

Building Cities in the Rain
South Central LIO Subcommittee
Meeting Summary
March 24, 2014 (PSRC Conference Room)

Attendees: Erika Harris, Puget Sound Regional Council; Tim Gates, Department of Commerce; Dan Garipey, Department of Ecology; Abby Stockwell, Department of Ecology; Heather Trim, Futurewise; Ian Munce, City of Tacoma Planning and Development Services; Larry Schaffner, WSDOT; Paul Fendt, Parametrix; Paul Bucich, City of Bellevue Utilities; John Palmer, EPA; Andy Rheume, City of Redmond; Rick Schaefer, Tetra Tech; De'Sean Quinn, King County; Amalia Leighton and Kathy Gwilyn, SvR; Heather Ballash, Commerce.

The main item on the agenda was a presentation by SvR on Municipal Stormwater Code/Infill Development. Amalia and Kathy ran through a draft of their presentation to be given to the Growth Management Policy Board on April 3. We also reviewed the "Regional Alliance" proposal to expand the use of In Lieu Fee programs consistent with the City of Redmond's Watershed approach.

Comments/Discussion:

Overarching comment: Slides have a bit too much detail, perhaps add key bullet points you are speaking to in the presentation and present detailed images as examples to illustrate. Add Transition Title slides to distinguish the 3 different chunks of Policy/Codes/Practice

A message to share with the PSRC: Emphasize the benefits of the code scrub: it is a mandatory a process for identifying opportunities to improve things, but there is no specific performance standard Ecology will apply to determine if the changes to your regulations are adequate to "integrate LID principles" under the terms of the permit. Some jurisdictions may be inclined not to take the review process seriously or dig in and really get the most out of it. But it is worth it, you can find ways to build in incentives that will save developers money and help you meet your infill goals.

Comp plan policies: Can lay the groundwork for political will, and to talk about change.

Rain gardens need to be managed and funded by public entities so that they are maintained over time, instead of turning into weed patches that do not manage stormwater. If are categorized as official water quality treatment system, L & I may require a different wage category.

City of Shoreline slides: stormwater utility asset management through green infrastructure – needs to be recognized in capital facility planning and maintenance. Need to pitch the interconnectedness with the capital budget to elected officials.

Emphasize importance of maintenance: If had maintained stormwater infrastructure that was built over the last 20 years, would not have problems we do now. Need to maintain it properly to keep it functioning. Comp plan needs to address asset management plus operations and maintenance.

Terminology: Rain gardens v. bioretention swales – there is confusion. Use a different term, or would that generate more confusion?

Kirkland – make sure to address public aspect of these projects.

How do you change the culture of developers to think about stormwater first, rather than after the project is designed? Ecology has funds for an education program from the Legislature - \$5 million. What about putting it in the code?

Stormwater discussion up front can help with neighbors accepting density.

Examples of quantifying for area-wide projects rather than parcel specific.

WSDOT in lieu fee program is approved with a template. Ahead of Redmond in that respect.

Need to put in the money up front for the planning to have the program in place for development. This is a long term effort.

What about long term costs in Redmond? The ratepayers pay for the public facilities. But still need to charge for long term maintenance costs.