

Development and Engineering Advisory Board Meeting
February 7, 2013
2:30 – 4:30 p.m.
Public Service Center

In attendance:

Board members: Mike Bomar, Helen Devery, Ott Gaither, Eric Golemo, and Mike Odren

DEAB members not in attendance: James Howsley and Andrew Gunther

County staff: Jan Bazala, David Bottamini, Brent Davis, Jane Kleiner, Dianna Nutt, Ali Safayi, Nicole Snider, Sue Stepan, Axel Swanson, Rod Swanson, Kevin Tyler, and Ron Wierenga

Administrative Items

- Introductions
- Review/Adopt Minutes – Minutes from January DEAB meeting were approved and adopted.
- Review Upcoming Events – One addition to the agenda's calendar is the State of the County Address at Prairie High School, March 14, 4 to 6 p.m.
- Correspondences – (1) Email from Devery in response to the BOCC's office asking about DEAB and the use of staff resources. (2) Follow-up item from last meeting from Snell in regards to proposed amendments to the GMA.
- DEAB vacancy recruitment status – BOCC is currently reviewing the applications. There are two vacant private sector DEAB positions. Applications received from Colin Bates (Meyer Engineering), Don Hardy (BergerABAM), Mike Odren (Olsen Engineering) and Dan Trisler (Hart Crowser). There is also one vacant public sector position. Steve Bacon (Clark Regional Wastewater District (CRWD)) is the only applicant. Norm Harker, a Commissioner with CRWD) sent an email expressing interest in DEAB. Harker could fit into either position since he is a practicing engineer as well as commissioner.
- DEAB member announcements – Odren mentioned the house bill regarding preliminary plat approvals and requested Snell to report back to DEAB on this (and other) legislative bills.

DEAB Calendar/Retreat Plans

Retreat date is Friday, March 22, 9:30 to noon. The meeting is scheduled for the county Elections Building (1408 Franklin).

The annual DEAB work session with the BOCC is not scheduled yet. Stepan recommends that DEAB waits until the new DEAB appointments have been made.

Notice that the April meeting is delayed one week due to spring break. The meeting will be held April 11.

DEAB decided to cancel the regularly scheduled March meeting if the new DEAB members are not appointed.

Axel Swanson stated that DEAB continues to be important by the BOCC and may be tasked to do more by the new BOCC. Potential future tasks include building and impact fees.

Devery asked if DEAB would receive a response to the questionnaire DEAB submitted. Axel Swanson stated yes.

Gaither asked that the BOCC provide work plan priorities for DEAB. Axel Swanson said he will provide preliminary priorities at DEAB's March retreat.

Axel Swanson added that Snell just completed a "LEAN" (process improvement) exercise for single family resident permit applications.

DEAB Electronic Packets

Stepan asked if DEAB is interested in paper-free (electronic) agenda packets? Yes, most DEAB members would prefer electronic documents, although a few would still like paper copies during the meeting. Stepan will work with Rosie Hsiao to implement. Some type of document folder will be created on the DEAB website for members to access the agenda packets and all attachments.

Development Engineering is committed to a largely paperless review process. Applicants are encouraged to submit plans and associated documents electronically using a county ftp site.

SEPA Thresholds

Tyler (Environmental Services Permitting) gave an update on State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) rulemaking.

The 2012 Washington State Legislature directed the Department of Ecology to update SEPA regulations in two stages: round one by December 31, 2012, and round two by December 31, 2013.

Round one resulted in increased flexible thresholds for minor new construction, with some additional flexibility for: a multi-family category, different levels between full-planning and non-planning counties under the Growth Management Act (GMA), and different levels for within or outside of growth management areas.

Updates also resulted in some clarification for landfill and excavation activities that are stand alone versus those associated with a particular exempt project and when local jurisdictions should require SEPA.

The threshold for electrical facilities was increased to match current industry standards for constructing new transmission lines.

Code updates also included flexibility for local jurisdictions to make adjustments to the SEPA checklist by creating standard answers to questions covered by critical areas ordinances or other adopted rules, removing questions from the non-project SEPA checklist questions that do not apply to a project, and allowing for electronic submittal and signature.

What should the County do? At this time, the BOCC has not provided any direction. The county could use the biannual code process to recommend changes to the BOCC, and modify the SEPA checklist. With the Tidemark software replacement project, there is the potential to allow for electronic submittals and signatures.

The second round of updates is starting in 2013.

Motion – DEAB moved to recommend to Clark County Planning and Community Development to move forward as quickly as possible with the adoption of the new state SEPA regulations into County Code. The motion passed unanimously.

Stormwater Permit Update

Wierenga (Environmental Services Clean Water Program) gave an update on the municipal stormwater permit.

Environmental Services (DES) relies on the work of other departments to comply with the permit requirements.

The new permit becomes effective August 2013. The permit requires that draft codes be submitted to the Department of Ecology for review by mid-2014. The final adoptive versions are needed by mid-2015.

Wierenga explained that current requirements do not necessarily go away, but more requirements are added.

DES is developing work plans for these updates and working with the county Public Information Office on how to engage stakeholders.

Devery suggested that DES contact those stakeholders involved in the last code update (a Technical Advisory Committee and a Stakeholders Advisory Committee) for input.

Public Comment Period

A question was asked about the cost of the legal fees and staff time to appeal the stormwater permit. Wierenga said the costs were about \$125,000 to \$150,000 spread out over the last four to five years. This does not include county staff time. The fines and penalties the county could incur if not complying with DOE could be substantial.

Meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

Meeting Minutes Prepared by: Nicole Snider

Reviewed by: Sue Stepan

Board Adopted: April 11, 2013