

Memorandum

To: Planning Commission

From: Jon C. Spangler, Natural Resources Manager, 556-2823
Andy Rheume, Watershed Planner, 556-2741

Date: October 11, 2013

Subject: **Briefing – Water Resources Strategic Plan and Watershed Management Plan**

PURPOSE

To provide the Commission with an overview of the proposed Water Resources Strategic Plan and proposed Watershed Management Plan. These proposed plans are significant guidance documents for Redmond implementation activities for stormwater, surface water and groundwater management throughout the city. These documents do not include Comprehensive Plan or Zoning Code Amendments, but because they provide the key framework and supporting analysis for natural resources planning and implementation, staff would like to provide an overview to the Commission and is interested in hearing any observations from the Commission. A formal Planning Commission report will not be generated as part of this informational briefing.

BACKGROUND

Water Resources Strategic Plan

The purpose of this strategic planning effort is to better define and communicate the City of Redmond's approach to water resources protection and to describe how these efforts support Redmond's overall vision and other City functional areas. The end result is a framework to guide implementation actions, set priorities, and most effectively allocate funds. The plan also includes a 3-year action plan outlining the major planning efforts, programs and projects in water resources.

The intent of this plan is to document existing strategic direction and approaches, rather than establish new directions and approaches. This is not a master plan or functional plan. Additional planning efforts will be undertaken to address functional requirements, capital investments and funding. However, a framework diagram is provided to show how those efforts link to the strategic plan.

City Council held a study session on this topic on August 27th, 2013. Since that time, staff has initiated broader outreach with other City staff, and will also engage community and other

stakeholders prior to Council's adoption of the plan, which will likely occur during the first quarter of 2014.

Watershed Management Plan

The proposed Watershed Management Plan ("WMP") documents a holistic strategy with the goal of producing healthy aquatic habitat within Redmond. Many of our local water bodies, and regional water bodies that flow through Redmond, are significantly impacted. The primary source of impact is stormwater. The WMP customizes default strategies used to manage stormwater to the needs of each individual water body and the area that drains to them (aka their watershed).

A locally adopted, State approved, WMP will create:

- healthy stream habitat for fish and wildlife
- flexibility in applying stormwater regulations
- better return on investment in infrastructure and programs
- greater opportunity for federal and state funds
- natural features desired in Redmond Vision 2030 and PSRC Vision 2040

City Council held a study session on this topic on July 9, 2013, which included an overview of watershed planning, and holistic approaches to addressing stormwater management and surface water impairments. City Council action to adopt the Watershed Management Plan is anticipated in December 2013.

The proposed Watershed Management Plan is supported by policy in the Natural Environment element of Redmond's Comprehensive Plan. Furthermore, many state and federal regulators have encouraged local jurisdictions to utilize a watershed approach to address the decline of our water bodies.

MEETING PREPARATION

Planning Commissioners are encouraged to review both documents via the web link sent with the Planning Commission's packet. Staff proposes to spend about 20 minutes for each plan presentation, followed by discussion.

QUESTIONS

Please contact Jon C. Spangler, (425) 556-2823, jspangler@redmond.gov with questions, suggestions and for additional information prior to the study session.

ATTACHMENTS

- Water Resources Strategic Plan
- Watershed Management Plan