



# Environmental Services Commission

## Minutes

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Center for Urban Waters – 325 E D St  
Zoom Meeting

November 9, 2023

Chair Beaumier called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

Commission Members Present: Bruce Martin, Erich Sachs, Grant Middleton, Matthew Benedict, Karen DiNicola, Jeff Paradise (arrived approximately 4:30 p.m.), and \*Esther Beaumier.

Commission Members Absent: Chad Sutter, Mindi Keller, Marty Campbell, \*Richard Doenges, Alex Harman, and Rachael Laitila.

Chair Beaumier stated currently there is not a quorum present, and the approval of minutes will be postponed. Informal discussion ensued while awaiting additional commissioners.

### Public Comment

*The public comment period is reserved for items on the current agenda only. Comments will be limited to the amount of time announced by the chair, presiding officer, or staff liaison, no more than five minutes per person per meeting.*

No Public Comment was received.

### Wastewater Comprehensive Plan Update

Teresa Dressler and Teresa Peterson, Science & Engineering Division, introduced themselves. Ms. Peterson provided an update on the Wastewater Comprehensive Plan update including the recent stakeholder engagement and results on a broad community survey.

Ms. Dressler showed a Home In Tacoma Introduction Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rgTy2q02HIQ>. She then presented an evaluation of impacts to the wastewater system from Home in Tacoma scenarios. The full PowerPoint presentation is attached.

Discussion ensued regarding the following:

1. North End Treatment Plant (NETP) Treatment Capacity
  - a. Commissioner DiNicola expressed concern about NETP having enough treatment capacity.
  - b. Staff indicated NETP has a Re-Rate Study that was submitted to Ecology in 2012 and updated in 2022 that indicates NETP has capacity for future projected growth.

2. Advanced Wastewater Treatment Consideration
  - a. Commissioner DiNicola asked if consideration for advanced wastewater treatment requirements including nutrients as part of the comprehensive planning effort.
  - b. Staff confirmed that advanced wastewater treatment for nutrients was evaluated, but it is not currently a regulatory requirement to be implemented. It was also noted that a more detailed evaluation is required as part of the Puget Sound Nutrients General Permit.
3. Pretreatment Requirements
  - a. Commissioner DiNicola asked about pretreatment requirements including PFAS and pharmaceuticals.
  - b. Staff noted that neither are currently required to be removed or monitored by the City; however, there are ongoing industry discussions about both. The City is participating in an Ecology funded study to better understand PFAS in wastewater and evaluate the feasibility for PFAS removal in wastewater with a developing technology. Staff also noted that there are no widely available treatment technologies for either PFAS or pharmaceuticals in wastewater.
4. Pierce County and neighboring jurisdictions
  - a. Chair Beaumier inquired whether the City is working with Pierce County and other neighboring jurisdictions on potential capacity and increased flow issues.
  - b. Staff confirmed that there are ongoing discussions with Pierce County and other partner agencies to update Interlocal Agreements.

#### **Commissioner Other Items of Interest**

1. Resident Communications
  - a. Commissioner DiNicola stated she has spoken to several residents about rates and regulations.
  - b. Chair Beaumier requested Commissioner DiNicola compile the feedback she received and provide it to staff so they can help assess the best way to respond.
2. NETP Development
  - a. Commissioner DiNicola inquired about how the NETP has been impacted by all the new development in the area.
  - b. Staff indicated the development is within the Re-Rate Study's flow and load capacity for NETP.
3. NETP Storm Concerns
  - a. Commissioner DiNicola expressed concern about NETP's capabilities to handle storm events after a recent visit.
  - b. A conversation occurred about storm events at the NETP and the resulting impacts of flows at the plant. Storm events regionally can cause flows to increase at the treatment plants due to infiltration and inflow in the collection system. ES actively tries to reduce this flow through replacing aging infrastructure.

Kurt Fremont, Business Operations Division Manager, reviewed the upcoming schedule and reminded Commissioners again that next year is a rate year and they have a lot of work ahead of them.

Chair Beaumier noted the presence of a quorum, stating Commissioner Paradise arrived during the presentation. She then asked to move forward with consideration for the approval of minutes.

**Approval of the minutes of the March 9th, April 13th, May 11th, and June 8th meetings**

Commissioner Benedict moved to approve the minutes of the March 9<sup>th</sup>, April 13<sup>th</sup>, May 11<sup>th</sup>, and June 8<sup>th</sup> meetings, as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Sachs. Commissioner DiNicola asked commissioners whether they would like to see future minutes more detailed. Commissioners agreed that staff should try to include more detail in the minutes to capture the “flavor” of the meeting better.

Voice vote was taken and carried. The minutes, as presented, were approved.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 5:23 p.m.