

Mayor Birney,

Problem: High water levels over extended periods of time in the winter result in pollution and property damage. Inflow and Outflow should be measured and concurrent, and their metrics would be known, resulting in less flooding, less pollution, less turbidity, and overall better initiative-taking water management.

Inflow Into Lake Sammamish:

1. We should know the metrics (flow volume-velocity) of Bear Creek, upstream and where it enters the Flood Control Project (Sammamish River) and its effects on outflow of the Sammamish River from Lake Sammamish.
2. We should know the metrics (flow volume-velocity) on Redmond improved residential and commercial properties using storm water discharge methods that feed directly into Lake Sammamish.
3. King County has allowed noxious aquatic weeds, planting projects and in siltation over time to degrade the Flood Control Project's design performance. Will you join us in efforts to pressure King County to maintain the Flood Control Project in accordance with the ACoE Operations and Maintenance Manual?
4. We should know the metrics (flow volume-velocity) on Redmond improved business and residential properties using storm water discharge methods that feed directly into the Sammamish River.
5. Are there mapping and inspection schedules for residential and public retention and detention ponds in Redmond? Do we have a way of measuring design performance versus current performance?
6. Do we have a study that explains the realities of Redmond's unique topography and subsequent storm water runoff?
7. Is there the possibility in the Redmond development plan to give credits for having water slowing landscape designs as a part of new development (such as pervious pavements, green rooftops, rain garden landscaping and such) and allowing those "credits" would be allowed as energy credit points requirements, like a tradeoff for something else?
8. In a flooding scenario, areas of overflow on minimal impact areas i.e., parks were offered as a solution. Using existing parks via overflow channels, which are implemented in other municipalities. Is it possible to have such an outflow into Marymoor or other low level Redmond parks?

Stormwater Concurrency:

The idea of stormwater “concurrency” was discussed, akin to the requirement for traffic concurrency with new development. Adequate understanding of Redmond’s measurable stormwater runoff in both amount of water and the speed of that water as it reaches the “receiving body” – Lake Sammamish must be thought of in terms of concurrency. Additionally, the idea of a hyper-localized rainstorm was mentioned as a major contributing factor to 2020 flooding, but the lake levels were already quite high, and the lake was not draining properly at the outflow. We should not have to rely on this idea of hyper-localized storm forecasting for our flood planning, should we?

Growth Management Act:

This should be called the growth “mandate” act. We agree with Mayor Birney that the growth should be concentrated in areas that are already high in impervious surfaces. Redmond’s topography is quite different than other municipalities.

Lake Sammamish As a Receiving Body:

Lake Sammamish is the area low point and has been designated as a receiving body for stormwater conveyance. The lake has an average depth of 58’. There is a knowable capacity for this body of water. Once the lake hits 29’, how much more capacity really is there based on outflow degradation at the other end? The 2020 devastating flooding saw a peak lake level of 31.13’. (The lake level was 28’ January 21, 2020, hit 31.13 on Feb 8th and then returned to 28’ Feb 20th – those are extremely elevated levels of water for a month-long period of time.

Representation:

Redmond does not have jurisdictional representation on the King County Flood Control District Board of Advisors.

Preliminary Action Items:

1. We are requesting Monitoring Equipment – we believe there should be real time gauges and data acquisition instruments in Redmond’s Bear Creek to determine volume/velocity/height/etc.
2. We need Stormwater Concurrency defined and considered in Redmond City Planning and Development policy.
3. We need a representative on the KC Flood Control District Advisory Committee.
4. We are requesting a map of Redmond’s permitted detention/retention facilities (Public and Private) and their inspection schedules.