

Meeting Minutes

City of Bainbridge Island Environmental Technical Advisory Committee

December 15, 2022

Location: City Hall

Members Present:

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

Members Absent:

Dylan Fraser and Rick Huey

COBI Staff and Council Present:

Renee Argetsinger (Planning Adm Spec), Patty Charnas (Planning Director), Jon Quitslund (Council Liaison)

Meeting began at 3:02 pm

Chair modified agenda to include a discussion of nominating a new ETAC Chair. Malcolm and Ben expressed possible interest. The topic will be discussed more at a future meeting.

Minutes from October 20, 2022 meeting approved by 5-0 vote.

Chair Report (Charlie Kratzer)

- Chair provided a long review of the 49 minutes in front of the Council on 12/13, trying to convince them that ETAC can work on innovative, scientific aspects of stormwater and wastewater reuse without invading the turf of UAC and CCAC. Ultimately, the Council voted 4-3 against ETAC's involvement with considerable help from the City Manager.
- Chair reminded the Council many times that he was presenting the 2022 workplan at the end of the year due to lack of room on Council agendas since May.
- Chair was challenged by some Council members and the City Manager to show what topics ETAC can work on relative to stormwater and wastewater reuse issues without infringing on UAC work.
- Chair reminded Council that ETAC initiated and worked on the GWMP since its beginning in 2016 and that stormwater and wastewater reuse would be the two main levers that can be used to increase recharge to the island's aquifers going forward.
- The following day, 12/14, Chair provided a public comment at both the UAC and CCAC meetings about how ETAC can work on innovative, scientific aspects of stormwater and wastewater reuse without infringing on their work and if they had thoughts on the matter to bring it up for discussion at a future meeting of theirs and report back to the Chair.

Council Liaison Report (Jon Quitslund)

- Jon printed out the entire draft GWMP and commented that it includes a lot of good information but reads disjointed and could use some editing.
- Jon feels that there needs to be more discussion by the Council about the roles of ETAC, UAC, and CCAC before workplans are presented for 2023.
- Jon presented an update on the Housing Action Plan and the Winslow Subarea Plan.
- Shoreline Management Plan and Comp Plan review processes are still in early stages and have not been presented to Council yet.

Update on GWMP process

- Ben and Brian have both reviewed most of the draft GWMP at this point.
- Ben would like to see better spatial coverage of the groundwater monitoring network, especially near the shoreline. He would like to see more outreach to well-owners and citizens about the monitoring network.
- Brian wants to make sure the GWMP has a full discussion of sustainable groundwater use, including the beneficial uses of wetlands, streams, and vegetation in addition to drinking water.
- Melanie, Malcolm, and Charlie want to make sure that the GWMP gets completed in a comprehensive way that includes all the information and outreach that is ordinarily a part of GWMPs.

Miscellaneous

- All members seemed concerned about how best to find a suitable replacement for Maureen. The option of hiring a consultant should have several caveats such that there are no conflicts-of-interest, community outreach, and local control of the process.
- In a discussion of what a 2023 workplan should include, there was consensus that it should include all the items in the 2022 workplan, including innovative, scientific aspects of stormwater and wastewater reuse.
- Patty Charnas provided a review of her long and extensive environmental career with several federal agencies as well as local county governments. She hopes to be a resource for and an asset to ETAC in defining projects to contribute to.

Meeting adjourned at 4:21 p.m.