

**2009**  
**Clark County**  
**Clean Water Commission**  
**Annual Report**  
**June 15, 2010**

# Clark County Clean Water Commissioners

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1. Art Stubbs, Chair

6. Mr. Robert Nichols

2. Ms. Nancy Olmsted, Vice Chair

7. Ms. Patty Page

3. Mr. David Darby

8. Mrs. Susan Rasmussen

4. Mr. Don Moe, P.E.

9. Ms. Virginia van Breemen

5. Mr. David Morgan

Former 2009 CWC Member:

**Mr. Carl Keller**

On behalf of the Clark County Clean Water Commission, I approve the 2009 Annual Report to the Board of Clark County Commissioners.



**Clark County Clean Water Commission Chair**

## **CLEAN WATER COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT - 2009**

This year started with an informal gathering of the Clean Water Commission (CWC) to get to know and understand each of our views, what we see as a needed program for our County, and the best way to inform and work as a group. A facilitated retreat was held and the outcome helped to establish areas of interest subcommittees to work as both advocates and advisors to the Board of County Commissioners providing oversight of a considerable public investment. Areas of concern regarding funding of future projects and ongoing upkeep of existing responsibilities continue. The support and participation of the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) at our monthly meetings has been very welcome.

### **ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2009**

The capacity of the CWC was enhanced by the addition of new commissioners: Commissioners David Darby and Nancy Olmsted were appointed in February and Robert Nichols replaced Commissioner Carl Keller when he retired in May 2009.

Commissioners held an informal brainstorming session gathering for the purpose of getting to know each other and reviewing the history of the Clean Water Program. We took the time to examine our mission and to share stories about the ten years of experience since the program's inception in 1999.

The Clean Water Commission also held a facilitated workshop in mid-October that helped us to:

- Identify goals and responsibilities
- Developed cohesion within the entire group, improving how to communicate more effectively amongst ourselves.
- The product and the discussion of this session resulted in:
  - A Pledge and a Motto
  - A mission statement
  - Focused on the key elements of our activities that would move us toward our core mission of informing the Board of Commissioners and the public of the need for and accomplishments of the Clean Water Program.
- Create two subcommittee to facilitate tasks:
  - Public outreach, education, good-will ambassadors
  - Effectiveness committee, measure deliverables of what we do
  - Agreed upon Rules of Order in holding meetings and adjusted the room layout to better support the communication that allows the group to function more effectively.

### **FUTURE DESIRED ACTIONS 2010 – 2011**

Meet with a range of community organizations and groups to familiarize them with the Clean Water Program and get their feedback.

- Prioritized work tasks into two subcommittees:
  - Public education and outreach
    - Meet with community groups to describe what the Clean Water Program is about, what it does and how it benefits our citizens, our communities and our watersheds.

- Suggest a program to reward good stewards for volunteer efforts that create cleaner waterways and then present certificates for their volunteer work.
- Measure effectiveness of the Clean Water Program

Communicate with the public regarding the Clean Water Program's accomplishments and infrastructure so they can see what the previous year's work has created.

With the major infrastructure requirements of the Agreed Order with Washington Department of Ecology, the CWC is learning more about the needs of the program under the revised NPDES permit and how to convey that information to the public.

The subcommittees will produce their own goals and plans to communicate to the public and review the programs success and failures.

Publicly recognize and reward citizens or groups that support clean water ethics and help us promote our pledge; making this a media event endorsed by the Clean Water Commission.

Evaluate the effect of NPDES permit actions on the growth and development of the County.

Establish a watershed planning basis for stormwater and general development to coordinate the infrastructure needs to the expected development in the watershed.

Re-establish the practice of examining the Capital Improvement Program and set up a decision framework to determine what projects should be prioritized for each year between 2011-2013 and why.

Examine the possibility and efficacy of allowing the Clean Water Program to have its own enforcement personnel to move from education to enforcement more effectively.

Partner with more academic institutions that would contribute additional information to the County on the program's effectiveness. Partnering with Clark College, FFA, and 4-H programs has the potential to enhance and expand our educational effectiveness and public outreach components.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE BOARD OF CLARK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

The CWC recommends that the BOCC continue taking actions that result in the County modeling good citizen clean water behaviors.

We acknowledge the BOCC efforts and foresight in their recommendations and implementation of the newly combined Department of Environmental Services.