

MINUTES – ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING 05.20.2021

The meeting was called to order at 4:01 PM, Thursday, May 20, 2021, via Zoom, with the following in attendance:

Council Members

Mayor Matt Pina (Chair)
Luisa Bangs (Vice-Chair)
JC Harris

City Staff

Michael Matthias – City Manager
Dan Brewer – Chief Operations Officer
Brandon Carver – Public Works Director
Beth Anne Wroe – Finance Director
Loren Reinhold – SWM Utility Manager
Tyler Beekley – SWM Civil Engineer II
Ben Stryker – Civil Engineer I
Matthew Hutchins – Assistant City Attorney
Jodi Grager – Admin. Assistant

Guests

Councilmembers Traci Buxton, Matt Mahoney and Anthony Martinelli

AGENDA:

1. Approval of 04.15.21 Minutes
2. Poverty Bay Shellfish Protection District Status
3. Stormfest Update
4. WRIA 9 Project Letter of Support

MEETING:

- Unanimous approval of the 04.15.21 minutes
- SWM Civil Engineer II Tyler Beekley provided notes (see Attachment #2) that included historical background on the downgraded status of the commercial shellfish harvesting beds in the Poverty Bay area of Puget Sound. This was a designation assigned by WDOH (Washington State Department of Health) on September 14, 2016. Included in the notes was an overview of the 03.18.21 Poverty Bay Technical Committee Meeting and WDOH's Appendix A: Poverty Bay Annual Shellfish Growing Area Review. He indicated that King County Department of Health requires more data to their evaluation of ongoing pollution identification and correction efforts in the watershed and freshwater discharges to the Conditionally Approved area during rainfall events. Following CE Beekley's presentation the committee members followed up with a discussion that included these points:
 1. The City sent a letter to Midway Sewer District referencing the ongoing problem and the need for increased capacity during rain events.
 2. The sources of fecal counts includes wildlife, pets, and human waste.

3. The NEP (National Estuary Program) is providing primarily education related funding along with a Community Engagement Specialist.
 4. The question of mapping septic tanks within Midway's service area was considered.
 5. There are many agencies that participate in the caretaking of the shoreline: Tribes, DNR, Sewer, City, County and State. Each agency has a role with a specific perspective.
- Civil Engineer I Ben Stryker shared a PowerPoint presentation titled: Annual Highline Stormfest (see Attachment #3). Due to the COVID -19 Pandemic this interactive field-based stormwater science education program for 6th grade students was held virtually in the Spring of 2021. One of the many highlights from this program is the efforts for rain garden installation at several Highline District schools. CE Stryker is hopeful for an in-person Highline Stormfest in 2022.
 - The letter of support for the McSorley Creek Shoreline and Pocket Estuary Restoration project sent to Kim Harper, the Grants Administrator of King County Flood Control District was included as Attachment #4.

The Committee appreciates the SWM Department's commitment to Highline School District through the Stormfest project and challenged the Transportation Department to engage students with the 24th Ave S project. A potential issue with the placement of the SWM drainpipe along the Barnes Creek Trail was mentioned and may require a review as time allows.

Meeting adjourned at 4:46 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Jodi Grager, Admin Asst