

**Greater Maple Valley Unincorporated Area Council**  
***“Working to keep the Rural Area rural”***

## **Surface Water Management Fees**

by Peter Rimbos, Corresponding Secretary

On Monday, September 12, the Area Council held its regular monthly meeting. The major topics discussed were: (1) King County Comprehensive Plan Update and (2) Surface Water Management Fees.

### **Surface Water Management Fees**

John Taylor, Assistant Director of the Water & Land Resources Division of the King County Department of Natural Resources & Parks discussed surface water management (SWM) fees.

King County is required to provide SWM services by State and Federal law. The SWM programs address impacts from stormwater runoff such as flooding, erosion, pollution, habitat degradation, and low stream flows.

For over 20 years to pay for these services fees have been assessed on property owners in unincorporated King County. Currently, that fee is ~\$14/mo (\$171.50/yr), which generates ~\$24M/yr to maintain existing facilities and roads; provide support to farmers; conduct habitat restoration and salmon recovery; and meet Federal Clean Water Act compliance.

King County has identified additional challenges that need to be addressed., These include: proactively fix existing facilities before troubles occur (estimated savings over 10 yr is \$128M); increase services to farmers (for agricultural drainage assistance including ditching) and rural property owners; retrofit areas currently without any stormwater controls; and address drainage onto and off roads.

The King County Executive will propose a SWM rate increase in his budget to be submitted to the King County Council later this month. What is being contemplated is an increase of ~\$5 to \$8/mo starting in January.

### **King County Comprehensive Plan Update**

Christine Jensen, King County Council Staff Principal Legislative Analyst, discussed the King County Council’s review and changes to the 2016 King County Comprehensive Plan (KCCP) Update.

The King County Council’s Transportation, Environment, and Economic Committee (TrEE) has been reviewing the King County Executive’s proposed KCCP Update since its release on March 1. The GMVUAC also reviewed the Executive’s proposal and submitted detailed comments to the TrEE Committee in July.

Ms. Jensen explained the process the TrEE Committee has been using in its review including multiple Public Hearings. On September 1 the TrEE Committee released a “Striker Amendment” that proposes modifications to the Executive’s proposal. A Public Hearing and final vote by the TrEE Committee will be held on September 20.

The Area Council conducted a comprehensive review of the TrEE Committee’s “Striker Amendment” and voted on and approved a final set of detailed comments. Some issues addressed were: siting of urban facilities in the Rural Area; cross-jurisdictional

transportation impacts on rural roads; and “demonstration projects” such as Reserve Silica in Ravensdale. Following the meeting the Area Council’s detailed comments were submitted to the TrEE Committee. All Area Council 2016 KCCP Update Comments can be found on our web site: <http://greatermaplevalleyareacouncil.org/gmvackccompplan.html>.

### **Next Area Council Meeting**

Monday, October 3, from 7:00 - 9:00 PM, at the Fire Station located at the SE corner of SE 231st St & SR-169 intersection. All members of the Public are welcome.

Meetings are held the first non-holiday Monday of each month. A Public Comment period at the beginning of each meeting provides an opportunity to voice issues of concern to Area Council members and government officials in attendance.

Your Area Council serves as an all-volunteer, locally elected advisory body to King County on behalf of all rural unincorporated area residents living in the Tahoma School District. Please visit: [www.greatermaplevalleyareacouncil.org](http://www.greatermaplevalleyareacouncil.org).

**\*\*\* NOTE: Four positions are open on the 16-member Area Council. If you live in the Tahoma School District outside the City of Maple Valley (see Service Area Map on our web site), you are invited to apply to become a member by sending a letter of interest to GMVUAC, P. O. Box 111, Maple Valley, WA 98038 or attend our next monthly meeting. \*\*\***