



# Environmental Services Commission

## Minutes

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Zoom Meeting

February 10, 2022

Commissioner Seaman called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

Commission Members Present: Wayne Wooster, Grant Middleton, Emily Hall, Erich Sachs, Deanna Seaman, Matthew Benedict, Ken Howes, Rachael Laitila, Nate Mozer, Marty Campbell, \*Richard Doenges, \*Ester Beaumier.

Commission Members Absent: Frankie Johnson and Janette Simon.

Director Slevin noted this is a “rate year” and it will be a busy and challenging year.

### **Introduction of New Commissioners**

Christina Lorella welcomed recently appointed commission members: Rachael Laitila and Erich Sachs.

### **Election of Chair & Vice Chair**

Commissioner Hall moved to elect Deanna Seaman as Chair and Frankie Johnson as Vice-Chair of the Environmental Services Commission. Seconded by Commissioner Campbell. Voice vote was taken and carried. The motion was adopted.

### **Nutrient Presentation (Department of Ecology)**

Vince McGowan, Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE) Water Quality Program Manager, briefly discussed nutrient pollution in the Puget Sound and the Puget Sound Nutrient General Permit. He stated in 2017 DOE started work on the nutrient reduction plan and looking at the science around the issue. He noted most wastewater treatment plants do not currently have the infrastructure in place to control nutrients.

Mr. McGowan reviewed the Puget Sound Nutrient General Permit and requirements for the first five years, which include optimizing treatment process, monitoring discharge, and beginning to plan for future upgrades. He stated this is the first step in a long process to reduce nutrients entering the Puget Sound, noting the planning requirements in the permit are due by December 31, 2025. He concluded by reviewing funding opportunities available to assist with planning, optimizing, and monitor.

Discussion ensued regarding affects the nutrient general permit would have on private sector large facilities, permits are specific to the municipality, guidance given by permit writers, and the need to maintain ongoing dialogue.

Director Slevin shared some of the City’s viewpoints, noting there is some disagreement.

**Overview of 2022 Work Plan**

Director Slevin reviewed the 2022 work plan, noting presentations are in line with the City's budget schedule. He asked commissioners to let staff know if there are any items they would like add. Discussion followed requesting a short presentation on Tacoma's concerns with the General Nutrient Permit, Environmental Services grant strategy.

**Other Items of Interest**

Director Slevin stated due to inflation and interest rates the Environmental Services is moving up the bond sale to March 2022 for the three utilities.

**Adjournment**

The meeting ended at 5:10 p.m.

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**Environmental Services Commission  
Schedule of meetings for 2021**

**DRAFT**

<b>January 4</b>	Cancelled
<b>February 11</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Election of Chair &amp; Vice Chair</li><li>• Meeting Schedule for 2021 &amp; Work Plan</li><li>• Show 5 utilities – EnviroChallenger</li></ul>
<b>March 11</b>	Cancelled
<b>April 8</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Stormwater Management Manual</li><li>• TMC 12.08</li><li>• COVID Budget Impacts</li></ul>
<b>May 13</b>	Cancelled
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Note: ES attends GPFC meeting to provide an overview of ESC</li></ul>
<b>June 10</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2020 ES Financial Update</li><li>• Tours – CTP (tentative)</li></ul>
<b>July 15 Special Meeting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tours – Solid Waste (tentative)</li></ul>
<b>August 12</b>	Cancelled
<b>September 16 Special Meeting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tours – Stormwater (tentative)</li></ul>
<b>October 14</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ES Strategic Plan Update – B Team Update</li></ul>
<b>November 11</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Agenda for upcoming Rate &amp; Budget Year</li></ul>
<b>December 9</b>	Cancelled