

**Clark County  
Solid Waste Advisory Commission  
Regular Meeting**

Thursday November 7, 2013

Clark County Auto License Office  
1408 Franklin Street  
Vancouver, WA

**SWAC Members Present:** Lisa Schmidt, Allan Jeska, Rem Wilson, Jack McClary, Don Ebbeson

**SWAC Members Excused:** Jeanne Stewart, Brandon Vick, Stephen Smythe, Richard Baker

**Staff Present:** Anita Largent, Mike Davis, Sabra Hall-Nelson

**Others Present:** Scott Campbell, WCI; Chris Nottenkamper, WCI; Rich McConaghy, City of Vancouver; Gary Bickett, Clark County Public Health, Mike Bayrutet, guest

### **I. Roll Call, Approval of Minutes**

Don Ebbeson moved to approve the October 3, 2013 minutes as written, Jack McClary seconded the motion. Motion passed.

### **II. Updates**

#### **County Public Health – Gary Bickett**

Gary Bickett provided an update on General Chemical, a processing company located on Lower River Road producing Alum from mined materials that contain natural occurring radioactive isotopes. This update was based on a conference call with Clark County Public Health earlier in the week with The State Health Department and Department of Ecology regarding closure of waste water solids on the site. The gist of the conversation was as follows:

- It was decided DOH will take the lead on issuance of any Closure Permit rather than CCPH since the contaminant of concern is radiation daughter products of radon, a natural occurring emission from the minerals used in the process to produce Alum. WAC 173-350 - Solid Waste Handling Standards - does not address this type of material.
- The alpha emitting material is very low and would not even qualify as "low level radioactive waste" and may be defined as a special waste.
- There is a lot of discussion currently going on at EPA about TENORM - technologically-enhanced, naturally-occurring radioactive materials - <http://www.epa.gov/radiation/tenorm/>
- The AG office will require GC to go through the SEPA process prior to any Closure Permit being issued.
- The options for closure could range from an adequate cover to complete removal of the material to an approved disposal site (beneficial use pathway i.e., road construction, dry wall material, etc. is not an option in the State of Washington but could be in other states). It could go to the U.S. Ecology site in Kennewick but at extreme expense. It may qualify as a "special" waste leaving other landfill options available.
- The disposal "mud pile" now covers 5.5 acres - depth unknown.

- General Chemical has committed to the installation of a filter press by September of 2014 thus eliminating the production of the solids as the concentrated solids would then be taken off site for proper disposal.
- If the owners abandon the site it would revert to EPA for clean-up and they would in turn go after the responsible party.
- Ecology and DOH will define who is on base for regulatory process. A characterization plan will be part of that process. More characterization needs to be conducted and that will occur as part of the DOH permitting process. Kristen Schwab offered to conduct a site visit and take a few grab samples before the end of the year to get a base line analysis.
- Will attempt to have these conference update calls every other month or so - the next one sometime in January.

### **County Environmental Services – Anita Largent**

Highlights of some information in packets:

- November Green Neighbors Newsletter listing events, workshops, and volunteer opportunities – Clark County Green Neighbors website has reached 150 members
- WA Green School Annual Summit was on held on October 17 and brought together 90 students and educators.
- On October 26; unwanted prescription collection event at two locations; Fisher's Landing and Battle Ground.
- Contract for Leichner landfill master planning was provided to each SWAC member.
- The Emerald House / Habitat for Humanity House will be receiving a Community Pride Award on November 8 from 2:30-6:30 at 6<sup>th</sup> floor of the Public Service Building.

Letter: County Oks contract to plan landfill site future

Waste Connections – Recycling Done Right Refresher

News Article:

- State's E-Cycle electronics recycling passes milestone
- Boeing developing ways to recycle composite 787 material

### **City of Vancouver – Rich McConaghy**

Leaf coupons are available; the city started taking leaves at four different sites in early October. Last weekend the city placed several large drop boxes in a couple neighborhoods that are extremely leafy and collected 400 cubic yards in just those areas.

### **Department of Ecology – Julie Robertson**

No report.

### **III. Waste Connections Annual Report 2012 Scott Campbell**

Scott Campbell introduced Chris Nottenkamper who is new to the management team at WCI. Scott reviewed the Waste Connections Annual Report for 2012. Number one operating value is safety; safety to our employees, our customers and the public in all of our operations. Scott highlighted other aspects of the report.

**Question:** What can this Advisory Commission do to help Waste Connections Inc? **Answer:** Continue with the monthly operational meetings with the city and county.

**Question:** Is there any area in the Solid Waste Management Plan that can be beneficial?

**Answer:** Having open discussions and making the changes as needed.

#### **IV. Group Input on State Solid Waste Plan – Anita Largent**

Anita reviewed the document titled "Staff Input" October 9<sup>th</sup> Joint Staff Meeting. At the October meeting SWAC members were encouraged to review the document provided by Department of Ecology, get feedback from the specific interest group they represent as well as provide their own personal input. Some members reported receiving feedback and sent the comments onto the Department of Ecology. Some members provided feedback to staff.

#### **V. Solid Waste Management Plan Update – Anita Largent**

- **Appendix M- Siting Guidelines for Solid Waste Handling Facilities**

Some changes were made, SWAC members provided suggestions for county staff to consider:

- Educational communication process- include more public involvement process.
- Set some guidelines for public comments
- Additional education piece -the public has a responsibility to the garbage being generated
- Public's responsibility to recycling

- **Chapter 18 Implementation Schedule**

Chapter 18 is an accumulation of all the previous chapters' recommendations. It was suggested that SWAC members review this Chapter with redlines before responding. The chapter will be discussed at the next meeting. **Question:** How many states have achieved the 50% recycling mark? Anita Largent will research and bring that information back to SWAC.

Closing out process for the Solid Waste Management Plan: Once the plan is reformatted and completed by staff, it is brought back to SWAC for final review. Then it goes out to other jurisdictions; Board of Clark County Commissioners, Department of Ecology and the public.

#### **VI. Other Business**

Allan Jeska reported that the Legacy Green Team is finishing their assessments. He also noted that there was an article in the Columbian on Leichner Landfill and felt it was good public information.

Don Ebbeson recommended that this committee acknowledge the many years of service Jeanne Stewart has given on this committee. December will be her last meeting as a SWAC member. Lisa Schmidt asked that if anyone has any suggestions or thoughts on what to do for Jeanne Stewart, please let her know.

#### **VII. Comments from the Public on Non-Agenda items**

None

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm