

**CLARK COUNTY
CLEAN WATER COMMISSION
Meeting Notes**

Wednesday, November 7, 2012
6:30 – 8:30 P.M.
Public Service Center, 6th Floor Training Room
1300 Franklin Street, Vancouver

Clark County Clean Water Commission Members Present

Jim Carlson, Don Moe, David Morgan, Nancy Olmsted, Susan Rasmussen, Art Stubbs, Virginia van Breemen

Clark County Clean Water Commission Members Absent

Troy Maxcy, Brian Peck

Clark County Staff

Anita Largent, Earl Rowell, Bobbi Trusty, Ron Wierenga

Public

Jack Dojan

Quorum

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m.

Agenda and material review

1. Agenda
2. October 3, 2012, Meeting Notes

Approval

The October 3, 2012, notes were approved as submitted.

Clean Water Commissioners: Communications with the Public

Mr. Carlson and Mr. Maxcy spoke at a recent meeting of the Watershed Stewards and feels the clean water message was well received. They suggest increasing public awareness about the Clean Water Program (CWP) by having an open house describing completed clean water projects. Coordination of the open house would occur between Watershed Stewards, Clean Water Commission, and CWP staff.

Mr. Carlson spoke with a staff person from Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) regarding the project at 219th and Dollars corner. The state scraped the reed canary grass out, moved the debris to another location and then reseeded the parcel. Mr. Carlson felt this action was unsuccessful since the reed canary grass was the first grass to grow back.

Mr. Carlson wants to know why there is not interagency coordination among the state and county. He feels that if there was more coordination for mitigation, stormwater and vegetation management it could save both agencies a lot of money. Mr. Wierenga acknowledged that coordination with WSDOT needs improvement. This will be accomplished with meetings

between the state and the county's construction program managers. They will look at efficiencies and coordination of projects.

Public Comments

Mr. Dojan introduced himself as a recent attendee of the Watershed Stewards Program and he is just observing the meeting.

Action Items

Letter to the BOCC regarding Clean Water Program budget concerns

Ms. Olmsted acknowledged that she was not able to reach the Board of County Commissioners during the previous month regarding the CWC's letter. The Commission discussed how the media portrays the clean water fee, and commissioners expressed concern that the public does not understand that the fee will need to increase to provide necessary services.

Nominations for Chair and Vice Chair

Nominations for Vice Chair:

Jim Carlson
Troy Maxcy

Nominations for Chair:

Nancy Olmsted

Mr. Rowell will create and mail out election ballot forms. Signed ballot forms will need to be returned no later than November 28, 2012.

Develop Outline for CWC 2012 Annual Report

Mr. Morgan volunteered to draft the outline for the 2012 annual report and he will email it to the CWC before the next meeting.

Clean Water Program Update

Volunteer Recognition Program

Ms. Largent manages the Sustainability and Outreach Division for the Department of Environmental Services. She handed out the nomination form for the county's "Making Every Day Earth Day Awards", a recognition program recognizing volunteers who have contributed to the protection or enhancement of the county's natural environment. She asked the Clean Water Commissioners to nominate any person, group or organization who has been working on an extraordinary project that deserves public recognition for their outstanding accomplishments in 2012. The event ceremony is scheduled for April 12, 2013 at 4:00 P.M. at the Heathman Lodge.

Ms. Largent also handed out a flyer on the Green Neighbors, a web-based resource program that residents can utilize to make their lives more sustainable. The website is parallel to the county's Green Business and Green Schools programs. Mr. Wierenga said this helps encapsulate and align the department messages of sustainability, recycling, garbage, vegetation management and water as the messages are unified from the department programs. There is lots of information shared about water, whether it is water runoff or water consumption.

Lawsuit and Appeals Update

Mr. Wierenga provided an update about the appeal of the county's alternative flow control program. After the State Court of Appeals reviewed the case and ruled in favor of the appellants, Clark County petitioned the Supreme Court. The county is still waiting to see if the Supreme Court will accept the petition to review the case.

The Clean Water Act lawsuit is on hold until the appeal with the state is completed. In the mean time, a federal injunction requires the county to use the state's default flow control standard until the case is settled.

The Phase I and Phase II Permittees in the state have filed an appeal of the 2013-2018 NPDES Municipal Stormwater Permit that will become effective in August 2013. The appeal is filed with the Pollution Control Hearings Board and the hearing is scheduled for October 2013. Mr. Wierenga encouraged the CWC to revisit the fact sheet regarding the appeal that was emailed about the county's concerns with the new permit.

Public Comments

None

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bobbi Trusty

Action Items

- Mr. Morgan will complete a draft outline of the 2012 Annual Report and email it to the other commissioners prior to the December CWC meeting.