - CMP is no longer an approved standard material for stormwater pipe as installations have an expected service life of 15-40 years.
  - 251 CMP sections will be inspected between 2024-2028 and graded to determine a maintenance and replacement schedule through the City.
- **Pipe Program**
  - Citizens have the opportunity to make frontage improvements at their homes by filling in ditch lines with new pipe and catch basins. The citizen purchases materials and the City's stormwater maintenance crew completes the installation at no cost.
- **Pipe Projects**
  - Each year the City's maintenance crews complete a handful of pipe maintenance and improvement projects.
- **Ditch and Pond Mowing**
  - City owned stormwater ponds and ditch lines are mowed on a regular basis between the spring and summer months.

### STORMWATER MANUAL UPDATE

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The 2021 King County Surface Water Design manual is adopted and used as the City's stormwater design standard. King County has proposed an amendment to this manual that would allow an earlier use of Ecology approved bioretention High Performance Bioretention Soil Mixes (HPBSM) for water quality treatment facilities and flow control best management practices (FCBMP). No impacts from this code change are anticipated for City operations or private developed as this bioretention mix remains optional when designing a project.

# MEMO

To: City Council Environment Committee

From: Jason Woycke, AICP – Senior Planner  
Peyton Murphy, CFM – Land Use Planner II

CC: Tim George, Interim City Manager  
Adrienne Johnson-Newman, Assistant City Manager  
Planning & Development Services Staff

Date: April 29, 2024

Re: Comprehensive Plan Update – April 11, 2024, Environment Committee Meeting Follow-up

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On April 11, 2024, staff presented *Chapter 4: Conservation and Environment Element* of the comprehensive plan update to the Council Environment Committee (Committee). This memo provides responses to the questions posed by the Committee. No presentation or discussion is planned for the May 9<sup>th</sup> meeting; however, staff will be bringing updated information for discussion at a future meeting.

## **Background**

The Des Moines Comprehensive Plan is a policy document that describes how the City will manage its growth and provide necessary services and facilities over a 20-year planning horizon (Year 2044). Des Moines is designated as a High Capacity Transit Community and needs to plan for an additional 3,800 housing units, 2,380 new jobs and 726 net new permanent Emergency Housing Units by 2044. The periodic review to the City's comprehensive plan and development regulations is framed by the Growth Management Act (GMA), Vision 2050 and Countywide Planning Policies (CPPs).

The comprehensive plan includes 12 elements that address community characteristics: land use; transportation; conservation and environment; capital facilities, utilities and public services; parks, recreation and open space; housing; economic development; neighborhoods (North Central, Marina District and Pacific Ridge). These elements are being reviewed by the relevant Council committees before bringing the entire plan to the City Council as a whole for further discussion.

The Conservation and Environment Element (Chapter 4) is aimed at environmental stewardship and protecting the City's environmental assets, with particular emphasis on environmentally critical areas, shorelines, surface and groundwater quality, and climate change. The GMA mandates the protection of aquifer recharge areas, fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas, flood hazard areas, geologically hazardous areas, wetlands, and stream corridors while the Shoreline Management Act provides for the protection of shorelines.

Most of the proposed amendments relate to updating information and data that has changed since the previous comprehensive plan update and edits to ensure consistency with federal, state, and county requirements, tribal requests, and other elements of the comprehensive plan that are being updated.

## Discussion

Staff presented the Conservation and Environment Element to the Committee on April 11, 2024. The Committee had the following questions for staff. Questions have been paraphrased to capture the intent interpreted by staff. Staff is now providing responses, in italics, to the questions.

## Committee Questions and Staff Responses

### 1. Is there specific funding for HB 1181?

*Response: Yes, there is likely going to be up to \$500,000 available for the City to defray the costs of the work involved in doing three things under HB 1181 by the June 30, 2029 deadline:*

- *Adopt a Greenhouse Gas Reduction sub-element (part of a new Climate Element)*
- *Adopt a Climate Resilience sub-element (part of a new Climate Element)*
- *Update the Transportation Element to conform to HB 1181 requirements*

### 2. Is there information on the requirements for tree preservation specifically related to the new Business Park proposed expansion?

*Response: The subject permit is being reviewed for consistency with the current code requirements. Applicable Des Moines Municipal Code (DMMC) regarding trees in the subject zone include chapter 16.25 DMMC and DMMC 18.195.340. The current proposal exceeds the requirements for tree preservation and mitigation planting.*

### 3. What do the tribes want for our comprehensive plan? How will it be practically implemented at the project-scale?

*Response: Staff reached out to the affected tribes and received input from Puyallup Tribe of Indians. They expressed an interest to participate in the City's comprehensive planning. City staff met with a tribal representative who provided guidance on including a Tribal Acknowledgment and a separate Tribal Element. They also suggested that, where policies centered on water quality, fisheries and the environment could be strengthened. The Council Economic Development Committee directed staff to include a tribal acknowledgement in Chapter 1 and weave goals, policies and implementation strategies throughout the plan versus adding a separate Tribal Element.*

*For context on the current tribal engagement process, tribes are given the opportunity to comment on all projects within Des Moines that require public notice. Public notice is required for projects that require SEPA determinations, shoreline permits, variances, and master plans, among other type II, III, and IV land use decisions. Notice is sent to the Duwamish, Kikiallus, Muckleshoot, Puyallup, and Snoqualmie tribes. Tribes may request to have oversight or involvement during construction and/or ground disturbing activities. They may also request archaeological surveys or studies to be conducted prior to permit approval. When such requests are made, staff works closely with the tribes to ensure that tribal concerns are documented and an appropriate course of action is determined. At the project-scale the inclusion of tribal coordination will continue to add a layer of review consistent with state policies.*

### 4. Bioswales and how do they fit into the comprehensive plan? When will the plan become tangible?

*Response: Bioswales are one of many options to treat stormwater runoff and promote water quality. In the near term, the Surface Water Utility is beginning to program water quality retrofit projects into its Capital Improvement Plan, including some bioswales. Longer range planning into the next Surface Water Comprehensive Plan will increasingly emphasize water quality. Specifically, SWCIP0036 "13th Ave S Bioswale Retrofit" is programmed for the 2026/2027 timeframe.*

**5. Is there a calendar listing planning-related work that can be used by Council to assist in its understanding and preparation?**

*Response: The Community Development Department 2024 Work Program shows all of Planning's activities and how they overlap. It was provided at the February 1, 2024, Council Study Session (<https://desmoines.civicweb.net/Portal/MeetingInformation.aspx?Org=Cal&Id=371>).*

**6. What is in the comprehensive plan that encourages or requires cross-jurisdictional coordination?**

*Response: Neighboring cities and state agencies are given the opportunity to comment on all projects within Des Moines that require public notice. Coordination with neighboring jurisdictions is a necessity on many projects due to the sharing of boundaries, roads, watersheds, environmentally critical areas, etc. The City's existing Comprehensive Plan directs the City to:*

- *Coordinate planning activities and development review with state, regional, and local governments, tribes, and institutions to ensure compliance with established plans and regulations affecting Des Moines. (Implementation Strategy LU 1.1.4)*
- *Monitor and seek to influence planning activities and development decisions of neighboring jurisdictions affecting Des Moines neighborhoods, and seek to influence those decisions consistent with the City of Des Moines Comprehensive Plan. (Implementation Strategy LU 1.1.5)*

*Policies HOU 1.2, LU 1.4, TR 1.1, and CE 5.2 and Implementation Strategies HOU 2.1.2, TR 7.1.1, CE 4.3.1, CE 4.4.1, and CE 4.5.1 are specific examples of the required coordination. They outline the coordination of citizen involvement and stakeholder input, affordable housing, street network improvements, watersheds, habitat networks, and funding, among other items.*

**7. Clarify the purpose of the new implementation strategy CE 2.4.3 and the specific 3:1 tree replacement ratio.**

*Response: This requirement for a 3:1 tree replacement ratio for the removal, destruction, or damage of any trees identified to be retained for a project is an existing requirement that was previously added to the Des Moines Municipal Code (DMMC). Since this specific ratio may change in the future, it has been determined that the implementation strategy should be edited to remove the ratio. The DMMC will determine the specific ratio.*