

WSSA - Mayor Pauley Meeting Recap:

Problem: High water levels over extended periods of time in the winter are causing increases in pollution and property damage. Inflow and Outflow ideally would be coordinated or concurrent, and their metrics would be known, resulting in less flooding, less pollution, less turbidity, and overall better water management.

Inflow Into Lake Sammamish:

1. We should know the metrics (flow volume-velocity) on Issaquah Creek and the contributing factor of creeks and streams into Lake Sammamish.
2. We should know the metrics (flow volume-velocity) on Issaquah improved residential properties using storm water discharge methods that feed directly into Lake Sammamish.
3. We should know the metrics (flow volume-velocity) on Issaquah improved business and residential properties using storm water discharge methods that feed directly into Lake Sammamish.
4. Are there mapping and inspection schedules for residential and public retention and detention ponds in Issaquah? Do we have a way of measuring design performance versus current performance?
5. Do we have a study that explains the realities of Issaquah's unique topography and subsequent storm water runoff?
6. Is there the possibility in the Issaquah 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" to be included into energy credit points requirements, like a tradeoff for something else.
7. In a flooding scenario, areas of overflow and using existing parks via overflow channels is currently being used in Confluence Park. Is it possible to have such an outflow into Sammamish Cove Park or other low level Issaquah parks?

Stormwater Concurrency:

The idea of stormwater "concurrency" was discussed, akin to the requirement for traffic concurrency with new development. Adequate understanding of Issaquah'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 Pauley that the growth should be concentrated in areas that are already high in impervious surfaces. Issaquah’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 for a month-long period of time.

Representation:

Issaquah 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 Issaquah’s Creeks and streams (up-stream and at the mouth) and on Issaquah’s end of the lake to determine volume/velocity/height/etc.
2. We need Stormwater Concurrency defined and considered in Issaquah City Planning and Development policy.
3. We need a representative on the KC Flood Control District Advisory Committee. Can this person be a citizen?
4. We are requesting a map of Issaquah’s permitted detention/retention facilities (Public and Private) and their inspection schedules.
5. We are requesting documentation on the history of Sammamish Cove Park, and a review on whether this land can be an overflow area.