



proud past, promising future

CLARK COUNTY
WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
Resource Policy and Planning Division

TO: Commissioner, Tom Mielke Chair
Commissioner David Madore
Commissioner Edward L. Barnes

FROM: Ron Wierenga, Division Manager

CC: Mark McCauley, County Administrator
Don Benton, Environmental Services Director
Rebecca Tilton, Clerk of the Board
Clark County Clean Water Commission

DATE: July 9, 2014

RE: **Clark County Clean Water Commission 2013 Annual Report to the Board of County Commissioners**

On behalf of our Clean Water Commissioners, I am submitting the Commission's 2013 Annual Report to the Board. A work session with the Board is scheduled for July 30, 2014.

If you have any questions about the annual report please contact me at extension 4264 or contact the chair, Jim Carlson at 360-909-4773.

Thank you.



For other formats, contact the Clark County ADA Office: **Voice** (360) 397-2000;
Relay 711 or (800) 833-6388; **Fax** (360) 397-6165; **E-mail** ADA@clark.wa.gov.

2013
Clark County
Clean Water Commission
Annual Report

Clark County Clean Water Commissioners

Nancy Olmsted (Chair) - resigned November 2013

Jim Carlson (Vice Chair) moved to chair November 2013

Don Moe - resigned November 2013

Troy Maxcy - resigned May 2013

David Morgan – term ended February 2014

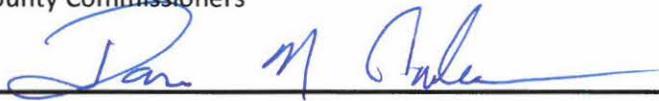
Brian Peck

Susan Rasmussen

Art Stubbs – term ended February 2014

Virginia van Breemen

On behalf of the Clark County Clean Water Commission, I approve the 2013 Annual Report to the Board of the County Commissioners



Clark County Clean Water Commission Chair

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Executive Summary

The major events of 2013 were changes in our meeting cycle going from monthly meetings to meeting every other month. The commissioners volunteered to extra meeting times when needed.

The upcoming budget cycle saw the long projected end of the reserve funding built up in past years by the Clean Water fund. The critical budget shortfall was delayed by the action of the Board of Clark County, however this only delayed the need for a revised program funding solution that takes into account the expanded need of the Clean Water Program in the wake of the new and newer NPDES permit requirements and restrictions.

The New NPDES permit is to take effect in an interim fashion for 2013 and then the new language will become adopted for 2014 through 2019 showing more requirements. The CWC has been reviewing the ongoing changes in the permit through staff presentations, and involvement on the TAC and SAC committees.

Funding

Funding issues for the future of the Clean Water Program

If the Board wishes to make the program self-sustaining, then the Clean Water Fee would need to be dramatically increased, the amount of the increase would depend upon many factors that tie to the regulatory compliance under State and Federal law and operational and maintenance requirements for support of the Clean Water Program mission. If the Board wanted to reduce the program in scope or size, this would impact the current agreement with the State of Washington Department of Ecology regarding the updates to the current NPDES permit. Since the Clean Water Program has major elements that are required by the NPDES permit, it appears that the options are somewhat limited. It would also create a major reduction in the work the Clean Water Program is doing.

As a Commission, we are in agreement that the fee needs to be addressed; it is far lower than any other fee within the region. The current funding cannot even keep up with the projections for the upcoming maintenance program. Clark County is in jeopardy of being out of compliance with the NPDES Permit requirements and therefore putting the county at risk for additional appeals and legal challenges.

Accomplishments in 2013

Public Education and Outreach

The public education and outreach is actually a two pronged approach. First we share information about the CWC and the Clean Water Program. The second part is gleaning information from our audience; this information is shared with CWC members and Staff at our regular meetings. One of the goals for the CWC will be to make meaningful recommendations on policy issues regarding the Clean Water Program to the BOCC. One of our primary audiences was the Watershed Stewards program. Unfortunately it was defunded and disbanded mid 2013

SAC and TAC involvement

As part of its work, the CWC regularly reviews program work that the County Staff works on. This year we provided representatives for the Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) and the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). These committees were used for providing input on the draft stormwater code and the new stormwater design manual which will help make our county compliant with the NPDES permit requirement.

Future actions for 2014

- Explore options to fund the clean water program
- Work on Stormwater Association Multiuse Project. (SWAMP)

The SWAMP concept is about creating true multiuse and multipurpose regional storm water facilities.