



King County Advisory Committee Meeting - Approved

July 28, 2022

3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Committee Members:

Chair, Mayor Dana Ralph, City of Kent
Vice Chair, Mayor Rob McFarland, City of North Bend
Councilmember Jeremy Barksdale, City of Bellevue
Mayor Carol Benson, City of Black Diamond
Mayor Allan Ekberg, City of Tukwila
Emily Flanagan, City of Redmond
Ken Hearing, Unincorporated King County
Councilmember Michelle Hogg, City of Duvall
Councilmember Karen Howe, City of Sammamish
Cheryl Paston, City of Bellevue
Mayor Katherine Ross, City of Snoqualmie
Mayor Henry Sladek, City of Skykomish

Alternates:

Mayor Leanne Guier, Alternate SCA, City of Pacific
Councilmember JC Harris, City of Des Moines
Deputy Mayor Melanie O’Cain, Alternate SCA, City of Kenmore
Councilmember Valerie O’Halloran, City of Renton
Councilmember Alex Pedersen, City of Seattle
April Putney, Chief of Staff, King County
Councilmember Chris Stearns, City of Auburn

Staff

Executive Director Michelle Clark, Rebecca Mendelsohn, Megan Smith, Brian Murray, Sherry Edquid, Mike Mactutis, Ron Straka, Kazia Memel, Linda De Boldt

Facilitator:

Kjristine Lund, Lund Consulting

Call to Order

Chair Ralph called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. Facilitator Kjristine Lund called roll.

Housekeeping

Chair Ralph asked that all participants use the “raised-hand” method instead of writing chat messages during the meeting. The Chair also asked that any use of chat be limited to Committee members and not staff or the general public.

Public Comments

No public comments.

Approval of the Meeting Summary from July 7, 2022

Councilmember Hogg moved to approve the meeting summary, and the motion was seconded by Vice Chair Mayor McFarland. The motion to approve the meeting minutes passed unanimously.

Executive Director Report

Executive Director Michelle Clark started by thanking the staff who joined the Joint Basin Technical Committee meeting.

She noted that the King County Council will start a two-week recess on Monday, August 1, 2022. There will not be a full board meeting in the month of August. The Executive Committee meeting will be held on August 17.

Executive Director Clark continued with an explanation of the overall process for making the budget and creation of the letter for the benefit of the new members, including Facilitator Lund’s role and what the Board does with the recommendations that it receives.

In the next meeting Jason Wilkinson will speak about the flood hazard management plan and what the County is doing with the plan. This plan is a functional part of the King County Land Use Plan.

The Board is slated to decide regarding the \$14 million for flood-reduction grants in late September or early October. The Board received 58 applications for the funds.

2023 Budget Discussion

Facilitator Lund informed the group that she would send out revised documents after this meeting. Brian Murray started by giving a recap of what is in the documents, and an orientation on what is in the packet which was attached to the meeting agenda.

Mr. Murray continued by sharing the Preliminary Draft: 2023 Operating Budget Comparison, and highlighted some changes since the June meeting. There was some discussion regarding these changes and how the sums presented were calculated as differences. Ken Hearing noted that two projects in the Snoqualmie Basin, items 17 and 24, are related to each other and should be considered together. Councilmember O’Halloran noted that the Cedar River sediment removal project needs to be accelerated because of new information showing that sediment is accumulating at a faster rate than previously predicted.

Potential Themes for Budget Letter

Vice Chair Mayor McFarland started the discussion by bringing up what Executive Director Clark said about the gap between revenues and projects and he thinks that a very strong statement needs to be made regarding the need to increase revenue. He requests the guidance of more senior members on identifying funding opportunities. Director Clark reminded the group that the revenue source for the Flood District is a property tax levy which the Board of Supervisors must vote on by the end November every year.

Councilmember Barksdale said it is important to highlight the cost-drivers on construction due to inflation, to emphasize investing in urban area flood reduction, to continue to emphasize equity and social justice, and to express support for the District's work on increasing transparency on the budget and decision-making. He asked if it would be possible to get a red-line version of the draft work plan. Executive Director Clark informed him that there is no draft work plan at this time, but she could provide the adopted plan from last year.

Councilmember Hogg asked about the format of the budget. She said the SCA caucus would like to see a column in the budget which describes which entity is managing each project. She also asked if there are specific projects that have been added or removed this year. Chair Ralph agreed that it would be helpful to show which projects have been closed-out or removed for other reasons. Mayor McFarland suggested that projects be assigned a number that could remain the same throughout instead of names which could change. Executive Director Clark mentioned that the County has a number process but does not know if it would be helpful for this issue. Brian Murry explained that the County numbering process may not be helpful. Councilmember Barksdale suggested that the County might try a platform such as "Air Table" to help track the projects.

Facilitator Lund shared her screen notes summarizing comments from the Committee for items to be included in the letter.

Councilmember O'Halloran brought up that it would be good to follow-up on prior year letters and state that the Advisory Committee wants an active role in the County Flood Hazard Reduction Plan update especially on proposed policies.

Councilmember Hogg wanted to note appreciation to the County for considering equity and re-emphasizing the importance of equity and social justice, and to express appreciation for the District taking care to educate and engage the Advisory Committee more actively this year. She also asked Executive Director if she had any recommendations about topics to emphasize. Director Clark responded by thanking the Councilmember but noting this is the Advisory Committee's letter. Facilitator Lund said she would review previous meeting notes to be sure the prior comments from the Committee are also included in the letter, if any are missing.

Other Business

Councilmember Hogg asked if the Committee will be meeting in person next year or still remotely. Executive Director Clark asked the attendees if there would be a quorum if the group met in person. She said that if the members could commit to attending in person next year then it could be arranged. She said that if the Committee wants to meet in person then this should be noted in the letter. Councilmember Harris said that he strongly favored some sort of hybrid option.

Mayor Guier suggested that the first meeting of the year be held in person.

Next Meeting Plans

The next scheduled meeting for the Advisory Committee is August 16, 2022, at 1:00 pm on Zoom. The final meeting is scheduled for August 24, 2022 at 10:00 am. The Joint Basin Technical Committee meeting will be held on August 10, 2022.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.