

MINUTES OF THE LACEY CITY COUNCIL WORKSESSION

FEBRUARY 25, 2021

4:00 P.M. – 4:58 P.M.

REMOTE ONLY

COUNCIL PRESENT: MAYOR RYDER, DEPUTY MAYOR PRATT, COUNCILMEMBERS
GREENSTEIN, STEADMAN (AUDIO ONLY) COX, KUNKEL, MILLER

STAFF PRESENT: S. SPENCE, J. BURBIDGE, D. SCHNEIDER, J. RECTOR, E.
FONTAINE

ACTION: APPROVE WORKSESSION AGENDA

MOTION: MOTION MADE, SECONDED AND CARRIED BY COUNCILMEMBER
GREENSTEIN AND DEPUTY MAYOR PRATT

WRIA 13 WATERSHED RESTORATION AND ENHANCEMENT PLAN

STAFF: JULIE RECTOR, WATER QUALITY ANALYST
ANGELA JOHNSON, STREAMFLOW RESTORATION PLANNER

ACTION: INFORMATION ONLY

Angela Johnson, Streamflow Restoration Planner with the Washington Department of Ecology, and lead coordinator for the WRIA 13 Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Committee (“WREC”) provided a presentation to Council on the process and the Plan.

The following provides some highlights from the Plan, including elements where the City will have a major role in Plan implementation.

Members on the WREC represent a wide range of stakeholders in WRIA 13, which is comprised of the Deschutes River watershed and a number of other sub-basins including the Woodland Creek sub-basin. The City has been active on the committee since its inception in October 2018. Deputy Mayor Pratt is Lacey’s designated representative on the WREC and participated on its technical sub-committees.

The final draft Plan has recently been completed, and the Executive Summary provided to Council. The Plan must be approved by the stakeholder jurisdictions and then by the full WREC before it is sent to the Department of Ecology (DOE) for final approval. Because the law requires DOE to review and approve the Plan by June 30,

2021, the schedule requires stakeholders to approve the Plan by March, and for the WREC to approve sending the plan to DOE in April.

As required by law, the Plan accomplishes the following:

- Identifies the projected number of new permit-exempt domestic groundwater wells within the boundaries of WRIA 13 for the 20-year period of 2018 – 2038.
- Estimates instream flow impacts from the consumptive use of these wells, within the entire basin as well as within defined sub-basins.
- Identifies projects for offsetting the instream flow impacts from these wells.
- Quantifies the water offsets to be provided by these projects and provides assurances that implementation will also provide a net ecological benefit to the watershed.

It is anticipated that the City will have a role in implementing the following recommendations:

- Participation on a long-term implementation group that will oversee and track implementation of this Plan. The WREC is referring to this group as the Deschutes River Council.
- A lead role in implementing the Hicks Lake Stormwater. This project that will upgrade Lacey's existing stormwater facility to provide additional water quality treatment and to incorporate groundwater infiltration which will provide water offsets. This is the only viable water offset project proposed in the Woodland Creek sub-basin.
- Thurston County will look at their policies for opportunities to promote connections to Group A water systems.

Other policies of interest to the City include:

- Thurston County policy to revisit the current restrictions on the use of reclaimed water within the county.
- Improvements to DOE well log database, to clarify details on well construction and improve publicly accessible well log data.
- Creating a position at DOE for a South Sound water steward.
- Investigate whether changes are needed to the instream flow rules in WRIA 13.

Most of the funding for implementation is expected to come from state grants, including Streamflow Restoration grants administered by the DOE.

A request to authorize approval of the WRIA 13 Watershed Restoration Enhancement plan will be presented to full Council at the March 18, 2021, Council meeting.

NISQUALLY RIVER COUNCIL UPDATE

STAFF: JULIE RECTOR, WATER QUALITY ANALYST

ACTION: INFORMATION ONLY

Julie Rector, Water Quality Analyst, briefed Council on an invitation to the City of Lacey to serve as a voting member on the Nisqually River Council.

The Nisqually River Council (NRC) is a voluntary coordination organization created in 1987 by the State Legislature. Its mission is to create sustainability in the Nisqually River watershed by developing a common culture of environmental, social, and economic balance.

The NRC currently has 24 member agencies representing state, federal, tribal and local governments, as well as an active citizen's advisory committee. The NRC is a forum for planning and collaboration among the governments and community members of the Nisqually Watershed. The actions of the NRC are guided by the Nisqually Watershed Stewardship Plan, which promotes efforts for engaging the public, promoting sustainable businesses, restoring and enhancing fish habitat, and in general promoting a healthy, vibrant watershed for people who live and recreate in the watershed.

The NRC also has close relationships with several programs that help to implement its mission. These include the Nisqually River Foundation, the Nisqually River Education Project, Nisqually Stream Stewards, Nisqually Land Trust, and the Nisqually Community Forest. Each of the NRC committees and its partner programs provide reports at each Council meeting.

The City of Lacey has long been both a formal and informal stakeholder in planning and stewardship processes for the Nisqually Watershed. In particular, Lacey has been actively participating on the WRIA 11 Planning Unit which developed the 2004 *Nisqually River Watershed Plan* as well as its 2019 addendum which plans for offsetting instream impacts from new permit exempt wells.

While the WRIA 11 Planning Unit and the NRC have many mutual and overlapping interests, they have been operating separately, under different mandates and funding sources. It was proposed that efficiencies in operation, and better coordination, can be gained by consolidating the Planning Unit under the umbrella of the NRC. In August 2020, the NRC approved moving forward with a proposal to incorporate the

WRIA 11 Planning Unit as a permanent standing committee of the NRC. This will further facilitate planning and coordination within the watershed.

Further, it was recognized that not all entities represented on the WRIA 11 Planning Unit were represented on the NRC. To address this, the Chair of the NRC extended invitations to the Cities of Lacey, Olympia, and DuPont, to become members of the NRC.

By joining the NRC, the City's designated representative will be the City's liaison with the NRC, and consequently will be expected to attend monthly meetings. The representative will also vote as needed on issues put before the NRC, such as public comment letters, or letters of support for grants and other initiatives that further its goals for a healthy watershed.

A Resolution to accept the invitation to join the NRC will be presented to full Council at the March 18, 2021 City Council meeting.

UPDATE FROM LACEY PARKS, CULTURE & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

STAFF: JEN BURBIDGE, PARKS, CULTURE & RECREATION DIRECTOR

ACTION: INFORMATION ONLY

Jen Burbidge, Parks, Culture & Recreation Director provided an update on Department programs and their response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Council and staff discussed restrictions for upcoming events, to include a modified 3rd of July Fireworks show. Staff advised that multiple scenarios are being considered and will be inclusive to whatever State restrictions are in place at the time.

A more detailed comprehensive briefing will be provided at the March 1, 2021, Community Relations & Public Affairs Committee meeting.