Meeting Agenda

Sea Level Rise Response Collaborative-Executive Committee

City Hall
601 4th Avenue E
Olympia, WA 98501

Contact: Zachary Palmer
360.709.2679

Friday, June 5, 2026 **12:00 PM** **Online via Zoom**

1. CALL TO ORDER

1.A ROLL CALL

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.A 26-0394 Approval of March 6, 2026 Sea Level Rise Response Collaborative Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Attachments: SLR 3.6.2026 minutes DRAFT

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

During this portion of the meeting, community members may address the Advisory Committee or Commission regarding items related to City business, including items on the Agenda. In order for the Committee or Commission to comply with Public Disclosure Law for political campaigns, speakers will not be permitted to make public comments before the Committee or Commission where the speaker promotes or opposes a candidate for public office or a ballot measure.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS

6. BUSINESS ITEMS

6.A 26-0395 Briefing on Long-term Sea Level Rise Monitoring and Metrics for Adaptive Management

Attachments: One-Pager Monitoring and Metrics Plan

6.B 26-0396 Briefing on the 2027-2028 Sea Level Rise Collaborative Workplan

Attachments: 2027-28 Workplan

7. REPORTS

8. OTHER TOPICS

9. ADJOURNMENT

Upcoming

Accommodations

The City of Olympia is committed to the non-discriminatory treatment of all persons in employment and the delivery of services and resources. If you require accommodation for your attendance at the City Advisory Committee meeting, please contact the Advisory Committee staff liaison (contact number in the upper right corner of the agenda) at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting. For hearing impaired, please contact us by dialing the Washington State Relay Service at 7-1-1 or 1.800.833.6384.

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Sea Level Rise Response Collaborative-Executive Committee

Approval of March 6, 2026 Sea Level Rise Response Collaborative Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Agenda Date: 6/5/2026
Agenda Item Number: 3.A
File Number:26-0394

Type: minutes **Version:** 1 **Status:** In Committee

Title

Approval of March 6, 2026 Sea Level Rise Response Collaborative Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Minutes

Sea Level Rise Response Collaborative-Executive Committee

City Hall
601 4th Avenue E
Olympia, WA 98501

Contact: Zachary Palmer
360.709.2679

Friday, March 6, 2026 **12:00 PM** **Online via Zoom**

Register to attend:
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ff7wHLM2TJGk9tKKghu3Jw

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Madrone called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m.

1.A ROLL CALL

Present:
Chair Dani Madrone, LOTT
Committee member Paul Berendt, City of Olympia
Committee member Krag Unsoeld, Port of Olympia

1.B OTHERS PRESENT

Rachel Grant, Thurston County
Jerry Toompas, Port of Olympia
Robert Vanderpool, City of Olympia

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.A 26-0156 Approval of September 5, 2025 Sea Level Rise Response Collaborative Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

The minutes were approved.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT - None

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS - None

6. BUSINESS ITEMS

6.A 26-0157

Election of Officers for the Sea Level Rise Response Collaborative Executive Committee

Election of Officers was held.

Committee member Berendt moved, seconded by Committee member Unsoeld, to re-elect Chair Madrone as Chair. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee member Berendt moved, seconded by Chair Madrone, to elect Committee Member Unsoeld as Vice Chair. The motion passed unanimously.

6.B 26-0158

Update on 2026 Sea Level Rise Collaborative Workplan

Ms. Weiss provided a presentation to committee members regarding the 2025-2026 Sea Level Rise Response Collaborative work plan. The presentation detailed key projects that will be completed this year and discussed immediate and long term strategic planning goals.

The information was received.

7. REPORTS

Ms. Weiss reported on two Sea Level Rise events. The Department of Ecology hosted a Deschutes Estuary Restoration event on March 7, 2026. LOTT hosted a Sea Level Rise event on March 21, 2026.

8. OTHER TOPICS - None

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:31 p.m.

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Sea Level Rise Response Collaborative-Executive Committee

Briefing on Long-term Sea Level Rise Monitoring and Metrics for Adaptive Management

Agenda Date: 6/5/2026
Agenda Item Number: 6.A
File Number:26-0395

Type: information **Version:** 1 **Status:** In Committee

Title

Briefing on Long-term Sea Level Rise Monitoring and Metrics for Adaptive Management

Recommended Action

Briefing only. No action requested.

Report

Issue:

Briefing on long-term sea level rise monitoring and metrics for adaptive management.

Staff Contact:

Natalie Weiss, Climate Resilience Coordinator, 360.570.5828

Presenter(s):

Natalie Weiss, Climate Resilience Coordinator

Justin Vandever, AECOM

Julia-Grace Sanders, AECOM

Background and Analysis:

In July 2025, the Collaborative Partners contracted with AECOM to develop a long-term sea level rise monitoring plan to track changing environmental conditions and support adaptive management. The key outcomes of the contract are a local evaluation of vertical land motion, updated sea level rise projections, and a long-term monitoring and metrics plan.

Assessed vertical land motion:

AECOM conducted an analysis of vertical land motion (VLM) in the Sea Level Rise Response Plan project area. Vertical land motion is the slow, long-term uplifting or sinking of land. In Olympia, we primarily experience sinking (or subsidence), which can influence flood risk as enhanced rates of subsidence can accelerate observed and future rates of relative sea level rise. AECOM assessed localized VLM and used those estimates to adjust regional sea level rise projections to local conditions. AECOM estimated a subsidence rate of -2 to -4 mm/yr.

Updated sea level rise projections:

Using the outputs of the VLM evaluation, AECOM developed projections for future sea level rise and maps showing the extent and frequency of sea level rise flood exposure. AECOM conducted a literature review of projections that have been published since the development of the Sea Level Rise Response Plan in 2019, and recommended using the NOAA (2022) regional sea level rise estimates. The updated projections, including VLM, show 12-18 inches of sea level rise by 2050, and 41-66 inches of sea level rise by 2100.

A long-term monitoring and metrics plan: The monitoring strategy provides a standardized, data-driven foundation for prioritizing future capital investments and ensuring timely construction of adaptation measures. The strategy creates a structure for Collaborative partners to evaluate when trigger points-specific, measurable thresholds in environmental or infrastructure conditions that signal when adaptation actions should be initiated-are reached. Project partners can use the trigger points to plan adaptation strategies based on observed changes, rather than fixed timelines. The report includes specific monitoring activities, metrics, and defined thresholds for action as well as templates for collecting data on a regular schedule and after episodic flood events.

The presentation will provide an overview and detail the key outcomes of the work, and an opportunity for questions and discussion with AECOM.

Climate Analysis:

The outputs of the work will allow project partners to be adaptive in our response to sea level rise. The updated sea level rise projections refine our understanding of what we are preparing for and helps to mitigate the impacts of sea level rise on critical infrastructure in downtown Olympia. Overall, the work advances a regional response to a key climate-related hazard.

Equity Analysis:

These initiatives will provide additional data and guidance on how to fund and implement sea level

rise response strategies. When appropriate, staff will consider how data collection and analysis for these work items can be designed to improve our understanding of who may benefit and who will be impacted by future projects and funding.

Neighborhood/Community Interests (if known):

There is considerable community interest in sea level rise planning and implementation of flood protection measures in downtown Olympia.

Options:

Briefing only. No action requested.

Financial Impact:

The total cost of the consulting contract was $80,856.00. The outputs of the work will help guide future spending on sea level rise adaptation strategies, including but not limited to infrastructure investments and operational responses. The monitoring strategy also provides a way to track increasing financial impacts and risk to downtown Olympia and the Collaborative Partners.

Attachments:

Monitoring Plan Fact Sheet

Olympia Sea Level Rise Response Collaborative: Executive Committee Briefing

Long-Term Sea Level Rise Monitoring and Metrics for Adaptive Management

Background & Purpose

The Olympia Sea Level Rise Response Collaborative, have advanced a critical next step in Olympia's sea level rise (SLR) response – a Sea Level Rise Monitoring Plan. The Plan establishes a framework to monitor evolving climate and environmental conditions and translate those data into actionable decisions to guide the implementation of future SLR adaptation actions.

While Collaborative partners have long collected environmental and monitoring data for various purposes, formal data collection and tracking protocols specifically for SLR adaptation was a key gap.

This Plan establishes a framework for how to connect changing conditions on the ground to when—and how—to act.

Why This Approach Was Needed

Sea level rise presents a unique planning challenge for Olympia because:

- Infrastructure investments require long lead times (5–15+ years)
- Future conditions are uncertain and continuously evolving

This Plan introduces an adaptive management framework, where decisions are guided by observed conditions and defined thresholds ("trigger points") rather than static assumptions (e.g., sea level rise projections tied to defined time horizons). In practice, this means that Collaborative partners can better align planning, design, funding, and construction of SLR adaptation projects to mitigate increasing risk.

Stakeholder Engagement: Grounding the Plan in Practice

A defining feature of this work was a structured, cross-departmental engagement process designed to ensure the approach is not only technically sound, but also operationally feasible.

Through 10 targeted interviews with City departments, the Port, LOTT, and state partners, the project team achieved the following:

- Mapped how staff currently monitor conditions, respond to flooding, and plan capital projects
- Identified opportunities to embed SLR monitoring into existing workflows (e.g., inspections, maintenance, data collection, emergency response)
- Assessed data availability, documentation practices, and coordination gaps
- Explored risk tolerance, including what levels of disruption, damage, or service impacts are considered unacceptable

This process confirmed that Olympia already collects substantial data, but that information is often fragmented across departments and not consistently linked to decision-making.

Sea Level Rise Mapping Updates

The project also refined the Collaborative's understanding of future conditions by evaluating local vertical land motion (subsidence), estimated at approximately -2 to -4 mm/year. Olympia's SLR projections were also updated using the best available, recent science (NOAA 2022) with adjustments to make the data specific to Olympia's shoreline. Updated projections indicate:

- 12–18 inches of SLR by 2050
- 41–66 inches of SLR by 2100

Monitoring Plan: From Data to Decisions

The Monitoring Plan provides the missing link between data and action by establishing:

- Coordinated monitoring across partners, using existing inspections, data systems, and flood response activities as a foundation
- Standardized metrics, translating raw observations into indicators of changing risk
- Trigger points, defining when conditions exceed acceptable thresholds and action is needed
- Integration with capital planning timelines, ensuring identification of early signals to plan and fund major projects

This approach enables proactive, evidence-based decision-making, supporting more effective prioritization of limited resources.

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Sea Level Rise Response Collaborative-Executive Committee

Briefing on the 2027-2028 Sea Level Rise Collaborative Workplan

Agenda Date: 6/5/2026
Agenda Item Number: 6.B
File Number:26-0396

Type: information **Version:** 1 **Status:** In Committee

Title

Briefing on the 2027-2028 Sea Level Rise Collaborative Workplan

Recommended Action

Briefing only. No action requested.

Report

Issue:

Briefing and discussion on the 2027-2028 Sea Level Rise Collaborative Workplan

Staff Contact:

Natalie Weiss, Climate Resilience Coordinator, 360.570.5828

Presenter(s):

Natalie Weiss, Climate Resilience Coordinator

Background and Analysis:

Staff will introduce the first draft of the 2027-2028 Sea Level Rise Collaborative Workplan. The workplan includes tasks that will be coordinated and financially supported by the Collaborative, as well as partner-led projects that will happen concurrently. As we enter the mid-term strategies phase of the Olympia Sea Level Rise Response Plan (i.e., 2025-2050), we expect that there will be more agency-led and funded adaptation projects and will highlight those efforts in the biennial workplan.

The 2027-2028 workplan includes the following tasks and actions by the Collaborative Partners.

- Incorporate sea level rise considerations into capital planning.

- Evaluate and recommend long-term public financing mechanisms.
- Model peak flows for strategic separation of combined sewer systems and develop flow reduction program.
- Perform monitoring activities, calculate sea level rise metrics, and publish first monitoring report.

The attachment includes the full list of projects. The 2027-2028 workplan will be formally adopted during the Executive Committee meeting scheduled for September 4, 2026.

Climate Analysis:

The projects included within the 2027-2028 workplan will help the Collaborative members more effectively adapt to sea level rise and mitigate the risks to community assets and critical services.

Equity Analysis:

These initiatives will provide additional data and guidance on how to fund and implement sea level rise response strategies. When appropriate, staff will consider how data collection and analysis for these work items can be designed to improve our understanding of who may benefit and who will be impacted by future projects and funding.

Neighborhood/Community Interests (if known):

There is considerable community interest in sea level rise planning and implementation of flood protection measures in downtown Olympia.

Options:

Briefing only. No action requested.

Financial Impact:

The total cost to implement the 2027-2028 workplan is $280,000. Costs are shared across the Collaborative members. The necessary funding will be requested in each member's 2027-2028 budget.

Attachments:

2027-2028 Draft Workplan

Type: information **Version:** 1 **Status:** In Committee

SLR Collaborative 2027-2028 Draft Workplan

Collaborative Funded and Coordinated Projects

ID	Strategy	Proposed Project	Lead Agency	Cost - 2027	Cost - 2028	Notes
POL-4	Incorporate sea level rise considerations into capital planning and EDDS.	Develop guidelines for partners to plan and design capital projects that address sea level rise and increasing precipitation, informed by a review of current practices and technical input. Update Engineering Design and Development Standards to better incorporate climate resilience, and establish a framework for ongoing updates based on best available science.	City of Olympia with participation by LOTT, Port, and DES.	$20,000	N/A	Started in 2026. Currently on pause due to staffing constraints, but will have an update on steps forward before final workplan is adopted. Cost carried forward from 2025-26 workplan. This was one of the uncompleted near-term actions.
FIN-1	Evaluate and recommend long-term public financing mechanism.	Identify and recommend funding and financing mechanisms for mid-term and long-term sea level rise adaptation projects. Partners will define the scope of projects included under the financing strategy and the mix of revenue streams available for adaptation projects. The project will include significant engagement with the Executive Committee, relevant advisory committees, stakeholders, and the public.	City of Olympia/Climate	$100,000	N/A	This project has been on pause because of the delay on the Percival Landing revisioning project. However, through a financial and rate study, the storm and surface water and wastewater utilities are investigating the use of rates as a source of revenue for capital projects necessary to protect downtown from sea level rise as recommended by the slr funded financial study.
N/A	Model peak flows for strategic separation of combined sewer systems and develop flow reduction program.	Model peak flows and develop a reduction strategy, including prioritized areas for combined sewer separation. Identify projects for selective separation of the combined sewer system to reduce excess flows to the Budd Inlet Treatment Plant.	City of Olympia/SSW, LOTT	Grant funded	N/A	Applied and received grant funding from NEP Stormwater Strategic Initiative Lead. Work is expected to begin in summer 2026.
N/A	Perform monitoring activities, calculate sea level rise metrics, and publish first monitoring report.	Begin monitoring activities, collecting data, and calculating metrics based on the Long-Term Sea Level Rise Monitoring Plan completed in 2026. Integrate documentation and reporting across agencies. Produce and publish first long-term sea level rise monitoring report and create template for future updates.	All Partners; City of Olympia lead	Staff time	Staff time	Implementation action from the long-term sea level rise monitoring plan from AECOM.
N/A	Support emerging opportunities.	Support unanticipated opportunities, including grant matches, monitoring, equipment, and partnerships.	All Partners	$50,000	$50,000	
N/A	Purchase flow monitors for combined sewer system peak flow reduction study.	Purchase flow monitors to complete the peak flow reduction survey.	City of Olympia/LOTT	$40,000	N/A	This may need to be completed in 2026 for fall sampling window. Confirm this is true, and remove from 2027-28 workplan before adoption.
N/A	Conduct level loop survey to measure subsidence in downtown.	Repeat benchmark survey conducted in early 2010s to measure ground elevations and create long-term dataset monitoring subsidence in downtown Olympia.	City of Olympia/ Surveying Team	$20,000	N/A	Recommended follow-up action from long-term monitoring and subsidence assessment from AECOM. Confirm cost estimate with surveying team.

N/A	Refine groundwater assessment with key stormwater systems surveys.	Conduct stormwater line surveys in downtown Olympia to identify groundwater infiltration points and map the location, depth, and outfalls of existing infrastructure. Use this information to assess when rising sea levels will submerge stormwater systems, impair drainage, and contribute to surface ponding in low-lying areas.	LOTT / SSW	**Confirm cost**	N/A	Recommended follow-up actions from groundwater assessment completed in 2025 from Pioneer.
FIN-3	Pursue state and federal funding.	Apply for grant funding to support implementation of mid-term adaptation projects.	City of Olympia/Climate, with support from all partners.	Staff time	Staff time	Ongoing, as grant opportunities open.
ED-2; ED-7	Conduct community education and outreach.	Each partner is responsible for developing and executing project-specific education and for sea level rise adaptation efforts. Examples of ongoing and recurring efforts from project partners include: - Local business roundtables led by the Port of Olympia - Youth education sessions with LOTT Clean Water Alliance at the WET Science Center - Tidal flooding communications for downtown residents and businesses led by the City of Olympia	All Partners	Staff time	Staff time	Ongoing, education and outreach will be integrated within each project.

Agency Specific Projects						
City of Olympia						
POL-2	Update Sea Level Rise Flood Damage Reduction Ordinance	Review and propose updates to the Sea Level Rise Flood Damage Reduction Ordinance to reflect higher flood elevations, including prioritizing elevation of lowest floors rather than floodproofing. Updates may include expanding provisions to support resilient building design, defining standards for critical facilities, and ensuring minimum floor elevations account for a project's projected lifespan.	City of Olympia/Climate, in coordination with CP&D. Reviewed by LUEC.	Staff time	Staff time	Started in 2026. This was one of the uncompleted near-term actions.
PL-2; PL-3; PL-4; PL-5	Complete Downtown Waterfront Revisioning project.	Coordinate with Olympia Parks, Arts & Recreation to complete revisioning of Percival Landing. Incorporate mid-term SLR adaptation strategies envisioned for Percival Landing and adjacent right-of-way (ROW) into concept designs. Develop preliminary cost estimates and phasing plan for mid-term and long-term adaptation strategies.	City of Olympia/Parks	Funded outside of SLRC		Started in 2024 and currently on pause. To be completed by 2027.
LOTT						

N/A	Elevate upgraded/new BITP components above projected flood levels for redundancy.	Initiate generator/ influent pump station project in 2028. Project includes raising the elevation, with construction expected in 2029. An upgrade to the A/B substation will be designed in 2025-2026 with construction in 2027; an elevation raise will be evaluated for this project.	LOTT	Funded outside of SLRC	Funded outside of SLRC	
N/A	Plan and construct North Pipeline Upgrade.	Replace a section of the north outfall pipeline to eliminate a hydraulic bottleneck that limits effluent pumping capacity.	LOTT	Funded outside of SLRC	Funded outside of SLRC	Project planning is underway. Construction is planned for 2030.
N/A	Forcemain Air Valve Replacement	This replacement will enable the use of full capacity of the pipes.	LOTT	Funded outside of SLRC	Funded outside of SLRC	Construction is expected in 2027.
Port of Olympia						
N/A	Complete Port Master Plan.	Complete Port Peninsula Master Plan with SLR considerations and adaptation measures integrated throughout.	Port	Funded outside of SLRC	Funded outside of SLRC	
N/A	Address vulnerabilities in drainage system connecting Marine Drive, Market St, and Franklin St.	Identify and evaluate strategies for addressing vulnerabilities in drainage system connecting Marine Drive, Market St, and Franklin St. Coordinate and implement with Collaborative Partners.	Port	Funded outside of SLRC	Funded outside of SLRC	
N/A	Implement adaptation strategies for Marine Terminal's wet well for stormwater.	Evaluate and identify adaptation strategies (e.g. covers for the grates) to protect the Port's wet well for stormwater management. Implement necessary upgrades and strategies	Port	Funded outside of SLRC	Funded outside of SLRC	
WA Ecology / Enterprise Services						
N/A	Complete Deschutes Estuary Restoration 90% & 100% Design and Permitting.	Complete 90% and 100% design and all permitting for the Deschutes Estuary Restoration Project.	DES	Funded outside of SLRC	Funded outside of SLRC	Projected design completion is summer 2027.
N/A	Begin construction of Deschutes Estuary Restoration project.	Begin construction of Deschutes Estuary Restoration project.	DES	Funded outside of SLRC	Funded outside of SLRC	To be determined and dependent on funding.