

King County Clean Water Plan

Meeting Summary

Submitted by Jeff Clarke and Leslie Webster

Meeting #1: May 13, 2019

This was the kickoff meeting; it followed a Webinar on May 8th that set out the reasons for the Clean Water Plan effort, and the mission of the Advisory Group. After introductions, facilitator Rob Greenwood set out the ground rules for our discussions. Christie True spoke about the need for work on water quality, that there is much to do, the potential for significant investment, and the competition for public resources. Mark Isaacson emphasized how important the effort and the group's input is to King County. He pointed out issues such as affordability, sizing storm water facilities in a time of climate change, aging infrastructure, and changing regulations.

The group then spoke in turn about their questions and concerns about the situation and the process. Some of the comments included:

- What do we do about old infrastructure?
- Look to long-term solutions
- Look at how different systems connect and affect each other
- Don't ignore social justice

Steve Tolzman (King County) spoke about the need to make major investments in water systems, to explore tradeoffs and develop broad strategic directions. We will be going through a Scenario Planning process, looking at different plausible future worlds and at various social and economic drivers as well as engineering. The effort will look at least to a 40-year time frame.

Sonia-Lynn Abenojar, King County's Regional Engagement Project Manager, discussed regional engagement, how to involve people in the process. King County wants to invite a wide range of voices. They need to be aware of various constraints to groups of people participating, and must help people to understand the issues and process. The effort will be centered on five areas:

- External Advisory Group
- In-person engagement at key points
- General Community outreach
- Youth engagement
- Tailored engagement—tribes, local government, etc.

The next meeting is July 24.