

**CLARK COUNTY
CLEAN WATER COMMISSION**

Meeting Notes

Wednesday, January 05, 2011

6:30 – 8:30 P.M.

Public Service Center, 6th Floor Training Room
1300 Franklin Street, Vancouver

Clark County Clean Water Commission Members Present

Robert Nichols, Art Stubbs, Dave Darby, Nancy Olmsted, Don Moe, David Morgan

Clark County Clean Water Commission Members Absent

Virginia van Breemen, Susan Rasmussen

Clark County

Earl Rowell, Bobbi Trusty, Ron Wierenga, Commissioner Tom Mielke

Public

Vancouver Public Schools: Allison Brands and Jennifer Halleck

Quorum

Call to Order

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

Agenda and material review

1. Agenda
2. December 1 meeting notes
3. Draft topics for Annual Report

Approval

The December 1, 2010 notes were approved as submitted.

Clean Water Commissioners: Communications with the Public

Ms. Olmsted spoke with a person she met at the Coastal Conservation Association meeting who mentioned a concept for preventing water pollution in greater Clark County. After some correspondence, she put him in touch with the Vancouver Lake Partnership. Ms. Olmsted will follow-up with him and give a more formal update.

Ms. Olmsted received more information from David Primozich, with The Freshwater Trust. He offered to do a presentation about program outreach and water quality trading. It was agreed that Mr. Wierenga would call and invite him to complete a presentation at a future meeting.

Mr. Morgan had a discussion with Vancouver/Clark Parks & Recreation (VCPR) regarding a grant they received for water trails from Lake River to the forks on the Lewis River. Mr. Morgan manages about three miles along the river and was interested to learn how these trails will impact him as a property owner, noting that VCPR proposes to provide signs for the trail. Mr. Darby also expressed concern about private property rights.



Mr. Stubbs talked with Mr. Trachsel from Camas Meadows Golf Course regarding water samples taken from the creek. Once Mr. Trachsel has the results, Mr. Stubbs will share them with the commission.

Public Comments

Commissioner Mielke thanked the CWC members for providing input, guidance, and direction to the Board.

Action Items

December CWC Tour

Mr. Stubbs gave a brief update of the water quality monitoring stations tour. All who attended were impressed with the amount of work completed, the hours worked, the amount of detail and the improvements to the area where they were built. The presentation completed by Mr. Hutton was well done.

School Fee Reduction

Mr. Wierenga gave a brief overview of the School Fee Reduction from the Clark County Code 13.30A, Clean Water Funding. Under the section 13.30A.050 Rate Structure, part D, using authority by statute allows for public and private schools to get a fee reduction or become eligible for a fee reduction if they demonstrate services that further the goals of this program through education and/or through maintenance of their own infrastructure. He reminded the CWC that Mr. Rowell gave out the information regarding the school fees at the August meeting.

Ms. Brands and Ms. Halleck from the Vancouver Public Schools (VPS) gave a presentation regarding the programs taught in the schools. The school use science and technology kits and the children complete hands on experiments, water quality monitoring, stream and wetland studies, participate in the local Watershed Congress and Salmon in the Classroom. Children are also encouraged to participate in Green Teams and learn how human actions impact the landscape. Ms. Brands said some of the costs incurred are for restocking the kits, transportation, staff time, professional development, maintenance of materials and equipment.

The CWC asked if the fee reduction was not given would these lessons still be taught at the schools? Ms. Halleck said that if the funding was not there for the science kits, they would have to consider whether or not to continue them or if they could receive funding elsewhere. The CWC asked if they could do a classroom visit and see a kit. Ms. Brands and Ms. Halleck welcomed this request. Mr. Rowell will work with the school staff to schedule a tour for the commission.

Commissioner Mielke conveyed how the county is evaluating the budget during these difficult times. The evaluation consists of reviewing where the money is budgeted, where money is spent and if there are duplicative efforts or spending. The school fee reduction is part of this evaluation. In reviewing school funding, he learned that schools receive funding from The Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) for environmental education, from the state and from taxpayers.

Commissioner Mielke said that the county is trying to make the funding go farther, all programs are good and all count, but some serious and some unfavorable choices are going to have to be made. He said the county needs to focus on working more with the landowners and to teach the polluters not to pollute, and not so much in the schools where environmental education is taught in science and biology.

The CWC asked if the Vancouver School District pays a stormwater fee to the city? Ms. Halleck does not believe they do, but will follow-up with Mr. Wierenga on whether or not they do.

The CWC questioned whether or not the schools understand the NPDES permit or really what their reports are for, whose role and responsibility should it be to fund the schools, and what is the county benefit of the fee reduction program? Mr. Wierenga reiterated that there are three options for the CWC recommendation: keep the school fee reduction the same, eliminate it, or recommend something in the middle.

Mr. Stubbs requested that any further questions be sent to Mr. Wierenga by January 14, so they can be answered before the next meeting. Ms. Trusty will send out a reminder to the group.

CWC Annual Report

Mr. Nichols reviewed the outline that he made for the annual report. The group commented that they thought it was a very good draft. Due to time constraints, it was decided that all commissioners prepare their written opinions and recommendations on the budget, school fee waiver and any additional information for the annual report and send them to Mr. Nichols. Mr. Nichols will then compile the information sent to him by topic for the next meeting. The goal is to finalize the annual report during the next meeting.

Clean Water Program Updates

2011 Clean Water Commission Calendar of Events

Mr. Rowell and Mr. Wierenga are putting together a calendar on topics of discussions and decision points. This will be distributed within the next few weeks.

Pollution Control Hearings Board (PCHB) Decision

Mr. Wierenga reported that the PCHB ruling had not been given yet.

New Federal law

Mr. Wierenga reported that a new federal law was signed today that requires the federal government to pay local stormwater utility fees where they had previously been exempt. Staff is looking into the amount of federal land and new fee revenue, but that there were not many sites.

Public Comments

NA

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bobbi Trusty

Action Items

- Send to Mr. Wierenga additional questions regarding the school fee reduction by January 14.
- Send to Mr. Nichols opinions and recommendations for the Annual Report.