

**Clark County**  
**Solid Waste Advisory Commission**  
**Regular Meeting**  
Thursday March 6, 2014

Clark County Auto License Office  
1408 Franklin Street  
Vancouver, WA

**SWAC Members Present:** Lisa Schmidt, Richard Baker, Don Ebbeson, Rem Wilson,  
**SWAC Members Excused:** Allan Jeska, Brandon Vick, Bill Turlay, Stephen Smythe, Jack McClary

**Staff Present:** Mike Davis, Peter DuBois, Sabra Hall-Nelson

**Others Present:** Gary Bickett, CCPH; Rich McConaghy, COV; Joe Laxson, CCPH; Tanya Gray, COV; Scott Campbell, WCI; Kevin Miracle, WCI

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

No quorum to approve the November and December 2013 minutes.

### **II. Updates**

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

The quarterly reports will be coming soon.

#### **County Environmental Services – Peter DuBois**

##### **News article:**

- Students will compete in plastic - bag recycling drive
- Community News - Mesa's recycling efforts a model for others
- WA State Department of Ecology - State's recycling rate remains about 50%
- Daily Insider - County's residents push recycling, diversion rates to highest ever
- Energy Advisor: Green Neighbors event sprouts sessions

##### **News Releases:**

- North County Hardware in Amboy joins the Clark County Paint-Take-Back Program
- Seventh store joins county's paint products recycling program
- Learn to "Do it Yourself" Saturday 15, to save money, live green

##### **Other Documents provided in SWAC Packets or sent out via e-mail:**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Green Business Event - April 16<sup>th</sup>
- Recycling Day Events - 2014
- Clark County Green Neighbors Newsletter
- Appendix A – Acronyms and Definitions (draft)
- Economy of Waste
- SWMP – Draft

Update on the Leichner Landfill Master Planning Property- Mike Davis

- Map of property distributed
- County has a contract with Maul Foster Alongi for master planning the Leichner Landfill properties; the process is starting with education & outreach – newsletters, mailers & website; open house will be on April 29<sup>th</sup> from 4:00-7:00 at the Vancouver Church of Christ, 9019 NE 86th St

- Mailers are being sent to surrounding residents – approximately 1,200 households – will go out 2<sup>nd</sup> week in April – SWAC members asked to be included in the mailing
- The northern part of the site will not have a lot of activity; the landfill may end up with light recreational use at some point (probably in 5-10 years); most likely area for development is the Leichner Campus (Koski property) and Fleischer property
- Fleischer property is privately owned contaminated property; county applied for and has been awarded an Ecology Integrated Prevention Grant (IPG) to evaluate the contaminated property for site analysis, appraisal and potential cleanup; the grant has been awarded but we do not yet have a contract
- All of this property is zoned light industrial
- All of these properties are currently in the Ecology Consent Decree; talking with Ecology to remove the sites, terminate the decree or remove certain parcels from the decree (most likely the Leichner Campus and the parcel the hauling company is located on)
- Any development will have a buffer; we will need to maintain an easement; any existing trees won't be removed

**Question:** Is this information in the current plan? If not can it be revisited and added to the plan. **Answer:** There is a landfill chapter – it was suggested to note that landfills don't have to remain landfills forever.

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

Snow report: a month ago we had snow. Garbage collection ended early in the day with 10% of pick-up missed. Thursday and Friday's services were cancelled. The following Tuesday collection resumed. A taped message was sent to customers by use of the ROBO system which made for better communication and less customer calls regarding their service.

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

No report

#### **III. Environmental Public Health Program Transitions – Gary Bickett and Joe Laxson**

Gary introduced Joe Laxson from Clark County Public Health. Joe has been with Clark County for a year now and had previously worked for Island County (in Puget Sound). Gary shared some changes at Environmental Health within Public Health addressing more efficient ways to do business such as:

- The use of tablets in the field for site inspections.
- Water safety program and food safety program are similar in that they both require annual permits and annual inspections of those facilities. Combining these two programs can prove to be more cost effective and efficient.
- Combining program covering solid & hazardous waste, septic and drinking water will help to protect our valuable resource - ground water.

Lisa Schmidt welcomed Joe Laxson to SWAC and noted that one of the purposes of this committee is to make recommendations to the board of Clark County Commissioners.

#### IV. Review of Draft Report – The Economics of Waste – Peter DuBois

- Goal – create economic activity in the community
- Sequence of events for project – direction to include in SWMP update; staff looking at waste shed; report completed; seeking input from SWAC; drafting new chapter; and moving forward
- Economic development concepts within the solid waste system – will need partnerships with other agencies in the community
- Current system - 230,000 tons of waste landfilled; 500,000 tons locally generated (plus reuse cycle); \$190M of sales economic activity occurring with our discards; 393 companies based on NAICS codes – collecting, processing, reuse; \$2.4M from sale of our curbside materials; \$52M in wages paid to 1,727 employees
- Materials going into landfill that could have been marketed through existing curbside program – 40,500 tons, \$6M market value
- Report summarizes ideas how can we create jobs with tools & waste in our system – couple of ideas
  - Pulling reuse items from the tip floor – pilot project
  - Edible food – coordinating reuse
  - Mandatory recycling – more drivers and downstream recyclables impact
- YW & food waste goes to Oregon – regional area is lacking a facility to process food waste – this is the only waste where enough tons are generated that would support a regional facility
- Rubble – is interesting as there is a potential to produce urbanite – low end landscape material – this is not a huge job producer

Visioning of how to create these jobs

Tax incentives; waiving impact fees; grants; zoning and special zones; recycling and garbage mandates; container deposits; procurement mandates; recycled content requirements

SWAC Discussion

- Vision pulling in a manufacturer that would create 100 jobs using our material to create a product
- Report provides good information and establishes a baseline
- Have focus groups, businesses, economic development organizations and think tanks provide input on how to take to the next level
- Will need to have properties shovel ready
- Try to come up with the next product – the next idea – hopefully more high tech
- Develop contact with large companies that don't think about municipalities having product resources
- Chicago declared hub for green manufacturing – follow similar process – consider making a hub
- Task WSU engineering school – materials for coursework – what can be done with materials we still throw away
- Waste flow still impacts what we can do with our waste

- Find middle ground between business and green – attract entities will to create business
- WSRA & ORA provide this review of the industry – look at materials & find ways to recycle or repurpose
- SWAC will provide input in new SWMP chapter and make recommendation to Board of County Commissioners
- SWAC will continue to think about this process and potential recommendations

#### **V. Overview of updated Draft Solid Waste Management Plan Update - Anita Largent**

Review at the next meeting

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

No other business

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

A special **“shout out”** to Gary Bickett for all his hard work and dedication in the community as well as his involvement in the Solid Waste Advisory Commission. **THANKS GARY**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40