

**Georgetown Wet Weather Treatment Station
Design Advisory Group**

Meeting Summary

January 29, 2015 6:00- 8:00 p.m.

South Seattle College Georgetown Campus, 6737 Corson Avenue South

Overview

On January 29, 2015 the King County Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) hosted the first Design Advisory Group (DAG) meeting for the Georgetown Wet Weather Treatment Station. The DAG members will work collaboratively with each other and King County on design guidelines that will inform the facility's design. The DAG will also consider and explore joint uses that complement the needs and constraints of the facility and the broader community.

Topics for the January 29 meeting included:

- Development of Design Advisory Group charter and meeting ground rules
- Overview of the Georgetown Wet Weather Treatment Station project
- Outline of the facility requirements

Welcome and Introductions

Meeting facilitator Penny Mabie welcomed participants and thanked everyone for their attendance. Penny led a round of introductions and reviewed the meeting purpose and agenda.

Brief Project and DAG Overview

WTD community relations lead Kristine Cramer provided a high-level overview of the project. Kristine reviewed the combined sewer system in the Georgetown community, explaining that both sewage and stormwater go into the same sewer pipes. During large heavy rains, the combined system can overflow and this is called a combined sewer overflow (CSO). CSOs are designed to prevent backups into homes and businesses and discharge into local water bodies, including the Duwamish River. King County is working to reduce the occurrences of CSOs throughout their service area. In Georgetown, King County has determined the appropriate solution to treat CSOs is a wet weather treatment facility. The facility will treat excess stormwater and wastewater that enters the system during large storms prior to releasing it into the Duwamish River.

Kristine thanked the group for their interest and participation and explained why King County formed a DAG. The DAG was brought together to help guide the aesthetic and programmatic design of the new station. The group will represent the diverse experiences, areas of knowledge and interests of Georgetown as well as help King County ensure the facility fits into the Georgetown community.

- DAG members James Rasmussen and Sherell Ehlers asked if King County would reach out and brief the community and neighborhood groups.
 - Kristine responded that King County would be doing community outreach during the DAG process and that they are always willing to brief community groups. Kristine explained that King County would also use the Georgetown listserv and Georgetown Gazette to communicate with the community. The Monday after each meeting, King County will send a high-level summary to the DAG members, the Georgetown listserv, and post it to the project website (www.kingcounty.gov/GeorgetownWWTS).

Kristine reviewed the DAG meeting schedule and confirmed meeting dates. The date for meeting four is still being confirmed. Kristine shared that DAG meeting five is expected to be held in October or November 2015 and meeting six in April 2016. Kristine assured the DAG that King County will bring the appropriate project staff to each meeting in order to have well-informed and relevant conversations.

DAG Charter

Penny reviewed the draft DAG charter and asked for any proposed revisions. The DAG would like the charter to be updated from “aesthetic design” to “programmatically and aesthetically designed”. There were no other proposed updates. The charter will be updated and the DAG will approve a final version at the following meeting.

Project Overview and Facility Requirements

Project Manager Michael Popiwny provided an overview of the project to-date and reviewed the facility layout and requirements (see presentation).

- James asked if this project was related to the Duwamish diagonal outfall.
 - The Georgetown Wet Weather Treatment Station is not related to the Duwamish diagonal pipe.
 - The Duwamish diagonal is a large pipe that receives flows from multiple City of Seattle and King County CSOs. One of the King County CSOs that releases into the Duwamish diagonal (Bayview South) is already controlled. The other two (Bayview North and Hanford at Rainier) will be controlled with a storage project that will begin construction later this year. The storage tank will be built near the corner of S. Hanford Street and Martin Luther King Way S. To learn more about the project visit www.kingcounty.gov/environment/wtd/Construction/Seattle/HanfordCSO.aspx.¹
- DAG member Cari Simson asked if King County took climate change into the model while designing the station.
 - Michael responded that this treatment facility accounts for predicted climate change.
- DAG member Grace Lothrop asked how often this treatment facility would run.
 - Michael explained that the facility will run during large storm events when stormwater and wastewater flows exceed system capacity. The facility will be capable of treating 70 million gallons of wastewater per day. It is estimated that the facility will operate no more than 20 times per year and for the most part for less than 12 hours during each operation period.

¹ This information was gathered by King County staff following the meeting.
 Design Advisory Group January 29, 2015 Meeting Summary

- DAG member Allan Phillips asked if King County considered replacing the whole system with a separate sewer and stormwater system. He assumed it would be too costly.
 - Michael responded that it would be too costly and disruptive to the community to replace the whole system.
- Sherell asked about opportunities for green stormwater infrastructure.
 - Kristine explained that with the large amount of flows in the area, green stormwater solutions would have no impact on the size of the treatment facility. In order to address the large volume requiring treatment in the Brandon and South Michigan basins, a treatment facility is the best option.
 - Sherell shared that even though green stormwater infrastructure would not impact the project, the community would like to be reconsidered for RainWise eligibility.
- The group asked Michael to explain what parts of the facility are above ground and what parts are below ground.
 - Michael explained that the majority of the station is above ground to ensure that the facility can be both energy efficient and operate during a power outage. Keeping the facility above ground allows flows to be gravity fed as they move through the steps of treatment and flow to the river following treatment, reducing the need for pumps.
- Cari asked if Michael could be more specific about the type of solids that would be separated out in the facility and re-introduced into the system after the large storms pass.
 - Michael explained it was a very liquid bio-solids substance, not like the bio-solids that get separated and then de-watered at other full treatment facilities such as Brightwater.
- DAG member Angielena Chamberlain asked about odor control.
 - Michael replied that the facility would be using carbon-based odor control to limit the use of chemicals. Carbon vessels will clean the air that rises to the top of the storage basins inside the facility prior to releasing it out to the atmosphere.
- The group asked if a new CSO outfall would have to be built and if the existing CSO outfall facilities would be removed.
 - Michael responded that a new outfall structure will be built to comply with regulations set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. He explained that the existing CSO outfall needs to stay in place. The new regulations state there may still be one untreated CSO event per year to account for the largest storms.
- Cari asked if industrial stormwater would also be coming into the facility.
 - Michael explained that industrial waste and stormwater is a part of the wastewater that will be coming into the facility. King County's industrial wastewater staff works with businesses to ensure they are complying with the pre-treatment requirements for industrial waste before that water is allowed to join the other waste and stormwater that flows through the system for treatment.
- The group would like to know the characteristics of the wastewater coming into the new facility (sewage, stormwater, industrial, water runoff etc.).
 - Michael and Kristine will research and share the answer with the DAG.
- The group would like clarification on the difference between advance primary treatment and primary treatment.
 - Michael and Kristine will research and share the answer with the DAG. The definitions will also be added to the glossary of terms included on meeting agendas.

- Sherell and James expressed interest in learning more about the technology that will be used at the facility and how King County decided on the type of technology to use. They are also interested in learning what other sites use the technology and how well it works.
 - Michael and Kristine will gather the appropriate information and will set up a meeting, separate from the DAG process, to share this information if people are interested.
- Penny clarified for the group that there would be various ways King County would provide the information requested during meetings. The group may receive information during meeting presentations or King County may contact them between meetings with the requested information.

Michael shared the proposed site with the group. The proposed location is a 4.9 acre portion of the undeveloped lot between E. Marginal Way S. and 4th Ave. S. He explained why King County selected the proposed site. The site is vacant and would not force business relocation or impact existing jobs; it provides close access to existing pipes; it allows for all treatment facilities to be on-site and allows for on-site construction staging. All of these benefits limit community impacts. In addition, the site has community support based on feedback at community drop-in sessions and briefings.

Homework and Meeting Two

Penny gave the group a homework assignment to be completed by February 5. The group was asked to share 2 – 3 images of Georgetown that they think represent the neighborhood (buildings, signs, landmarks, public art, landscaping, etc.). These images will be used at meeting two to begin discussing design guidelines.

Meeting two will include examples of other facilities that WTD has designed to fit into neighborhoods based on community feedback and design guidelines.

Public Comment

- Katie Buckman shared that she was impressed by the process and was very interested to see how it progresses.
- The group proposed accepting public comment both at the beginning and at the end of each meeting. King County agreed and will do so moving forward.

Next Steps and Action Items (see table)

Attendance

Design Advisory Group Members

- Allan Phillips
- Angielena Chamberlain
- Cari Simson
- Emilie Shepherd
- Erica Melroy
- Grace Lothrop
- James Rasmussen
- Sherell Ehlers

Public

- Katie Buckman
- Joe Buckman

King County

- Michael Popiwny, Project Manager
- Kristine Cramer, Community Relations

EnviroIssues

- Penny Mabie, Facilitator
- Kerri Franklin, Notetaker

Pending - on hold

In progress

Complete - results still need to be shared

Closed

Ongoing

Task	Date Assigned	Due	Status	Response
Share with appropriate staff at KC that the Georgetown community is very interested in Rainwise	1/29/15 - DAG #1	2/5/2015	Complete	
Gather information on the facility's technology and the decision making process for using the selected technology. Share information with the DAG.	1/29/15 - DAG #1	2/12/2015	Complete	
Use both Georgetown listserv and Georgetown Gazette for communications	1/29/15 - DAG #1 2/12/15 - DAG #2 3/12/15 - DAG #3 TBD - DAG #4	1/22/15 2/5/15 3/5/15 TBD	Ongoing	Complete for DAG #1
Send e-alert Monday following DAG meetings	1/29/15 - DAG #1 2/12/15 - DAG #2 3/12/15 - DAG #3 TBD - DAG #4	2/2/15 2/16/15 3/16/15 TBD	Ongoing	Complete for DAG #1
Develop strategy/schedule to briefing community groups (GCC, etc.) during DAG process. Share and coordinate strategy with the DAG.	1/29/15 - DAG #1		In progress	
Update Charter text to include "programmatic and aesthetic design"	1/29/15 - DAG #1	2/9/2015	Complete	Share revised charter with DAG at DAG #2
Define primary treatment and advance treatment. How are they different?	1/29/15 - DAG #1	2/12/2015	Complete	Shared in technical follow up email to group
Find additional specifics on what is coming into the facility (stormwater, water runoff, industrial waste, residential sewage, etc.).	1/29/2015	2/12/2015	Complete	Shared in technical follow up email to group

Task	Date Assigned	Due	Status	Response
Looking into holding a small meeting to walk interested members of the community through how the County decided on the technology to be used at the facility. May also include overview of King County CSO plan development	1/29/2015	2/12/2015	Complete	Available for interested community members by request. Will be coordinated into a small group meeting if possible.