

MINUTES – ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING 08.08.2024

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM, Thursday, August 8, 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

Michael Slevin – Public Works Director
Tyler Beekley – Surface Water/Environmental Engineering
Manager
Tommy Owen – City Engineer
Jeff Friend – Finance Director
Matthew Hutchins – Assistant City Attorney
Scott Wilkins - Harbormaster
Sara Lee – Deputy City Clerk

Guests – Mayor Traci Buxton and Councilmember Matt Mahoney
Barbara McMichael, Chuck Coleman

AGENDA

1. Approval of the minutes from the 07.11.2024 meeting
2. Des Moines Creek Basin Committee ILA

MEETING:

1. Unanimous approval of the 07.11.2024 minutes.
2. SW/Environmental Engineering Manager Tyler Beekley provided history of the Des Moines Creek Basin Committee ILA which started in 1996 as an agreement between the Port of Seattle, Cities of SeaTac and Des Moines. The initial phase included WSDOT and King County as funding partners with the purpose of working on Des Moines Creek issues such as flooding at Des Moines Beach Park. The ILA also addressed habitat restoration projects and initiated an Operations and Maintenance Plan to sustain improvements. The early ILAs were focused on design of necessary infrastructure. In 2004 the Regional Detention Facility, the bypass pipeline and restoration projects began. Each Des Moines Creek Basin Committee member is paying in to an annual O and M fund based on the percentage of impervious surface within jurisdictions. The Committee has been discussing a new ILA (Iteration #5) to replace the current ILA which expires at the end of 2024. The ILA draft has been reviewed by each partner's legal team. Added items include invasive species monitoring, education and outreach, and water quality. In order to develop a Needs Assessment to determine what the basin requires, the Basin Committee will be monitoring water quality for various pollutants to review the health of the creek. This would result in a new study to develop a list of potential projects for the Des Moines Creek Basin Committee. Des Moines contributes \$60,000 which is based on 18% impervious area within the

City. The Basin Committee has a large reserve fund which may allow for a decrease in annual funding. The Environment Committee members discussion included:

- WSDOT participation
- Status of previous goals
- List of pollutants for monitoring
- Prior ILAs focus on septic pollutants
- New ILA water quality metrics
- Committee project consensus
- Outreach and Education Website
- Continued reporting of Basin Committee progress to Environment Committee
- Request to include historic graphics and highlights of prior ILAs in the Council Packet when the draft is presented for approval

Citizen Barbara McMichael contributed public comment regarding the ILA. She questioned how the warehouses on S 216th relate to the impermeable area of either the Port of Seattle or the City of Des Moines? Ms. McMichael stated that public understanding of this issue has changed over the last 20 years along with the designation of Des Moines as an overburdened community due to environmental impacts. She encouraged development of the website and use of Citizen Science volunteers for monitoring wildlife.

Meeting adjourned at 5:31 p.m. Minutes respectfully submitted by: Jodi Grager, Admin Coordinator