



# CLEAN WATER COMMISSION

For the Department of Environmental Services

## Regular Meeting Summary

**Wednesday, July 10, 2013**

**6:30 PM – 8:30 PM**

**Public Service Center, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Training Room  
1300 Franklin Street, Vancouver**

**Members Present:** Jim Carlson, Nancy Olmsted, Brian Peck, Susan Rasmussen, Art Stubbs, Virginia van Breemen

**Members Absent:** Troy Maxcy, Don Moe, David Morgan

**Staff Present:** Earl Rowell, Bobbi Trusty, Don Benton

**Partner Agency Staff Present:** None

**Public Present:** None

### I ROLL CALL

The May 1, 2013 meeting summary was approved as submitted

### II PUBLIC COMMENT – feedback

Mr. Benton introduced himself as the new Director of Environmental Services. He thanked all of the Clean Water Commissioners for their service and support for the Clean Water Program. The commissioners asked him what some of his experiences are in dealing with environmental issues and what are the biggest challenges he has identified so far? Mr. Benton stated that he has been part of the government operations committee for 18 years; he has always been a conservationist and described his conservation values and his involvement in the community. He said that the biggest challenges are financial in any branch of government; we all need to work more efficiently with less.

Mr. Carlson asked about the Clean Water fee and how the county is going to continue to support the Clean Water Program with new NPDES Permit requirements and the Board of County Commissioners desire not to raise the fee. Mr. Benton said that he believes people will pay as much tax as you ask them to pay if they believe two things: the money is necessary and spent wisely. We need to improve our education to fee payers as to the value and efficiency of the expenditure.

### III Clean Water Commission – Communications with the Public

Mr. Carlson noticed that in Maui, they use pavers along their roads to handle the runoff from the daily rains. He was impressed with their use of low impact development (LID) techniques. He also talked with a builder that puts rain bladders under houses that can hold up to 2,000 gallons of water like a cistern system. Mr. Carlson thinks it might enable people to utilize more of their storm water runoff as it works similarly as a rain barrel but has more capacity.



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Mr. Stubbs would like a list of the best clean water capital projects with talking points to help the commissioners educate the public about them. Mr. Rowell said that he will provide the group information at their meeting in September.

#### IV PRESENTATION: Low Impact Development Program

Mr. Rowell reviewed the presentation (attached). He asked for feedback regarding how the Clean Water Commission wants to be involved in the process to educate the community about the new LID requirements.

Mr. Rowell also reviewed a new page on the *Stormwater Partners* website that is a self-guided tour regarding LID techniques used here in Clark County. This page will continue to be updated as the county learns of more completed LID projects. You can review this page anytime by going to <http://www.stormwaterpartners.com/lid/index.html>.

Commissioners discussed what they can do to help bridge the gap between what the county efforts are to remove the barriers to LID techniques and how to help the public embrace the new requirements. The commission agreed they will need to work closely with the Technical Advisory Committee and the Stakeholder Advisory Committee as codes are being reviewed and the stormwater design manual is being updated to keep abreast of the progress.

#### **Motion 2013-06**

Ms. van Breemen moved that Mr. Carlson and Mr. Stubbs serve on the Stakeholder Advisory Committee and Ms. Olmsted serve on the Technical Advisory Committee representing the interest of the Clean Water Commission. It was seconded by Ms. Rasmussen. All were in favor. Motion passed.

#### V PUBLIC COMMENT – feedback None

#### VI ADJOURN – 08:30 PM

Summary provided by: Bobbi Trusty / 360-397-2121 x 5268

# Clark County NPDES Permit Code & Stormwater Permit Manual Update with Low Impact Development Program

*Updated 7-10-2013*



*North Fork Lewis River, from Yale Bridge  
Photo: Gary Piazza*

## Why is Clark County including low impact development in it's 2013-2018 NPDES update?

The NPDES Permit S5C5.b.i and ii, requires the county to *make low impact development best management practices (LID BMPs) the **preferred and commonly-used approach to site development*** (e.g. the revisions shall be designed to minimize impervious surfaces, native vegetation loss, and stormwater runoff in all types of development situations).

Clark County will submit a revised Stormwater Management Design Manual, containing LID BMPs, to Ecology by June 30, 2014.



## What efforts are involved and when will it be complete?

Clark County and consultants will conduct a “Low Impact Development Gap, Barrier, and Opportunity Analysis”. It consists of two parts. The first part is “*code review*” is anticipated to be complete September 2013.

The second part is “*review LID incentives*” within other jurisdictions from Washington, the Pacific Northwest and the United States.

This analysis will be complete by the end of October 2013.



## Part 1. Code Review:

The proposed “*code review*” is to perform a “barrier analysis” of the following:

### Stormwater Management and Design

Include LID principals (minimize stormwater runoff/impervious surfaces)

### Site Development

- Promote minimal site clearing
- Encourage cluster development
- Retain native vegetation

### Bulk and Dimensional Design

- Enable taller construction with a smaller footprint
- Allow green roof development

### Comprehensive Growth Management Plan

- Make pervious pavement the standard approach where feasible



## Part 1. Code Review (continued)

### Parking Requirements

- Standards may require more paving than needed
- Increase shared parking

### Street Standards

- Require the use of pervious pavement where feasible
- Allow for smaller driveway dimensions and use pervious pavement where feasible

### Public Works Standards

- Make LID BMPs the preferred and commonly-used approach to development

### Fire Prevention Code/Safety

- Incorporate LID BMPs into fire prevention and safety codes

### Other Pertinent Items

- Landscaping should require LID BMPs, including use of native plants



As part of the LID BMPs analysis, up to three completed designs will undergo review under the current development code, by applying LID BMPs and infeasibility criteria from the 2013 NPDES permit. The completed designs represent:

- *Redevelopment of a small commercial site plan*
- *Urban single family residential subdivision (e.g. 4,000 square foot lot)*
- *Commercial site plan/development*



## Part 2. Low Impact Development: *Incentives Program Review:*

This analysis will look at LID incentives within other jurisdictions from Washington, the Pacific Northwest and across the country.

### Stormwater facilities with LID features may have the following incentives:

**Reduction in the size and number of fenced stormwater ponds**

**Public recognition** for citizens and businesses doing environmental efforts to protect the quality of surface water

**Improved aesthetics** for the community

**Literature reviews indicate the sites with LID BMPs will have:**

- Increased property value due to the desirability of the lots and their proximity to open space
- Increased marketing potential and faster sales for residential and commercial properties



## Who is involved in the LID BMPs update?

The revision process includes *educating the community* about low impact development best management practices (LID BMPs).

To accomplish this effort, the County has (as of June) formed a Technical Advisory Committee and is forming a Stakeholders' Advisory Committee that represent the building community (developers, engineering firms, landscape designers); neighborhood associations, environmental groups, Clean Water Commission, and others.



## *What is the Clean Water Commission's role in the LID BMPs update?*

The Clean Water Commission should communicate with the Board of County Commissioners the various options of the low impact development programs (e.g. low impact development is the standard approach to stormwater design for new development and redevelopment projects).



*What is the Clean Water Commission's role in the LID  
BMPs update? (continued)*

Clean Water Commissioner Nancy Olmsted will represent the Commission on the Clark County Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and Commissioner Jim Carlson (alternate Commissioner Art Stubbs) will represent the Commission on the County's Stakeholders Advisory Committee (SAC).

These individuals will report to and receive comments from the Commission about the low impact development program.



## *Why is this important to the Clean Water Commission?*

In the *2012 Annual Report by the Clean Water Commission*, under *Future Actions for 2013*, LID is listed as priority agenda item that the Commission want to address:

*"Low Impact Development—continue research and discussion about effectiveness of the various low impact development techniques that the County could implement in new stormwater facilities".*

Commission participation on the Clark County TAC and SAC will provide an opportunity to achieve this priority.

