



CITY OF ELLENSBURG

Date of Meeting

Time of Meeting

Place of Meeting

Minutes of Environmental Commission, Regular Meeting

December 17, 2025

5:15 PM

**Council Conference Room
501 North Anderson Street
Ellensburg, WA 98926**

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1. Call to Order and Roll Call of Members

Commissioner Wollman called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

2.A Approval of the Proposed Agenda for December 17, 2025

Commissioner Linhart motioned to approve the agenda. Motion passed 5-0.

3. Approval of Minutes

3.A Approval of the Meeting Minutes from November 19, 2025

Commissioner Linhart motioned to approve the November 19, 2025 meeting minutes with a spelling correction. Motion passed 5-0.

4. New Business

4.A Review the 2025-2027 Department of Ecology Water Quality Stormwater Capacity Grant Agreement and consider providing a Recommendation for Approval to City Council

Rebecca Springer presented the 2025–2027 Biennial Stormwater Capacity Grant and requested that the Environmental Commission provide a favorable recommendation to City Council. The grant is funded by the Washington State Department of Ecology and is offered to permittees to support compliance with stormwater permit requirements. The grant amount varies each biennium based on the State budget and is \$120,000 for this funding cycle.

Staff plan to use the grant funds to support the Stormwater Companion Document project, which is intended to develop stormwater standards specific to Ellensburg and provide clearer guidance to developers and their engineers

on local stormwater management challenges. In previous cycles, grant funds have been used to support street sweeping removal. Staff noted that a \$10,000 reduction in the budget will be requested due to a reduction in projected grant funds.

Commissioners asked for clarification regarding the scope of activities funded by the grant, including whether it supports the \$10,000 Stormwater Water Quality grant and whether Outreach and Education activities are a required component of the City's stormwater permit.

Commissioner Lillquist moved to provide a favorable recommendation to City Council for the Public Works Director to sign the 2025–2027 Biennial Stormwater Capacity Grant Agreement.

The motion passed 5–0.

4.B Sustainability & Energy Plan Presentation

Jay Howard presented an overview of the Sustainability & Energy Plan (SEP), including the purpose of the plan, the reasons for its development, and general implementation strategies. He noted that public perception data indicate that more than half of Ellensburg's population supports reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. He explained that most local GHG emissions result from combustion sources rather than electricity use.

Commissioners asked questions regarding the Environmental Commission's role in implementing the SEP, whether the plan establishes priorities or functions primarily as a strategic framework, and how greenhouse gas emissions from the Wastewater Treatment Facility are calculated, including the role of methane generation and electricity use. Staff clarified that the SEP is primarily a strategic document and that methane recapture is not currently feasible.

No action was taken.

4.C Bike Month Subcommittee Creation

Commissioner Lillquist provided a brief update on Bike Month planning, with a tentative event date of May 30th. Proposed activities include a "ride on your own" option and participation in Adventure Lab. Commissioners were asked if there was interest in forming a small subcommittee to assist with planning and coordination. Commissioners Lillquist and DeVore volunteered to participate on the subcommittee, as well as, Jordon Spradlin.

Commissioners also discussed the possibility of offering adult bicycle skills training, including riding in traffic. It was noted that this may not be feasible in

the spring but could be considered in the summer if instructor availability allows.

No action was taken.

5. Unfinished Business

5.A 2026 Community Recycling Event

Rebecca Springer created a spreadsheet to track completed and upcoming event planning tasks. Waste Management (WM) availability was reviewed, and May 2nd was identified as the preferred date for Recycling Day, which will also serve as a kickoff for Bike Month. The event has been approved to be held in the parking lot of City Hall.

Commissioners discussed potential event components, noting that document shredding has been a popular service in the past. Medication disposal was identified as cost-prohibitive, with providing information on disposal resources suggested as an alternative.

WM promotional materials will be distributed now that a date has been selected. A flyer and QR code will be used to allow for updates as planning progresses. The event is anticipated to run from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

No action was taken.

6. Citizen Comment

None.

7. Staff Update/Discussion Items

7.A Kelli Capps promoted to Stormwater & Urban Forestry Technician

Rebecca Springer introduced Kelli Capps as the new Stormwater & Urban Forestry Technician. Kelli has been with the City for six years, and most recently she worked as an Engineering Tech II in the Engineering Division.

8. Adjournment

Commissioner Wollman adjourned the meeting at 6:06 p.m.