

**Clark County
Solid Waste Advisory Commission
Regular Meeting
Thursday January 6, 2011**

Clark County Auto License Office
1408 Franklin Street
Vancouver, WA

SWAC Members Present: Eldon Wogen, Jack McClary, Don Ebbeson, Lisa Schmidt, Jeanne Stewart, Mike Carnahan, Richard Baker

SWAC Members Absent: Dan Kaler,

Staff Present: Anita Largent, Mike Davis, Gary Bickett, Sabra Hall-Nelson, and Rich McConaghy

Others: Mike Drumright (Ecology) and Scott Campbell (Waste Connections)

I. Roll Call, Approval of Minutes

November 4, 2010 and December 2, 2010 were approved as written.

II. Election of Officers

Jack McClary nominated Rebecca Wale who respectfully declined due to current commitments but would be willing to chair in the future. Jack McClary nominated Lisa Schmidt for SWAC Chair; Rebecca Wale seconded that motion; it was unanimously approved. Don Ebbeson volunteered to be Vice Chair; motion seconded and unanimously approved. Eldon Wogen handed over the invisible gavel to Lisa Schmidt.

III. UPDATES – County Public Health - Gary Bickett

- A request was recently received from Circle C Landfill for declaration of landfill stabilization and dismissal of Post Closure Monitoring & Maintenance. Melissa Sutton recently inspected Leichner Landfill with SCS and SHAW Environmental; going over gas and groundwater monitoring processes as well as contractor transition protocols.
- Nothing new to report on the General Chemical or Rufener Landfill Sites. CCPH currently working on issuing five year permits to all active solid waste handling facilities, as allowed in the WAC. Compliance Schedules would remain in effect unless there are changes in facility processes or code.
- CCPH's Site Hazardous Assessment (SHA) program is developing a proposal for grant application to Department of Ecology for a four county regional approach in responding to contaminated site investigations. Ecology has provided positive verbal support for the idea. SHA and Solid Waste Compliance program staff are also working on quarterly reports and 2010 data collection.
- Statewide Environmental Health Directors have developed talking points for legislative support of Solid Waste Enforcement Grants at current levels. Some information they have provided is as follows:

Background: This is part of the Coordinated Prevention Grant Program that have been used by local public health jurisdictions (LHJs) since 1988 to help fund solid waste enforcement programs mandated by RCW 70.95 - Solid Waste Management Act, WAC 173-304 – Minimum Functional Standards for Solid Waste Handling, replaced by WAC 173-350, Solid Waste Standards and WAC 173-351, Criteria for Municipal Solid Waste Landfills. Mandated activities include permitting of solid waste facilities (landfills, transfer stations, compost facilities, etc.), inspection of permitted facilities, response to solid waste complaints (illegal dumping, improper storage, etc.), development of local solid waste handling regulations, and participation in county solid waste planning efforts. Additional enforcement activities

include providing educational materials to the public, closed landfill inventory and compliance checks on permit exempt solid waste facilities.

Funding Source for CPG: Funding for CPG has traditionally been from the Local Toxic Control Account (LTCA). This account is part of the funds raised from the Model Toxic Control Act (MTCA). In order to help with the budget problems in the State General Fund, the funding for CPG was transferred to the State Building Construction Account. This resulted in changing the funding source for CPG from a relatively stable funding source (tax on chemicals) to a more tenuous source (sale of state bonds) if the state reaches its bonding limit. In addition to the above, the supplemental budget passed in the last session did not provide funding for the second year (January – December 2011) of the current grant cycle. In other words, even though LHJs and counties have signed grant contracts with DOE that were to be effective January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2011, there is no allocation for January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2011 to support this activity.

What we need:

- ◆ Help from our commissioners (WSAC) to set this as one of their legislative priorities
- ◆ Help from our legislators for a budget appropriation to fund our solid waste enforcement activities (and county solid waste implementation projects) for calendar year 2011
- ◆ Help from our legislators to make sure funding for CPG returns to the LTCA

County Environmental Services - Anita Largent

Items and handouts included in the packets:

- 2011 Special Waste Collections – listed from April to October
- Block Foam & Electronic Waste Collection – Saturday, January 8, 2011 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm @ Clark College
- Workshops – Master Composter/recycling volunteer – Thursday evening from 6:00 pm-8:30 pm starting February 3-April 7, 2011
- Growing Groceries Mentor Program -1st Saturday of the month starting January-April from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
- Amazing Things In The Sky –family activities 1:00-3:00 pm on January 8, 2011 @ Water Resource Center

News Articles:

- The Columbian, “With economy in trash, less garbage is in the dump”
- The Seattle Times, “Yellow Pages sues Seattle”
- **Sample** News Release for our weather event notifications – Slick conditions delay garbage and recycling collection Tuesday

Other update items include:

- Metro Council approved a facility franchise permit to Columbia Bio Gas Facilities. This allows this project to move forward to the construction phase. There are still several companies in the Metro area that are looking at composting food waste. Our long term plans are utilize this facility capacity in the Metro area.
- WA Green Schools has received the Organizational Excellence Award from the Environmental Educations Association of Washington. Currently 127 Washington schools participate in the Washington Green Schools program, including 30 schools in Clark County.
- Waste Connections has purchased land directly behind the Central Transfer and Recycling Facility.

City of Vancouver - Rich McConaghy

Staff is busy closing out the year and planning for the 2011 neighborhood programs.

Curbside Recycling: Preliminary results for the first 11 months of using the carts show a 13% increase in tonnage for curbside recycling. Next SWAC meeting we should have a report for the full year.

Department of Ecology - Mike Drumright

No issues from the Department of Ecology for SWAC. Mike will bring to the next SWAC meeting information on the status of the grants.

IV. Update – Leichner Landfill – Mike Davis

Clark County has completed negotiation with the new engineering contractor and entered into at a period of transition between the incoming and outgoing contractors. The bid process started with seven proposals; next evaluation committee selected and interviewed the top three. The contract was awarded to Steams, Conrad and Schmidt Consulting Engineers, Inc. (SCS Engineers) There is a 3-month transition period from October to December of 2010. Shaw Environmental Inc. will complete the 2010 final quarter report, at which time their contract will end. Starting the first quarter of 2011, SCS Engineers will be the sole contractor.

County staff is proposing to purchase 120 acres of land from the Leichner family for \$1.5 million. The properties include 11 acres of right of way for the extension of 99th street, 35 acres of light industrial properties (Koski property) and 74 acres that encompasses the closed Leichner Landfill. The county is working towards the acquisition of the property. The county has an option to purchase the properties for \$1.00 once the site is declared stabilized. The Department of Ecology guidelines for determining stabilization indicate that stability may be decades away. The current restrictions encumber the properties making it difficult to develop the site. Ground water contamination is down. However, stabilization according to DOE means little or no settlement, gas production, or leachate generation. By moving ahead with a purchase now, the county can establish clean title to the site facilitating reuse of all or part of the site. The Koski property is free from contamination, relatively flat, and zoned light industrial. The negotiated price of \$1.5 million for 120 acres with the county option in place was set by an appraisal. Once the property is no longer encumbered by the county option, the appraisal placed the value of the 120 acres at \$5.45 million. Funding for the purchase will come from the Leichner Landfill Financial Assurance Fund and the County Road Fund.

V. Update – Lock Closure Impact – Mike Davis

We started hauling garbage by truck through the gorge on December 8, 2010. The transition went smoothly; all is going well so far. We had a few start-up issues. The crew had to get use to loading the trailers differently. Work has started on John Day and The Dalles dams. The Dalles is a few days behind schedule. The plan includes continuing trucking the garbage a few days after the lock is open to make sure everything is working properly; before returning to normal operation. Hopeful there will be no long delays, if so we still have extra containers and can go to another landfill, for short term, if needed.

VI. Communications Plan for Weather Events – Mike Davis

Staff from the county, municipalities and CRESA had a meeting on December 15, 2010 to discuss the plan for communications in the event of inclement weather. We received a lot of new information that will be incorporated in the plan which is currently still being worked on. The county is prepared to deal with these events. Fortunately we were not affected by major inclement weather during the holiday. We do have an emergency plan in place; we are still in the process of formalizing the new information.

VII. Sustainability & Outreach 2011 Business Plan – Anita Largent

SWAC members received a copy of Environmental Services Sustainability & Outreach Division Business / Work Plan (still in draft format). This is the operating plan for the division - reflecting the 2011-2012 budget.

- Vision: We envision a Clark County rich in natural resources, parklands, and open spaces, which sustain and support our local economy, while enhancing our high quality of life.
- Mission: Environmental Services strategically protects and enhances our natural environment.
- Values:
 - We make a positive difference by helping people protect and enhance our natural environment.
 - We lead by example in sustainable and environmental practices.
 - We serve the public by solving problems, and focusing on environmental outcomes.

- We enjoy working as a team towards clear goals and priorities.
- We have efficient and transparent processes.

Division Goals:

- Promote environmental awareness and stewardship in the community to:
 - Preserve and conserve natural resources.
 - Prevent pollution in the environment.
 - Reduce waste through prevention and diversion.
 - Reduce greenhouse gas emissions impact.
- Implement natural resource plans to achieve better environmental outcomes.
- Develop and implement a communications and awareness campaign for Clean Water program cost of service analysis.

Division Objectives:

- Expand food waste composting efforts, diverting additional tones from the landfill.
- Implement the Living House project in partnership with Habitat for Humanity.
- Increase partnerships with neighborhoods, businesses, NGO's and other organizations through targeted outreach and programs.
Develop "green" certification programs for businesses and neighborhoods.
- Raise awareness and understanding of benefits of waste reduction, recycling and sustainable actions.
- Raise awareness and understanding of stormwater issues.
- Prepare a Leichner Landfill Master Plan.
- Conduct a feasibility study of a waste to energy facility on the Leichner Landfill site.

Division Performance Measures "Draft"

- Recycling rate
- Waste generated per household
- Recycling pounds per household
- Total waste recovered pounds per household

Page 3 is the organization chart. The Sustainability & Outreach Division is divided into four teams (R Team, C Team, D Team and A Team). The A Team provides administrative support to the Division. The R Team deals with residential programs. The C Team deals with commercial programs. The D Team is the disposal/recycling team.

Page 7 is the 2011/2012 Priority Projects for each team.

R Team:

- Develop a unified message to community of DES programs and services.
- Targeted Neighborhood Association Outreach
- Partnerships with NGO's
- Green Neighborhood Certification Program
- Using Volunteers
- Targeted outreach for Recycling and Waste Reduction
- Targeted outreach for Clean Water Program and Stormwater Facilities

C Team:

- Have the Living Habitat House constructed and occupied
- Launch Sustainable Business Practices recognition/web-based program
- ISO 14001 certification for Clark County fenceline areas

D Team:

- Expand food waste composting efforts
- Master plan Leichner landfill site
- Prepare waste to energy feasibility study
- Capital improvements to Central Transfer Station
- Residue/Contamination Study

- Fourth Transfer Station Feasibility Study

2011-2012 Work Measures – Draft Division Output & Efficiency Measures:
 These are still in draft form and the list will be narrowed down.

- Number of households participating in curbside programs
- Tons processed at transfer stations
- Tons processed in residential collection programs
- Number of schools participating in SOS program
- Numbers of schools participating in WAGS program
- Number of organic tons processed
- Number of collection events held
- Pounds collected per event
- Average cost per event per participant
- Numbers of education /outreach events participated in
- Number of workshops given
- Number of presentations given
- Total number of participants at outreach events and program
- Number of contacts through telephone, websites and other electronic media
- Number of volunteer hours contributed to programs

We have historical data on these measures.

2011/2012 Budget Development and Strategic Planning: the 2011-2012 proposed budget for the Sustainability & Outreach Division is \$6,563,888. The tables on page 9-11 identify the division’s team budgets by reporting category. The rest of the document is detail and back up. Appendix A list the priority items showing detail and timelines for completion. This is a living document that will be updated as things take place or change. Appendix B starting on page 28, is the work plan for each specific staff.

Jeanne Stewart requested that as SWAC members review the Sustainability & Outreach Division business / Work Plan that they e-mail their comments to Anita and also forward their comments to all SWAC members.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

Mike Carnahan recommends more energy be directed towards advocating before the commissioners and legislature regarding product stewardship/product packaging procedures. Unnecessary packaging causes unnecessary costs. It was suggested that SWAC approach other SWAC member’s state wide to work together in providing a united front to address this issue. Mike Drumright suggested that a speaker from Thurston County come and make a presentation to SWAC on product stewardship and manufacturer responsibility.

IX. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM