

Meeting Minutes

City of Bainbridge Island Environmental Technical Advisory Committee

September 16, 2021

Location: Zoom

Members Present:

Charlie Kratzer, Ben Harrison, Melanie Keenan, Jane Hannuksela, Malcolm Gander, and Brian Harmon

Members Absent:

Dylan Frazer, Juan Rovalo

Meeting began at 3:06 pm

Minutes from March 18, 2021 meeting approved by 6-0 vote.

New Members

- Malcom Gander and Brian Harmon introduced themselves. Malcom is a hydrogeologist and Brian is a fisheries biologist and a natural resource scientist.

Council Liaison Report (Christy Carr)

- Shoreline Master Program (SMP) has been under periodic review since 2020. ETAC has not been invited to review. Christy will reach out to COBI staff to see why ETAC has not been invited, since reviewing the SMP is part of the specified duties of ETAC.

Chair Report (Charlie Kratzer)

- Charlie reported on his ETAC activities since the last official meeting on March 18th. These activities included the following items.
- April 27th zoom presentation of GW Fact Sheet to City Council
- May 19th zoom meeting with Chris Wierzbicki and Maureen Whalen about staff edits on the GW Fact Sheet. The final version of the fact sheet was sent to COBI staff and the Council on May 21st and was highlighted in the City Manager's Report on May 28th
- GW Fact Sheet has been highlighted on a rotating front page of the COBI website for the past few weeks
- May 20th zoom presentation of the GW Fact Sheet to the BI Watershed Council (Deb Rudnick) and heard presentation by Laurie Geissenger (Vashon Island GWMP Vice-Chair in 1998). Melanie, Ben, and Jane also attended from ETAC. Laurie reported that the Vashon GWMP cost about \$200K/yr and took about 10 years. This was back when

Ecology provided staff support and some funding. Vashon has an ongoing GW protection committee that meets quarterly.

- September 2nd zoom meeting of ETAC GWMP sub-committee (Charlie and Melanie only) with Maureen Whalen to discuss how to publicize the GW Fact Sheet and kickoff the GWMP process.
- September 3rd email from City Manager to Chairs of Advisory Committees requesting input on how to spend \$7M in ARPA funds.
- ETAC has an opening for a 9th member. Until that position is filled, ETAC will be limited to 3 members on sub-committees.

Update on GWMP process (Maureen Whalen)

- Maureen gave a preview of her presentation to the Council for 9/21/21 to get feedback from ETAC
- Feedback from ETAC included: (1) need to re-evaluate and optimize the groundwater monitoring, (2) need to use adaptive management as information comes in from modeling and the Early Warning Levels (EWLs), (3) need to re-evaluate the use of EWLs, (4) need to start establishing advisory committees for defining most elements of the GWMP, (5) need to define the goal for groundwater levels – carrying capacity vs safe yield vs long-term sustainability, (6) reinforce the significance of sole-source designation, (7) emphasize ways to increase recharge (stormwater retention and wastewater reuse), (8) emphasize ways to minimize increases in demand (increased water conservation and water use efficiency), and (9) Melanie wanted time to meet with ETAC's GWMP sub-committee to refine ETAC's list.
- Charlie will submit this refined list to Maureen before the 9/21 Council meeting.

ETAC recommendations for ARPA funding

- After much discussion on the 12 items recommended by the Council, ETAC members provided their top 5
- The consensus top 5-6 priorities (in order) were: (1) culvert projects, (2) water system climate resiliency upgrades – with emphasis on funding the design and operation of an optimized groundwater monitoring network, (3) wastewater beneficial reuse, (4) wastewater treatment plant near-term capacity upgrades, (5) stormwater – although the stormwater project identified by the Council did not have a scope, ETAC supports any projects that would help retain stormwater on the island, and (6) biodigester.
- Charlie will provide this list to the Council and the City Manager before the 9/21 Council meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 5:16 p.m.



Charlie Kratzer, Chair 10/28/21