



CLEAN WATER COMMISSION

For the Department of Environmental Services

Meeting Summary
Wednesday, May 4, 2016
6:30 PM – 8:30 PM
Public Service Center, 6th Floor Training Room
1300 Franklin Street, Vancouver

Members Present: Holly Norris, David Meyer, David McDevitt, Marie La Manna, Jeremy Burnett, Kate Schoof, Gary Schaeffer, Mark Schneider

Members Absent: Dick Rylander

Staff Present: Dean Boening, Chris Clifford, Andrea Logue

Partner Agency Staff Present: None

Public Present: Tasha Ritchardson, Lydia Lyall, Jacob Newell, Deirdre Schneider, Isabella Bicknell

I ROLL CALL

No changes were proposed to the March 2, 2016 meeting summary. Commissioner McDevitt made a motion to approve the March 2nd meeting summary, seconded by Commissioner Schaeffer.

Introduction of Andrea Logue, replacing Bobbi Trusty, as a Clark County Department of Environmental Services staff member assisting the Clean Water Commission.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT (4:25)

None

III. PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION/RECOMMENDATION/ACTION

Working Group Updates (4:52)

Commissioner Schoof reminded the commissioners to regularly check their CWC email. Goal statements of each working group are in the 2015 annual report. Updates from each group follow:

- Partnership Group
 - Commissioner Norris reported on contacts she made, with a focus on outreach:
 - Washington Green Schools Program Manager, have scheduled a telephone call on May 12, 2016 to discuss possible outreach.
 - Roofing materials manufacturers, possible tour of Malarkey Roofing Products.
 - Homeowners Associations (HOAs) would be beneficial to contact in addition to neighborhood associations but more difficult to figure out how to contact.
 - Commissioner Meyer suggested reaching out to rural landowners to discuss issues related to septic systems and farming and ranching activities. Possible contacts:
 - WSU Clark County Extension, Doug Steinbarger
 - Washington State Farm Bureau
 - 13 Granges in Clark County
 - Drinking water testing was discussed.
- Research Group – Commissioner Schneider reported results of the group meeting.
 - Focus Areas – 2016:
 - Research where the communication team can do outreach and who they should contact.



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- Investigate similar county system development fees in other areas.
- Consider research efforts on Heritage Farm, if any are needed.
- Develop a recommended 5-year, or 10-year, list of clean water related capital projects that the county may review and prioritize based upon expected benefits.
- Communication Group – Commissioner La Manna has been designated the lead. Commissioners McDevitt, Burnett and La Manna gave their presentation developed for the Neighborhood Alliance Council of Clark County and received comments.

Discussion of Clark County Water Systems (50:30)

Discussion of the water systems in Clark County ensued, delineating the three main systems of drinking water, sewer, and stormwater.

Stormwater Monitoring History (56:12)

Mr. Boening presented a history of stormwater monitoring in Clark County. Started in 2002 shortly after the Clean Water Fee was put in place, the goal of monitoring was to better understand stream conditions across a variety of stream settings and measure trends in stream conditions while implementing stormwater facilities. The monitoring was discontinued in 2013 due to funding constraints and has been restarted in 2016.

Long-Term Site Index Monitoring was first implemented at 10 sites across Clark County with a variety of ground covers ranging from urban to forested, sampling once per year. This is a low-cost way to gather data on how various ground covers might help clean stormwater and identify the pollutants. Another 42 sites were added in 2012 as part of a rotating panel of monitoring to collect baseline water quality data on most of unincorporated Clark County's small streams once every five years.

The Long-Term Site Index Monitoring has restarted as of April 2016. Water quality monitoring is reported in terms of a water year, which is similar to a fiscal year running from October to September. The 2016 water year started in October 2015, and commencement of monitoring as soon as possible is important to adequately document the year before it is over in September 2016.

Sampling currently mandated by the Washington State Department of Ecology for Clark County's National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit is at two different sites at outfall pipes. This mandated sampling doesn't take into account different geographic areas and it is more expensive. The hope is that as the new permit cycle in 2018 gets closer, Ecology will value the data from the restarted stormwater monitoring more and discontinue the mandated sampling.

Cities are excluded from this program, unless other arrangements are put in place. Vancouver has their own program. Camas contracts with Clark County to monitor Jones Creek. Gee Creek is a former Clark County sample site that is now within Ridgefield and Mr. Boening has proposed sampling, but no agreements have been made.

The samples are primarily tested for nitrates, fecal coliform, and heavy metals, as well as turbidity and temperature in relation to tree cover. Monitoring for hydrocarbons may also be necessary at some sites.



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Residents contribute contaminants to watersheds through poor land management practices such as over fertilizing and allowing manure to spill into streams, which can help foster algae blooms.

Stormwater facilities built by private parties, such as in a housing development, could have been approved for construction before the economic downturn in 2008 and are now being built according to older standards. Clark County can educate private parties how to maintain their stormwater facilities, but it doesn't have the ability to do the maintenance.

Posed was a question regarding the existence of an organization for small businesses providing lawn care that the Research work group can contact.

Field Visit Update (1:18:55)

In 2015, Earl Rowell conducted a series of field visits for both Clean Water Commissioners and Clark County Councilors. Some of the stormwater facilities are part of parks or mitigation projects, and there is a desire to remove the fences and allow the public to use the natural space. A consequence is keeping the area clean of pet waste and trash. For 2016, Mr. Clifford proposed fewer than nine field visits that include new sites and revisiting sites from 2015 to see how they have changed. Specific sites are WSU Vancouver to see low impact development in action, Heritage Farms pervious pavement demonstration, and revisiting Thomas Wetlands.

Clark County is giving WSUV an award in recognition of their Salmon-Safe certification on May 24, 2016 at the Board of County Councilors meeting, as well as a refund check on Clean Water Fees they paid in 2015. Any Clean Water Commissioners in attendance would be introduced.

By the next meeting, Mr. Clifford will provide optional dates in late August or early September for a 4-hour field visit, with the caveat that no date will likely accommodate everyone. A public invitation is possible. Commissioner Norris voiced interest in visiting a poorly functioning stormwater facility.

Commissioner Discussion Time (1:27:43)

Commissioner McDevitt thanked the public attendees.

Commissioner Schoof met with Andrew Loescher for Clark County social media protocols. Ideas from commissioners can be shared through a file folder in Google drive and communicated to Mr. Loescher through the Partnership work group.

Commissioner Norris inquired if anyone had contacted Richard Dyrland, who attended the prior CWC meeting, and offered to follow-up with him.

V PUBLIC COMMENT (1:31:42)

Four Clark College students taking a Political Science class attended as part of an assignment to attend a board meeting – Tasha Ritchardson, Lydia Lyall, Jacob Newell, and Isabella Bicknell.

VII ADJOURN – 08:10 PM

Summary provided by: Andrea Logue / 360-397-2121 x5268

For more detailed information, an audio recording for this meeting is available through the county website at: <http://www.clark.wa.gov/environment/stormwater/management/commission.html>