DATE: March 30, 2026

TO: Clean Water Services Advisory Commission Members and Interested Parties

FROM: Elizabeth Edwards, Chief of Staff

SUBJECT: **INFORMATION FOR April 8, 2026, CWAC MEETING**

A Clean Water Services Advisory Commission (CWAC) meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, April 8, 2026.** The meeting will be in a hybrid format at the **CWS Central Building in Beaverton** and on Zoom. The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting location:

- **In person in the** Central Large Conference Room at the CWS Central Building, 15195 NW Greenbrier Parkway in Beaverton.
- **Online via Zoom.** Zoom offers the option to connect to video, slides, and audio via a device with internet access, or an audio-only connection through any telephone line. Please plan to establish your connection to the meeting 10-15 minutes before the 6:30 p.m. start time to allow the meeting to begin promptly.

Dinner will be served at 5:30 p.m. for CWAC members attending in person. CWAC members should notify Katie Cheney **(**CheneyK@CleanWaterServices.org **503.681.5116)** by Monday, April 6, **if you are unable to attend or if you plan to attend via Zoom** so food is not ordered for you.

The CWAC meeting packet will be emailed to CWAC members and posted to the CWAC section of the Clean Water Services' website.

Enclosures in this packet include:

- April 8, 2026, agenda and other materials
- March 11, 2026, meeting summary

Clean Water Services Advisory Commission

April 8, 2026
AGENDA

6:30 p.m. **Welcome and Introductions**

6:35 p.m. **2026 D&C Stormwater Revision Subcommittee Report Out**
Members of the subcommittee will report back to CWAC about the first subcommittee meeting.

Requested action: *Informational/discussion item*

- CWAC Subcommittee Members
- Damon Reische, Planning & Development Services Division Manager

6:50 p.m. **Federal and State Legislative Update**
The 2026 state legislative session adjourned on March 6. CWS staff will share session highlights and outcomes relevant to Clean Water Services.

- Tracy Rainey, Government Affairs Manager

Requested action: *Informational/discussion item*

7:25 p.m. **Climate Action Plan**
Staff will share CWS' updated Climate Action Strategic Roadmap. The roadmap provides long-term policy direction that will inform and direct mitigation and adaptation strategies to address climate change.

- Jamie Waltz, Culture and Development Leader
- Peter Schauer, Research and Innovation Services Manager

Requested action: *Informational/discussion item*

8:05 p.m. **Invitation for Public Comment**

8:10 p.m. **Announcements and Adjournment**

Next meeting: **D&C Stormwater Revisions Public Forum – June 10, 2026**

2026 Federal & State Legislative Update

Tracy Rainey, Government Relations Manager

Clean Water Services Advisory Commission

April 8, 2026

Presentation Overview

- 2026 State legislative session overview
- 2026 CWS state legislative agenda (principle and priorities) and related legislation
- Emergent state policy issues update
- Federal legislative update
- Scoggins update

2026 State Legislative Session Overview

- Oregon state legislature – key dates
  - February 2: First day of session
  - March 6: Sine die (session adjourned)
- By the numbers
  - Total number of bills introduced: 305
  - Total number of bills tracked by CWS: 97
  - Total number of CWS tracked bills with greater review, engagement, advocacy: about 30
- Advocacy/legislative coordination and partnerships
  - Special Districts Association of Oregon; League of Oregon Cities; Oregon Association of Clean Water Agencies; Center for Sustainable Infrastructure; Oregon Dept of Environmental Quality (informational only)

JANUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1 New Years Day	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9 LC Drafts Returned	10
11	12	13 Leg Days	14 Leg Days	15 Leg Days	16 LC Drop Deadline	17
18	19 MLK Day	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

FEBRUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4 Revenue Forecast	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16 Presidents' Day	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

MARCH

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 Filing Day	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

2026 State Guiding Principle

Clean Water Services will support efforts, policies, and investments to maintain or improve the infrastructure, innovation, efficiency, and effectiveness of water resources to ensure quality of life and economic vitality throughout the Tualatin River Watershed.

CWS State Legislative Priorities & Related Legislation

- Protect and advocate for statewide and project-specific investments in water-related infrastructure, including investments to promote the protection of water quality and public health; support maintenance and improvements to existing systems; and build capacity to support community growth, including housing production.
  - No cuts to core infrastructure funding programs
  - Septic loan funding (did not advance)
- Support policies and investments to promote resource recovery, including renewable energy production, nutrient recovery, and water resources.
  - HB 4086 (passed): Industrial symbiosis (also fits under priority on “reuse”)

CWS State Legislative Priorities & Related Legislation

- Continue to work with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and key stakeholders to update and implement Oregon's regulatory framework for water reuse and advocate for incentives, resources, policies, and tools to advance reuse projects.
  - HB 4086 (passed): Industrial symbiosis
- Ensure sufficient funding and service levels for the Department of Environmental Quality's Water Quality Division, including funding necessary to develop and implement appropriate water quality standards.
  - No cuts to DEQ core water quality permitting program staffing/services (vacancy savings may have temporary impacts)
  - HB 4019 (did not pass), HB 4020 (passed), HB 4021 (passed), HB 4073 (did not pass): State permitting processes
  - HB 4084 (passed): Joint permitting council
  - HB 4102 (passed): DEQ receipts authority

CWS State Legislative Priorities & Related Legislation

- Preserve local infrastructure financing tools for water infrastructure.
  - No legislation specific to System Development Charges (SDCs)
  - Middle Housing Oregon Homes Rulemaking – Phase 2 to include model SDC option (starting August 2026)
- Advocate to ensure that policies and regulations related to emerging contaminants are protective of the environment and public health, informed by sound data and science, and reflective of a producer responsibility model to protect utility ratepayers.
  - No PFAS-related legislation in 2026
  - PFAS biosolids study (in progress)

CWS State Legislative Priorities & Related Legislation

- Support efforts to maintain and further promote water utility responsiveness, efficiency, and resiliency, including elevating water workforce needs.
  - HB 4005 (passed): Establishes “Water Professionals Appreciation Week” in October
  - HB 4055 (did not pass): Cybersecurity incident reporting (will be further discussed during interim)
  - HB 4134 (passed): State lodging tax increase for wildlife stewardship/conservation; invasive species work
  - SB 1517 (passed): Recreational liability waivers (including for environmental restoration and maintenance activities)
- Support funding opportunities and efficiencies in policies that promote housing production while ensuring protection of water quality and public health.
  - HB 4035 (passed): One-time Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) expansion process
  - HB 4037 (passed): Housing omnibus

Other Noteworthy Bills

- SB 1541 (did not pass): Climate Superfund Cost Recovery Program
- SB 1566 (did not pass): Prevailing wage policy revisions
- SB 1586 (did not pass): Economic development incentives and UGB expansion (north Hillsboro)

Emergent State Issues

- Data Center Advisory Committee
  - Governor appointed (January 2026)
  - Initial meeting (February 2026)
  - Water-focused meeting (March 27, 2026)
  - Final Recommendations (July 2026)

- Housing and water quality permits (municipal separate storm sewer system permits): Governor's office and White House
  - State stormwater manual
  - Coordination with League of Oregon Cities, Oregon Association of Clean Water Agencies, and Special Districts Association of Oregon

Federal Legislative Update

- Bureau of Land Management
  - February 19, 2026: Notice of proposed revision to the Northwestern and Coastal Oregon Resource Management Plan and Southwestern Oregon Resource Management Plan
- Water Systems PFAS Liability Protection Act (H.R.1267)
  - Hearings in November 2025 (Senate Environment & Public Works) and December 2025 (House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Environment)
- WIPPES Act (Wastewater Infrastructure Pollution Prevention and Environmental Safety)
  - H.R. 2269: Passed House on June 23, 2025; currently in Senate
  - S.1092: Awaiting Senate vote

Congressional Update

- Permitting/Regulatory Reform (PERMIT Act H.R.3898)
  - Passed House on Dec. 11, 2025 (vote 221-205); currently in Senate
- State Revolving Fund reauthorization
  - January budget bills (passed) provided funding through September 30, 2026
  - Level funding for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (prior proposals from White House/House proposed cuts by 90% and 24%, respectively)
  - 4% overall cut for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (prior proposals from the White House and the House proposed cuts of 55% and 23%, respectively)

Scoggins Update Project Update

- Permitting/Regulatory Reform (PERMIT Act H.R. 3898)
  - Passed House on Dec. 11, 2025 (vote 221-205); currently in Senate
- Previous Dam Safety Project
  - Stopped on April 15, 2025, due to “cost effectiveness, constructability, and priority concerns"
- Revised efforts by Bureau of Reclamation focusing on spillway
- Ongoing steps
  - Delineate previous work that can be used on current project
  - Investigate structural alternatives focused on the spillway, to “reduce risk and maintain storage”

Scoggins Report Language and Earmark Funding

- January 15, 2026: Congress approved Fiscal Year 2025-26 Energy and Water Appropriations Bill
  - Inclusion of budget report language and a $1 million earmark for Scoggins Dam (included in the Energy & Water Appropriations bill) – successfully secured by Sen. Jeff Merkley (supported by Sen. Ron Wyden and Rep. Suzanne Bonamici)
  - Report language:

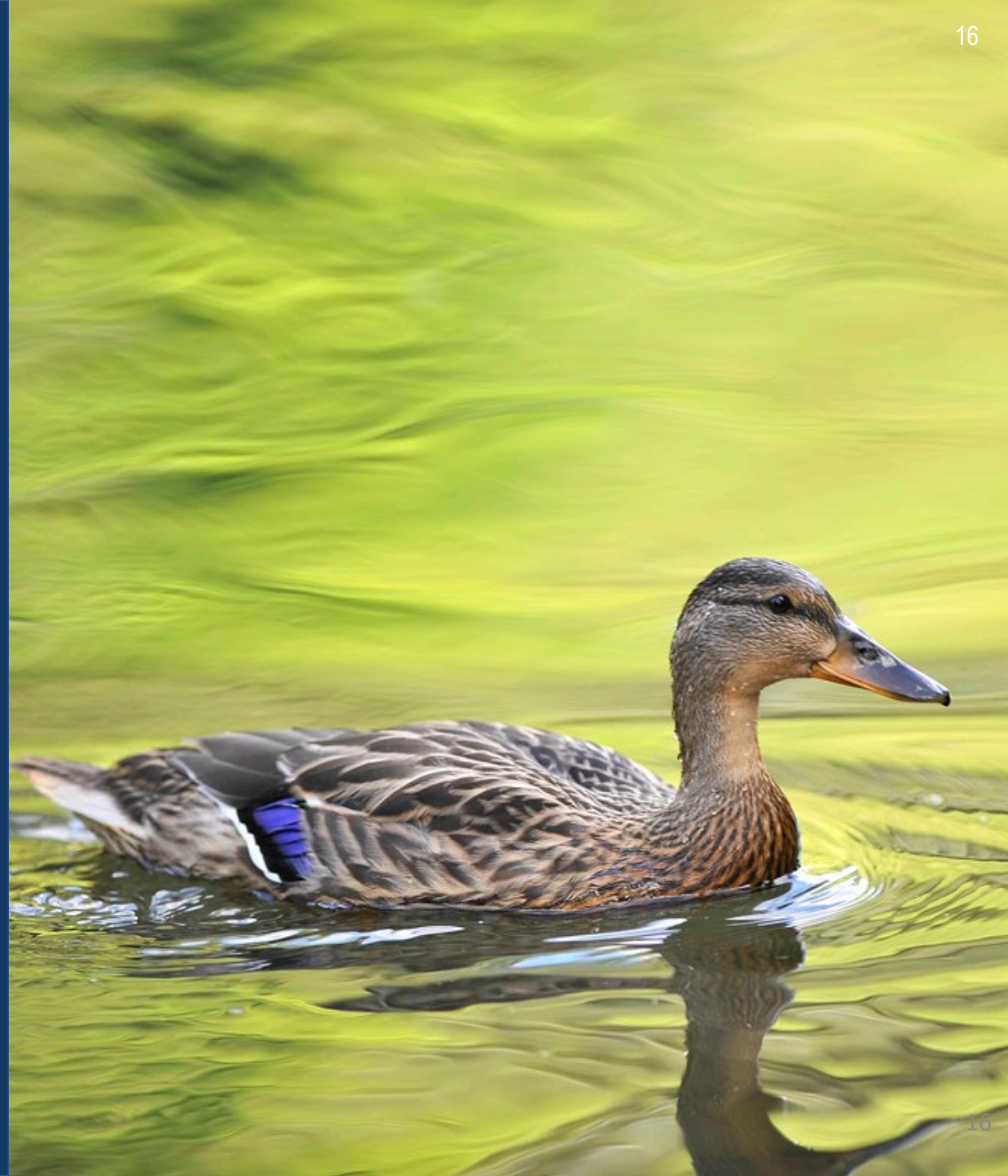
    "The agreement directs Reclamation to seismically reinforce the dam and spillway at Scoggins Dam to be prepared for a 2,500 year seismic event and provides additional funding in the Dam Safety account for these purposes. The agreement reiterates that a long-term solution, not a permanent reservoir restriction, is required. The agreement strongly encourages Reclamation to identify an approach by fiscal year 2026 and directs Reclamation to provide a briefing on the progress made within 90 days of enactment of this Act."

Scoggins – Recent Updates

- Meeting with Bureau of Reclamation (February 2026)

- Updated construction timeline
  - Planning/scope (October 2025 – February 2039)
  - Value planning study (March 2026 – April 2026)
  - Corrective action design (December 2027 – September 2029)
  - Final design phase (June 2029 – February 2034)
  - Construction (October 2034 – February 2039)

Questions



CWS Climate Action Strategic Roadmap Update

Jamie Waltz, Culture & Development Leader
Peter Schauer, Research and Innovation Services Manager

Clean Water Services Advisory Commission
April 8, 2026

Presentation Overview

1. Background and development process
2. Updated Strategic Roadmap
3. Introduce implementation plan
4. Next steps

Climate Roadmap Version 1.0

1. First Climate Strategic Roadmap finalized in spring 2023
2. Gallery walk captured projects related to climate
3. Began revision for version 2.0 in fall 2024

Refinements and Updates

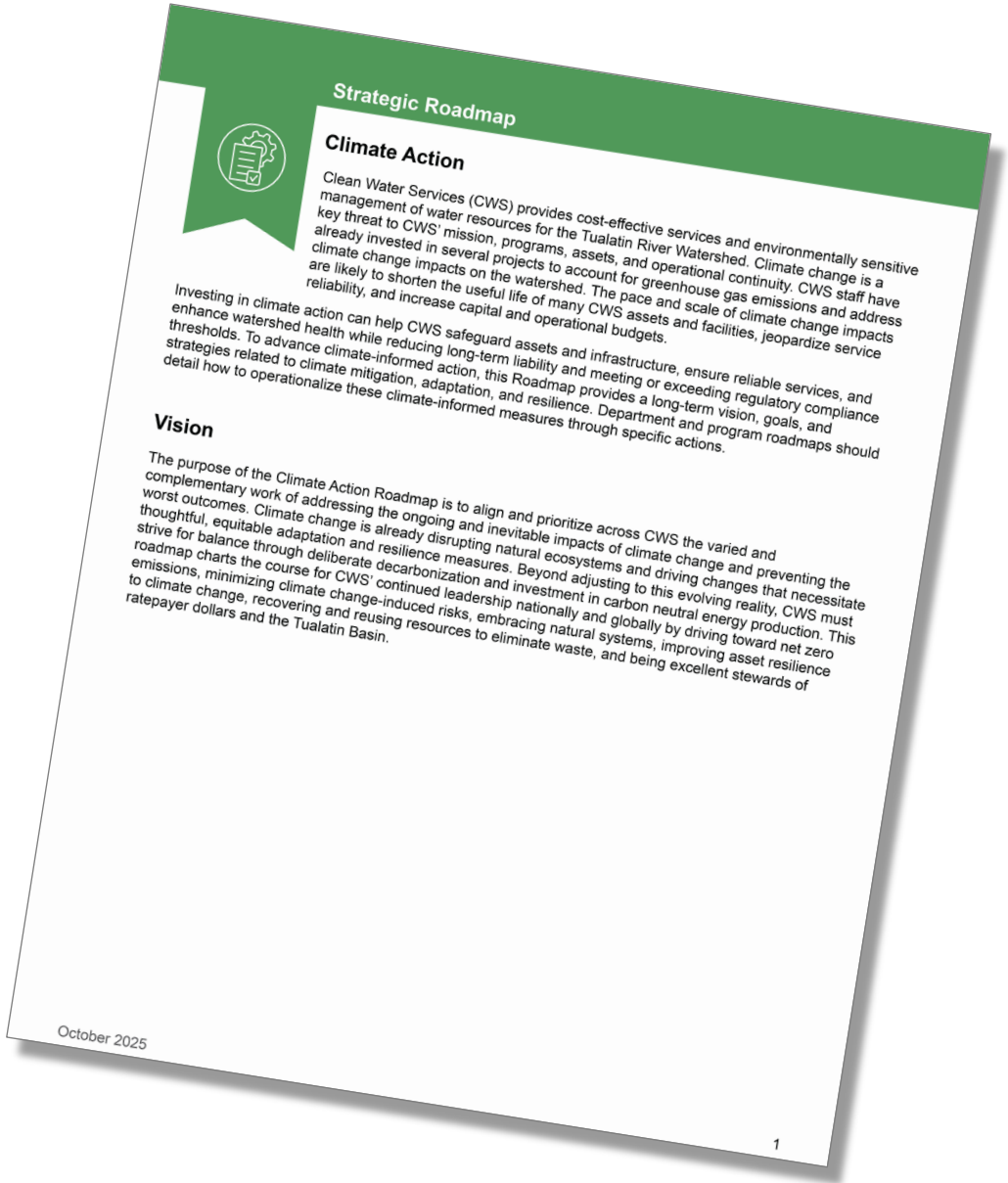
Climate Action Strategic Roadmap Steering Committee

- 13 members from across CWS
  - Representatives from Reuse, Regulatory Affairs, Communications & Community Engagement, Natural Systems Enhancement & Stewardship, Research & Innovation, Emergency Management, Strategy, Executive Leadership

- Goal: Clarity of goals and implementation plan
  - Utilized feedback from stakeholder survey to inform
  - Continuous team building, peer learning, leadership guidance
  - Building on previous work and research

Climate Action Strategic Roadmap 2.0

- Aligns and prioritizes diverse work across CWS to address ongoing and inevitable impacts of climate change and prevent the worst outcomes
- Focuses on two primary goals:
  - **Climate mitigation** to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase carbon sequestration
  - **Climate adaptation** to prepare for and respond to climate-related impacts on infrastructure, operations, and ecosystems


Strategic Roadmap

Climate Action

Clean Water Services (CWS) provides cost-effective services and environmentally sensitive management of water resources for the Tualatin River Watershed. Climate change is a key threat to CWS' mission, programs, assets, and operational continuity. CWS staff have already invested in several projects to account for greenhouse gas emissions and address climate change impacts on the watershed. The pace and scale of climate change impacts are likely to shorten the useful life of many CWS assets and facilities, jeopardize service reliability, and increase capital and operational budgets.

Investing in climate action can help CWS safeguard assets and infrastructure, ensure reliable services, and enhance watershed health while reducing long-term liability and meeting or exceeding regulatory compliance thresholds. To advance climate-informed action, this Roadmap provides a long-term vision, goals, and strategies related to climate mitigation, adaptation, and resilience. Department and program roadmaps should detail how to operationalize these climate-informed measures through specific actions.

Vision

The purpose of the Climate Action Roadmap is to align and prioritize across CWS the varied and complementary work of addressing the ongoing and inevitable impacts of climate change and preventing the worst outcomes. Climate change is already disrupting natural ecosystems and driving changes that necessitate thoughtful, equitable adaptation and resilience measures. Beyond adjusting to this evolving reality, CWS must strive for balance through deliberate decarbonization and investment in carbon neutral energy production. This roadmap charts the course for CWS' continued leadership nationally and globally by driving toward net zero emissions, minimizing climate change-induced risks, embracing natural systems, improving asset resilience to climate change, recovering and reusing resources to eliminate waste, and being excellent stewards of ratepayer dollars and the Tualatin Basin.

October 2025

1

Goal 1: Mitigation

Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase carbon sequestration

Strategies

1. Baseline emission inventory
2. Set targets for emission reductions
3. Audit and upgrade energy systems
4. Implement renewable energy alternatives
5. Invest in systems to sequester carbon

Launching Initial Mitigation Strategies

Goal 1: Mitigation – reduce emissions

Strategy: Greenhouse gas inventory

1. Establish a baseline for direct and indirect emissions to chart necessary reductions
2. Build on work already done in Research & Innovation

Goal 2: Adaptation

Prepare, respond, and recover from impacts

Strategies

1. Assess risks to facilities and operations
2. Revise regulatory requirements, policies, and procedures
3. Prioritize infrastructure upgrades to withstand climate hazards
4. Protect staff for extreme weather
5. Build resilient ecosystems
6. Collaborate with regional partners
7. Collect data to inform climate work

Launching Initial Adaptation Strategies

Goal 2: Adaptation – Respond to risk

Strategy: Risk and vulnerability assessment

1. Downscaled data gives us models of what climate events are likely to happen
2. Risk and vulnerability assessment helps us assess how those events impact our systems
    a. Document impacts to gray infrastructure: buildings, pump stations, sewer lines
    b. Document impacts to green infrastructure: river conditions, erosion, plants, shade credit

Advancing Mitigation Goal

Project examples

1. Renewable natural gas: offsetting carbon; next steps are to increase production, share results, connect to roadmap
2. Conducting evaluation of aeration basin nitrous oxide and other greenhouse gas emissions in partnership with Water Research Foundation
3. CREW Carbon pilot for sequestering carbon

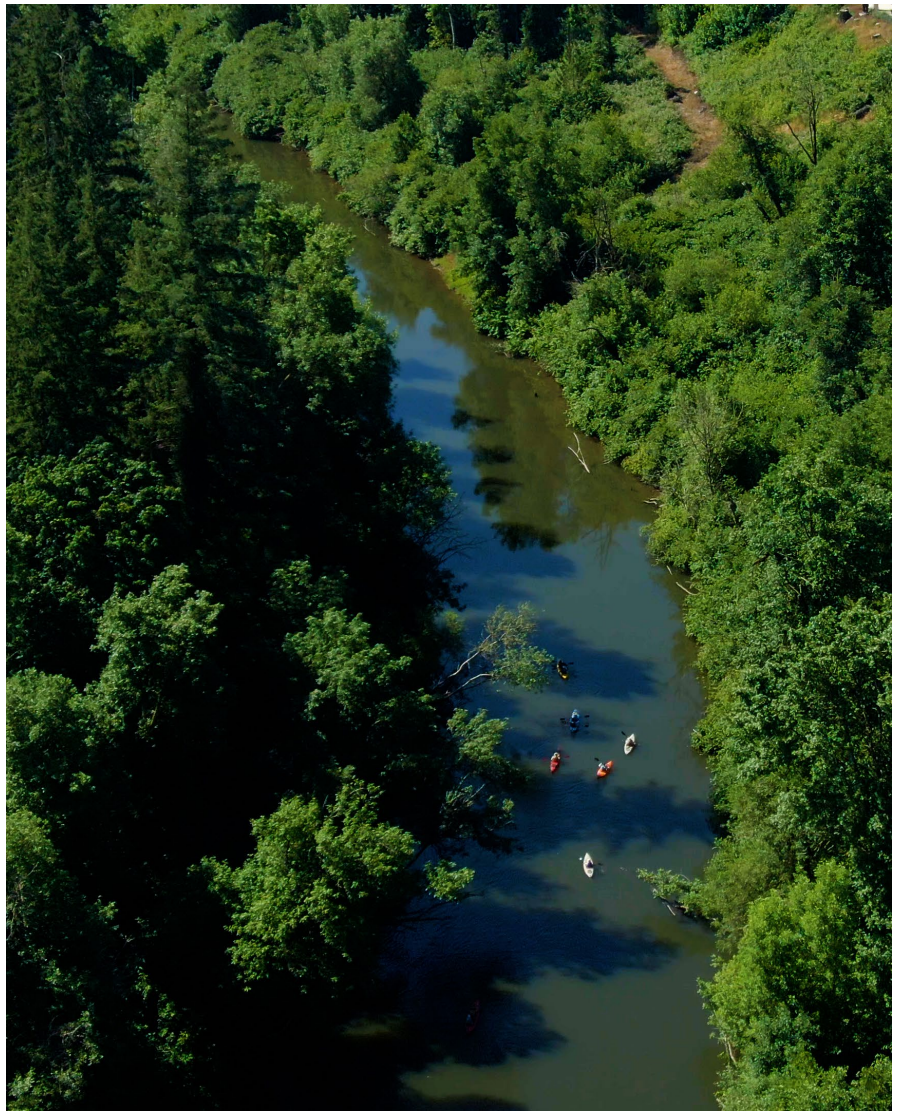
Advancing Adaptation Goal

Project examples

1. Developing downscaled climate change-informed precipitation and temperature projections
2. Climate adaptive plant material study – since 2020

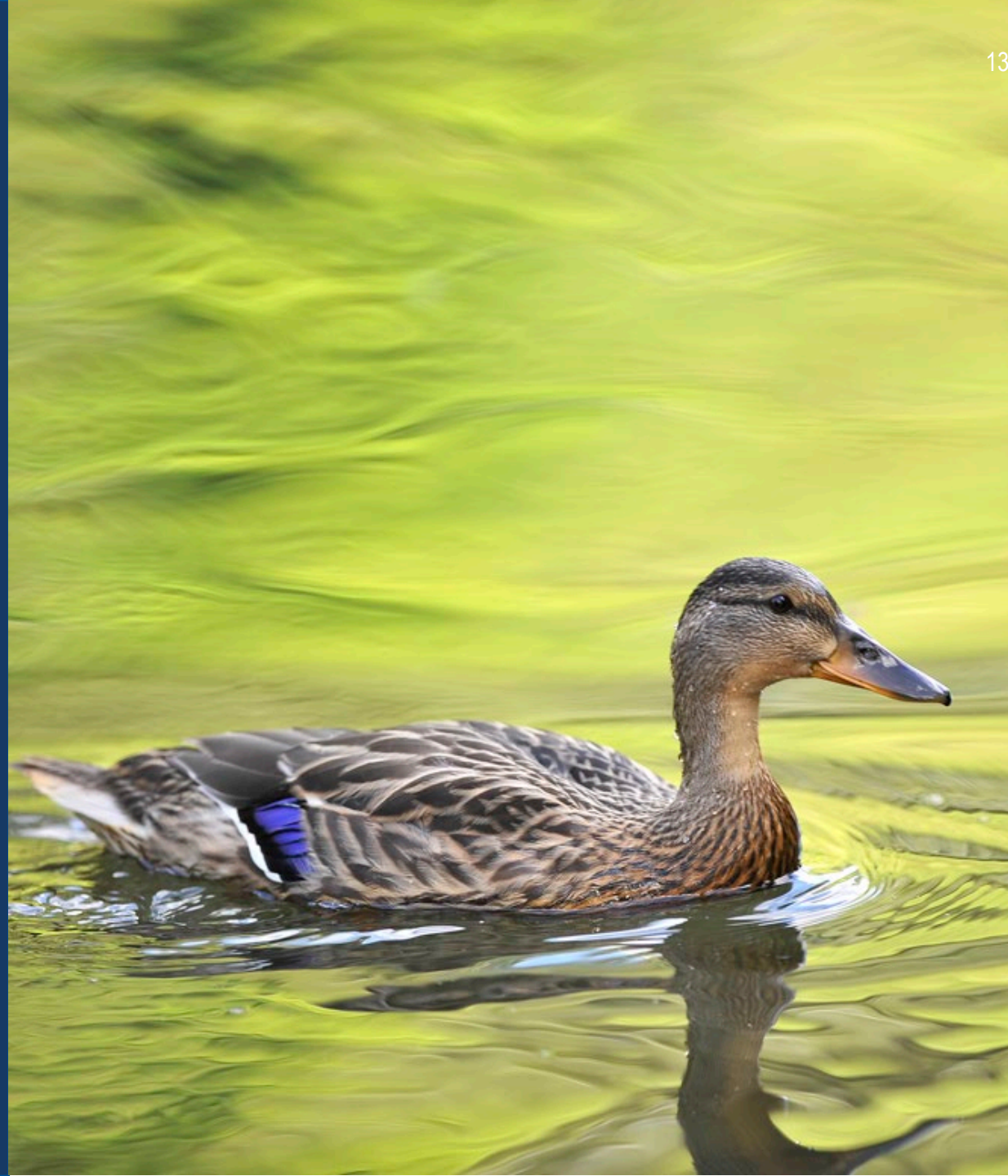
Transition from Plan to Action

1. Recharter Steering Committee to provide framework for achieving CWS-wide goals
2. Establish methods to inform and support departments implementing strategies
3. Finalize screening matrix for consistent project prioritization
4. Monitor and ensure progress



Next Steps

1. Recharter Steering Committee with shift toward implementation
2. Initiate:
    a. Greenhouse gas inventory
    b. Vulnerability risk assessment (using downscaled data)



Climate Action

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Investing in climate action can help CWS safeguard assets and infrastructure, ensure reliable services, and enhance watershed health while reducing long-term liability and meeting or exceeding regulatory compliance thresholds. To advance climate-informed action, this Roadmap provides a long-term vision, goals, and strategies related to climate mitigation, adaptation, and resilience. Department and program roadmaps will detail how to operationalize these climate-informed measures through specific actions.

Vision

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GOAL 1. CLIMATE MITIGATION **Reduce greenhouse gas emissions to the extent practicable from CWS operations and services and increase carbon sequestration**	
Desired Outcomes:	• CWS has an established baseline of greenhouse gas emissions to guide the creation and implementation of science-based reduction targets. • CWS reduces energy inefficiencies in its operations and transitions to renewable energy sources where possible. • Natural ecosystems and engineered methods are used to provide a comprehensive approach to carbon sequestration and storage on CWS properties and projects.
Strategy 1. Conduct a GHG inventory to better understand and establish a baseline for direct and indirect emissions generated by CWS.	A phased, targeted inventory will provide CWS with a clear understanding of its carbon footprint. This baseline data will enable the identification of high emissions areas, provide transparency for partners and customers, and allow for the measurable progress toward science-based emissions reduction targets.
Metrics:	• Main sources of GHG emissions across operations and facilities are identified and quantified. • Methodologies, data sources, assumptions, and uncertainties are clearly documented.
Strategy 2. Set science-based targets for reductions of GHG emissions.	Once a baseline GHG inventory has been completed, science-based targets can be set to reflect the inventory findings and allow CWS' climate mitigation efforts to be aligned with local, regional, and global efforts to reduce GHG emissions and limit global warming. Setting these targets guides strategic decision-making, provides accountability, helps prioritize action, and demonstrates a commitment to being a climate leader in the Tualatin Watershed.
Metrics:	• Target setting aligns with the Science-Based Targets initiative (SBTi) framework and Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change thresholds of global warming. • Targets are clearly linked to Scope 1, Scope 2, and/or Scope 3 emissions.
Strategy 3. Continue energy audits to prioritize equipment and facilities for necessary upgrades to improve efficiency of CWS systems and identify new approaches or technologies to assist in the effort.	Energy audits can identify inefficiencies in energy use, enabling targeted upgrades to infrastructure and systems. By upgrading to energy-efficient equipment, CWS can reduce operational costs, lower emissions, and improve overall system performance. These upgrades can lead to significant energy and cost savings, and alignment with permitting thresholds and emissions reduction targets.
Metrics:	• Major energy-consuming uses are identified and prioritized for upgrades. • Potential energy savings from proposed upgrades and/or operational changes are quantified.

Strategy 4. Explore and continue to promote renewable energy alternatives (e.g., biogas, renewable natural gas, solar).	Transitioning to renewable energy alternatives reduces GHG emissions and enhances long-term operational resilience. Biogas and renewable natural gas can be generated on-site from wastewater treatment processes, creating a circular economy where energy is produced from waste. This strategy ensures that CWS meets renewable energy goals while reducing operational costs and environmental impacts.
Metrics:	• Percent of total energy use derived from renewable sources. • Annual GHG emissions avoided through renewable energy transition.
Strategy 5. Identify and quantify benefits of natural systems and engineered methods to increase carbon sequestration and storage on CWS properties and projects and partner lands as part of meeting existing regulatory requirements.	Investing in natural assets such as wetlands, riparian zones, and forests helps sequester carbon, improve water quality, reduce flooding, and enhance biodiversity. This includes protecting, restoring, and creating natural systems on CWS-owned and partner lands to create functioning ecosystems that provide multiple benefits, including carbon sequestration and storage. Natural assets provide multiple co-benefits such as improved water and air quality, wildlife habitat, and flood mitigation that can offset operational and maintenance costs. Biological and chemical processes can also be used in wastewater treatment to capture carbon dioxide. Identify and support mechanisms for tracking, verifying, and receiving carbon offset credits related to natural and engineered methods.
Metrics:	• Total amount of carbon sequestered per area (e.g., acres) annually. • Applicable carbon credit mechanisms identified and evaluated. • Number of carbon offset credits generated and verified.
GOAL 2. CLIMATE ADAPTATION **Promote CWS' ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from the impacts of climate change**	
Desired Outcomes:	• CWS has a clear and quantified understanding of how its facilities, infrastructure, and operations are vulnerable to climate change, allowing for proactive risk management and targeted adaptation actions. • CWS' operations, infrastructure, facilities, and staff are better equipped to handle climate change-related disruptions, ensuring uninterrupted service and safety. • Natural assets on CWS properties and projects are restored and maintained to buffer the impacts of climate change, maintain regulatory compliance, improve water quality, flood management, and overall watershed health. • CWS builds and strengthens partnerships in the Tualatin Basin to leverage knowledge, resources, and funding to amplify the impact of climate adaptation.

Strategy 1. Conduct a baseline vulnerability and risk assessment to better understand how susceptible CWS' infrastructure, natural assets, operations, and facilities are to climate change.	To set the foundation for climate adaptation, a baseline vulnerability and risk assessment is essential to identify how susceptible CWS' infrastructure, natural assets, operations, and facilities are to climate change-related impacts. By integrating climate science, data analytics, and modeling, CWS will be able to quantify future climate projections, enabling informed decision-making to minimize risk, enhance resilience, optimize resource use, and better plan for long-term infrastructure needs.
Metrics:	• Historical trends and future climate projections identified across multiple timeframes and using multiple emissions pathways (e.g., moderate emissions scenario, high emissions scenario). • Vulnerability assessment completed with clear methodology, data sources, uncertainties, and limitations documented.
Strategy 2. Review existing regulatory requirements, policies, procedures, and operations materials (e.g., Design and Construction Standards, compliance targets, Performance Standards related to NPDES permit) to evaluate gaps and opportunities for climate-informed revisions where needed.	Identifying gaps and opportunities for climate-informed revisions will help CWS adapt more effectively to emerging challenges, ensuring policies and procedures support long-term resilience and are reflective of projected future conditions.
Metrics:	• Materials reviewed where climate strategies are applicable. • Existing policies revised or updated to incorporate climate adaptation.
Strategy 3. Identify and prioritize necessary improvements to CWS facilities and infrastructure to withstand climate hazards where feasible.	Retrofits and/or upgrades can help minimize climate change-related disruptions and ensure facilities and infrastructure remain functional and safe in light of climate change. These improvements can help maintain continuity of service and reduce long-term repair and recovery costs.
Metric:	• Highly vulnerable facilities and infrastructure are prioritized for upgrades.

Strategy 4. Develop and implement guidance and procedures to protect the health and well-being of CWS employees from climate change-related hazards.	Protecting the health of CWS employees is critical in an era of increasingly frequent and intense extreme heat, wildfire smoke, winter storm, and flooding events. Establishing clear guidance and procedures will safeguard the well-being of CWS staff, reduce health risks, and ensure continuity of operations during extreme conditions. As climate change continues to manifest in the Tualatin Basin, guidelines may need to be modified to address emerging concerns (e.g., pests, disease vectors). This strategy aligns with strategies identified in the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan.
Metrics:	• Health and safety guidelines reviewed, revised, created, and finalized for climate change hazards. • Percentage of employees trained on health and safety procedures related to climate hazards. • Reductions in at-work health incidents during extreme events.
Strategy 5. Protect and enhance watershed ecosystems—riparian areas, streams, wetlands, upland forests—to provide multiple benefits (e.g., climate resilience, forest management, habitat restoration, stream flow management).	Healthy watershed ecosystems are foundational for water supply, water quality, biodiversity, and climate resilience. By making investments in natural systems, CWS can improve watershed health, reduce flood risks (including effluent discharge into receiving waters), and provide multiple co-benefits for community well-being and wildlife (e.g., passive cooling via tree canopy and riparian buffers to provide shade and reduce thermal pollution).
Metrics:	• Total area of watershed ecosystems protected and restored. • Watershed health indicators are regularly monitored and reported on.
Strategy 6. Collaborate with partners to share resources, plan for shared risks, and leverage funding on climate change projects.	Collaborating with partners on climate change will enable CWS to pool resources, share expertise, and secure funding for climate action projects (e.g., climate adaptation, renewable energy, etc.). This strategy also includes CWS partnering to implement strategies identified in the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan and other local and regional plans.
Metric:	• Activities with existing and new partners interested and engaged in climate action in the Tualatin Basin are tracked.
Strategy 7. Collect data from partners and customers to help inform CWS' climate-informed activities.	By gathering relevant data from partners and customers, CWS can tailor its climate strategies to specific needs, improve forecasting, and track the effectiveness of climate actions, ensuring that future initiatives are well-informed and responsive to changing conditions.
Metric:	• Surveys developed and collected to gauge input on CWS' climate change initiatives.

Definitions

Adaptation: Adjusting to actual or expected future climate; being ready and prepared for uncertainty. Reducing risks and vulnerabilities from the harmful effects of climate change such as weather extremes and natural disasters and making the most of beneficial opportunities. For example, in other parts of the country there can be a longer growing season.

Carbon Neutral: Carbon neutral describes the state achieved when an entity that produces carbon emissions removes the same volume of carbon emissions from the Earth's atmosphere. Reaching carbon neutrality can involve a variety of measures, including energy efficiency initiatives, renewable energy transitions, carbon removal and carbon offset projects. Carbon "removals," in any form, cannot substitute for cutting planetheating emissions as fast as possible.

Climate Change: A change in global or regional climate patterns, particularly one apparent from the mid to late 20th century onwards and attributed largely to the increased levels of atmospheric CO2 produced by fossil fuels.

Climate Resilience: The ability to anticipate, prepare for, and respond to hazard events, trends, or disturbances related to climate change. This includes the adaptive capacity for a system to absorb stresses imposed by climate change and to adapt and possibly evolve the system to be better prepared for future impacts. Climate resilience is an outcome of climate actions.

Greenhouse Gas (GHG): Any gas that absorbs and re-radiates heat in the lower atmosphere, trapping heat on Earth that would otherwise be radiated to outer space. The main greenhouse gases are carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), nitrous oxide (N20), sulfur hexafluoride (SF6), hydrofluorocarbons (HFC), and perfluorinated carbons (PFC).

Greenhouse Gas Inventory: Documentation of GHG emission sources and the associated emissions quantified using standardized methods.

Mitigation: A human intervention to reduce the detrimental human impact on climate change; it includes strategies to reduce GHG sources and emissions and enhance GHG sinks. The goal is to avoid significant human interference with the climate system.

Resilience: A capability to anticipate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from significant multi-hazard threats with minimum damage to social well-being, the economy, and the environment.

Sequestration: Capturing GHGs from the atmosphere and storing them in natural systems or industrial systems to prevent them from entering the atmosphere.

Clean Water Services Advisory Commission Meeting Summary

Date: March 10, 2026

Location: CWS Central and on Zoom

CWAC MEMBERS PRESENT

- Drake Butsch (Builder/Developer 2)
- Marc Farrar (Builder/Developer 1)
- Ashley Farrell (Business 1)
- Glenn Fee (Environment 1) – CWAC chair
- Nisha George (At-Large District/Harrington)
- Sherilyn Lombos (Cities/nonvoting) – remote
- Ramesh Krishnamurthy (District 2/Treece)
- Stu Peterson (Business 2) – remote
- Rick Shanley (CWS/nonvoting)
- Terry Song (District 3/Snider)
- Elaine Stewart (Environment 2)

CWAC MEMBERS ABSENT

- Andy Haugen (District 4/Willey) – CWAC vice chair
- Alan Jesse (Agriculture 2)
- Rebecca Shell Kanarek (District 1/Fai)
- Lakshmi Tata (Agriculture 1)

CWS STAFF

- Josh Bernier, Senior Information Technology Technician
- Katie Cheney, Executive Assistant
- Elizabeth Edwards, Chief of Staff
- Joe Gall, Chief Utility Relations Officer
- Kathy Leader, Chief Financial Officer
- Erin Lowry, Finance Manager
- Ely O'Connor, Education and Outreach Manager
- Damon Reische, Planning & Development Services Division Manager

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

   The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**..... 00:00 on recording

   - **ELY O'CONNOR,** Education and Outreach Manager

   Staff shared information about a "Love Letters to Water" campaign for display at the new CWS Lab building, asked CWAC members to consider participating, and committed to providing follow-up instructions and a rendering of the wall.

3. **D&C STANDARDS REVISION SUBCOMMITTEE** ..... 05:47 on recording

   - Damon Reische, Planning & Development Services Division Manager

   Staff provided an update on the Design and Construction Standards Revision Subcommittee, noting that the first meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, March 30, from 9:30-11:00 am. The timeline for updating the D&C standards includes a public draft expected mid-April, with final adoption anticipated by November 1.

4. **COST OF SERVICES STUDY AND RATE DEVELOPMENT** ..... 13:57 on recording

   - Kathy Leader, Chief Financial Officer
   - Erin Lowry, Finance Manager

   Staff presented a five-year rate proposal based on a cost of service study initiated in 2021 and updated in 2025. The study reassessed cost allocation between regional services (treatment plants, major sewer lines, compliance) and local services (smaller sewer lines and stormwater facilities). A 10-year financial plan was outlined, including reserve targets totaling approximately $360 million, with final reserve policies forthcoming.

   The regional rate model assumes a 4% annual increase over 10 years to support operating costs, debt service, and $754 million in capital projects through 2031. Proposed rate changes include a 21% increase to the local sanitary sewer rate, while the regional sanitary rate would increase 4% annually. For surface water management, increases of 4% (regional) and 5% (local) were proposed. In fiscal year 2027, the combined sanitary and stormwater management rate for residential customers will go up by $4.28 a month; $3.75 for sanitary sewer and $0.53 for stormwater management. The presentation also highlighted revenue distribution, with most revenue coming from larger cities and about 20% from smaller cities and unincorporated areas. Reserves are expected to support local programs initially, with plans to rebuild reserve levels by 2031.

   Issues Discussed

   - Impact of proposed rate increases on different customer groups
   - Heavy reliance on revenue from larger cities vs. smaller jurisdictions
   - Use of reserves to temporarily support local programs
   - Comparison of rates to other regional and local utilities and to other cities

- Clarification that regional rate comparisons may not include local components in other jurisdictions
- Rising operating and capital costs (labor, construction) have significantly increased budget needs since 2019

- Consideration of whether different budgeting practices could allow for lower rate increases if spending levels are below projections

5. BUDGET PROCESS ..... 1:15:37 on recording

- Kathy Leader, Chief Financial Officer

Staff presented an overview of the Budget adoption process. The Budget Committee includes the five members on the CWS Board of Directors and five members from CWAC who meet to review and approve the budget. Opportunities for public comment are built into the process. The budget is scheduled to be distributed on April 17, and staff will be available to answer questions. Discussion centered on the budget process and CWAC's role and level of influence.

Items Discussed

- Structure and composition of the Budget Committee
- Need for clarity on CWAC's role in the budget process and its level of influence vs. advisory role
- Strategies for engaging CWAC members
- Public comment opportunities
- Key drivers in the Fiscal Year 2025-26 budget (regulatory compliance, staffing, infrastructure)
- Revenue vs. expenditure and use of savings/under-delivered capital funds
- Timeline for budget distribution
- Availability of CWS staff for follow-up questions

6. INVITATION FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ..... 1:52:03 on recording

- There were no members of the public in attendance

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS, QUESTIONS, COMMENTS..... 1:52:13 on recording

- Next CWAC meeting is scheduled for April 8 at Central.
- Upcoming employee event "Making Great Things Happen Showcase" on April 22
- Ongoing recruitment process for new General Manager position, with semifinal interviews underway and final rounds scheduled for March 30-31

8. MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:27pm