

# CLARK COUNTY CLEAN WATER COMMISSION

Wednesday, December 20, 2000  
6:00 – 9:00 PM

Clark County Public Works Department  
Conference Room  
4700 NE 78<sup>th</sup> Street  
Vancouver, Washington

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## Call to Order

### *Roll Call:*

#### Commission Members Present

Robert Agard, Willie Bourlet, Dana Kemper, Mary Martin,  
Don Steinke, Art Stubbs, and Peter Tuck

#### Commission Members Absent

Cal Ek and Susan Rasmussen

#### Clark County Public Works Staff

Peter Cappell, Sam Giese, and Earl Rowell

#### Clark County Community Development Staff

Ed McMillan

#### Public

Art Benedict, EES Consulting Inc.; Rod Orlando, EES Consulting Inc.; and Virginia VanBreeman

### *Introduction:*

The members of the Clean Water Commission, Clark County staff, and the public were introduced. Vice-Chair, Commissioner Kemper, then called the meeting to order.

### *Agenda and material review:*

Mr. Rowell reviewed the packet of materials for the meeting.

- 1) Agenda;
- 2) Notes from the December 6<sup>th</sup> meeting;
- 3) Revised notes from the November 15<sup>th</sup> meeting;
- 4) E-mail referencing The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Grant Program Information Session;
- 5) E-mail referencing grant information;
- 6) E-mail from Mr. Swanson regarding the Stormwater monitoring subcommittee meeting and;
- 7) Clean Water Fund budget information through November 30, 2000.

*Updates and Communications from the public/media/agencies;*

There has been very little information regarding the clean water fee over the last few weeks. On Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> there was an article in the Columbian, regarding Salmon Creek.

This Commission may want to become involved with the Lacamas watershed project, in regards to water quality, and quantity. The Board of County Commissioners will consider the Lacamas watershed as one of the model watersheds in the County, and it might be a good for a member of this Commission to participate in this project.

Mr. Bourlet: In order to provide a clear message to the public, in future meeting notes, if a Commissioner is absent from a Clean Water Meeting we should indicate if it is an excused or unexcused absence.

Mr. Rowell: If you know you are going to be absent from a clean water meeting, please let our office staff know so we can record it as an excused absence.

Mr. Tuck: According to the bylaws, we cannot miss more than three meetings in one year.

***The Bylaws of the Clean Water Commission adopted 5/17/00: Section 12. Absence of Members. The Chair shall, at the discretion of the Clean Water Commission, request that the Chair of the Board of County Commissioners ask for the resignation of any member who is absent for three consecutive regular meetings, or is absent for 25 percent of the meetings, without being excused by the Clean Water Commission.***

Ms. VanBremen: Why can't the public have water-testing kits available to them?

Mr. Agard: We hope to have some water-testing kits available for the Watershed Stewards Program which will allow them to participate in water testing.

Mr. Bourlet: Is it possible for people who live on or near a creek, to receive training on how to use the kits, so they would be able to test the water?

Mr. Agard: We can look into it but I would like it to be included in the Watershed Stewards Program, because that program is designed to test the health of the plants, animals, and everything in the stream.

Mr. Bourlet: My concern is that there may be people who would like to test the water without going through the Watershed Stewards Program. I don't want to turn away any volunteers.

Mr. Agard: The graduates from the Watershed Stewards program have indicated that they would be interested in volunteering back to the Community. They could show citizens how to test water in the creeks.

Ms. Martin: How do we as a Commission participate in the Watershed Stewards Program?

Mr. Rowell: I'm not sure when the next class is, the current class has been working around the Lacamas watershed, and Gibbons creek area.

Ms. VanBremen: I would love to show my neighbors how to test the water in my area.

Mr. Kemper: I think it's important to put this information on our web site and have it available to the Community.

Mr. Agard: I would like to know when the next Watershed Stewards class starts.

Mr. Bourlet: Mr. Rowell would you let the Commission know when the next Watershed Stewards class begins.

***Note: According to Mr. Bock, Watershed Stewards Coordinator: I expect to start Spring training in March continuing until May. Spring training will take place one evening a week with occasional Saturday field trips.***

*12/06/00 Meeting notes:*

The notes for the December 6<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved as written.

Mr. Bourlet: I would like to go on record as saying that what the previous Commission, the Clean Water Funding Task Force, accomplished was outstanding. I think they did an excellent job, we've been here a year, and haven't found a way to modify what they had established.

Mr. Kemper: Last week, Art Stubbs accepted on behalf of the Clean Water Funding Task Force an award from the Board of County Commissioners called, The Public Involvement Achievement Award from the International Association of Public Participation.

***Note: The 2000 Public Involvement Awards from IAP2 recognize outstanding accomplishments in public participation. The IAP2 is dedicated to the premise that the public should have say in the decisions that affect their lives. IAP2 members are professionals who involve the public in the planning and decision-making processes of public agencies and media.***

## **Group Discussion**

*Grant Writers Discussion:*

Mr. Rowell: Because this Commission expressed an interest in obtaining more information about grants and loans, Mr. Orlando and Mr. Benedict from EES Consulting Inc. are here to present information and answer any questions you may have regarding grant opportunities.

Mr. Orlando: The four grant/loan opportunities I would like to go over with this Commission tonight are from the Department of Ecology:

1. Centennial Clean Water Program Grants – The Centennial program provides grants and loans for water quality improvement projects, stormwater control projects, sanitary/sewer projects and planning projects.
2. Centennial Clean Water Program Loans – See above description
3. Pollution Control State Revolving Fund Loan Program – This is a loan program, which provides money for the same types of programs as the Centennial program.
4. Section 3.19 Grant - This program provides grants similar to the other programs mentioned above, though it also addresses non-point pollution control projects more than the others.

There is a workshop regarding grant writing this Commission should attend on Tuesday, January 16<sup>th</sup> in Tacoma at the Pierce County Library, Administrative Services Center, 3005 112<sup>th</sup> street East, Tacoma.

Mr. Bourlet: These grants are all through the state, what about private companies/funds, are there any possibilities in that area?

Mr. Orlando: Many of the ones I will identify tonight are administered by the State.

Mr. Orlando: There are some private organizations that provide funding for public projects.

Ms. Martin: You also mentioned that there are grants available for private landowners?

Mr. Orlando: Yes, for example, providing funding for fencing on private property to keep the cattle out of stream corridors.

Mr. Stubbs: One area we are looking into was for some sort of secondary funding that we could use for an incentive program.

Mr. Orlando: Would this be for a study, or a planning program?

Mr. Stubbs: I don't think it would be for a study.

Mr. Orlando: There are programs such as education and stewardship that could be funded under the Centennial grant or loan program, State revolving fund and the 3.19 program.

Mr. Bourlet: If somebody from the county went to this workshop, would you suggest a technical person or a management person?

Mr. Orlando: If I were putting together a group, I would suggest sending someone from an advisory/policy committee and someone who has had experience seeking outside funding assistance or has managed programs that used outside funding.

Mr. Orlando: The other program that might be of interest to you is a Public Works Trust Fund. This is a low interest loan program. It is more appropriate for public facilities improvements, but there may be a way to use it for some of the kinds of projects you are considering. For example stormwater control.

***Motion: Mr. Agard: I would like to recommend that this commission send one or more representatives from this board to the workshop in Tacoma, and also ask for county staff to attend.***

Mary Martin seconded the motion.

Mr. Stubbs: Do we have a budget allowance for something like this?

Mr. Agard: It would have to be voluntary on our part, county staff has funding to attend the meeting.

Mr. Bourlet: I would like to attend this meeting as a learning process.

Mr. Tuck: I would like to have it identified as an learning process.

All Commissioners approved the motion.

Mr. Kemper: Would your company be interested in trying to put together an application for different grants, on a commission basis?

Mr. Orlando: I would be interested in exploring this idea.

Mr. Agard: Mr. Chairman, I believe we have money in the budget for outside consultants, and I would like to look at both sides of hiring a consultant on a per hour basis or hiring by commission, and see which is more cost effective.

Mr. Kemper: I would like this commission to brainstorm some ideas we could use grant money for.

Mr. Agard: I would like to look at developing more educational programs.

Mr. Rowell introduced Mr. Sam Giese to the Commissioners.

Mr. Giese: I am an engineer hired to work on capital projects, and capital improvement.

1. The first task is assessing the planning efforts that have been completed in a number of watersheds.
2. Second, we need to take a look at existing data and determining what new data and tools are needed to put together a capital plan, we also need to determine our goals of the capital project.
3. Finally to prepare a capital plan and find ways to fund it.

Some of the issues we need to focus on in the short term are smaller projects where we have opportunities to begin work with grants.

Through the Department of Ecology, there is a program that called the Flood Control Assistance Account Program. This program is aimed at trying to reduce flood damage, but it incorporates a number of elements that fit in well with what we are trying to do.

I think of the issues that this group needs to look at is a policy issue, flood control per se is not a mandated activity in the permit. This Commission would need to decide to what extent do you want to explore this option.

Mr. Stubbs: Does that cover all watersheds?

Mr. Giese: It is a statewide program.

Mr. Kemper: I think as a committee we need to look at the opportunity that this grants has and if it would be appropriate for our committee.

***Motion: Mr. Agard: I move that this Commission table the incentive issue until the next meeting.***

All commissioners agreed to discuss incentives at the next meeting.

Mr. Rowell: Please e-mail me your thoughts on incentives so we have some items to discuss at the next meeting.

***Motion: Mr. Agard: I would like to move that this commission recommend to the Board of County Commissioners that we would like to have the inspectors, the building department and development employees taken out of our budget and put under the proper department.***

All commissioners agreed to this motion.

***Motion: Mr. Tuck: I would like to make a motion to the Board of County Commissioners that when developers come in the director has the authority to investigate and approve mutually beneficial facilities.***

All commissioners agreed to this motion.

*Election of Officers*

Mr. Stubbs recommended that the current slate of officers remain for the year 2001.

Mr. Agard declined the position of Chairman, but accepted the position of Vice Chair.

Mr. Stubbs recommended that Mr. Kemper become the Chair and Mr. Agard become the Vice-Chair for the Clean Water Commission during the year 2001.

All commissioners agreed.

**Adjourn**

***Adjourn:***

Commissioner Kemper adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

**Future Meetings**

***Action Items:***

January 3 - Draft report to the Board of County Commissioners

January 17 - Revising the ordinance.

***Next Meeting:***

The next meeting is Wednesday, January 3, 2000 at Clark County Public Works Operations Department Conference Room, 6:00 – 8:30 p.m., 4700 NE 78<sup>th</sup> Street, Vancouver, Washington.

*Respectfully submitted by Kelli Frost*

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