

**CLARK COUNTY  
CLEAN WATER COMMISSION**

**Meeting Notes**

Wednesday, March 7, 2012

6:30 – 8:30 P.M.

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

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Clark County Clean Water Commission Members Present

Jim Carlson, David Darby, Don Moe, David Morgan, Nancy Olmsted, Brian Peck, Art Stubbs, Virginia van Breemen

Clark County Clean Water Commission Members Absent

Susan Rasmussen

Clark County Staff

Earl Rowell, Bobbi Trusty, Ron Wierenga

Public

Jamie Howsley, PC and Governmental Affairs Liaison, Building Industry Association of Clark County (BIA)

Quorum

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m.

*Agenda and material review*

1. Agenda
2. February 1, 2012, Meeting Notes
3. 2011 Annual Clean Water Commission Report
4. Clean Water Program Awareness Packet
5. 2011 Clean Water Program Budget Summary

*Approval*

The February 1, 2012, notes were approved as submitted.

*Clean Water Commissioners: Communications with the Public*

Mr. Peck introduced himself as a new Clean Water Commissioner. He has lived in Clark County since 1994. He owns a gas station in the county and is interested in public policy as well as clean water.

Mr. Carlson met with Richard Hogg of the Battle Ground School District. Mr. Hogg said the district has approximately 600 children who take the environmental studies from the CASEE center each year. Mr. Carlson wants to meet with Mr. Hogg again and discuss the syllabus in more depth.

Mr. Stubbs, Mr. Carlson and Ms. Olmsted attended the Watershed Stewards class on February 23, 2012. They discussed the clean water commission history, activities and some of the current

regulatory and legal matters pertaining to the Clean Water Program. Some comments from the participants were that everyone should be aware of the regulatory requirements, people should just do the right thing, and stewards would be willing to help campaign to raise the clean water fees so important work can continue within the clean water program.

Ms. Olmsted attended the Green Business Kickoff Event. She was impressed with the businesses who participated in the pilot program, the criteria they had to follow and the amount of time they put towards becoming a certified Green Business.

### **Public Comments**

Mr. Howsley thanked Mr. Carlson for asking him to attend this meeting on behalf of the Building Industry of Clark County (BIA). He stated that the industry is seeing a transition in that clientele are demanding greener structures and landscape. The industry is also struggling to comply with new regulations and still deliver a product that individuals are able to afford.

The BIA starting working with the Board of County Commissioners to address concerns that the NPDES Municipal Stormwater Permit's *preforested condition* (or standard) was too stringent for development and presented practical hurdles, especially in re-development areas like Highway 99. The BIA believes that the county's program of making up the difference between existing conditions and preforested conditions will provide better results for the environment overall.

The BIA moved to intervene in the case by the Rosemere Neighborhood Association, Columbia Riverkeeper and NW Environmental Defense against Clark County and then filed an appeal on the PCHB decision. Mr. Howsley also submitted comments to the Washington State Department of Ecology regarding their concerns with the Draft NPDES Permit language.

### **Action Items**

#### *CWC 2011 Annual Report*

Ms. Olmsted reviewed the draft annual report with the commission members. Mr. Moe made a recommendation to change the word *new* to *pilot* regarding the consolidation of commissions in Environmental Services on page seven.

#### **Motion 2012-03-01**

Mr. Moe moved that the CWC 2011 Annual Report be accepted with the modifications as recommended. It was seconded and approved. Motion passed.

### **Clean Water Program Update**

#### *Clean Water Program Awareness Packet*

Mr. Rowell reviewed the Clean Water Program Awareness packet, which was recently developed to highlight program elements and provide talking points to people, to increase the public's understanding of what the program does. The group discussed how the pages are great talking points and can be used as handouts. The pages are very informative, useful and all members of the CWC thought this was a very well put together packet. The commission conveyed accolades to staff who prepared the packets.

### *Consolidation of Advisory Groups*

Mr. Wierenga explained that the county is looking at how it does business and has formed committees (i.e. Regulatory Committee) to research how it can improve its efficiency and effectiveness.

The Regulatory Committee found that the county has 64 advisory groups, commissions and task forces, some of which are mandated at some level (e.g. by state law or local code). At a recent work session members of the committee asked the Board of County Commissioners to authorize a *pilot* project with the Department of Environmental Services to explore consolidation of three advisory groups: Clean Water, Solid Waste, and Noxious Weeds. In 2012, the pilot project will evaluate the commission's purposes, analyze the costs, business mandates, and determine if there is a better way to accomplish the goals of commissions. This consolidation might provide a better opportunity for the public to address broader environmental issues, reduce overlap and gaps as well as potentially save costs.

Mr. Wierenga said the consolidation of commissions is just an idea at this point. There will be more discussion and requests for feedback. The CWC was interested in knowing what topics the other commissions cover. To gain familiarity, CWC thought it would be appropriate to review meeting notes from the other groups, and in the future attend one of their meetings and invite them to a CWC meeting.

### *2011 Clean Water Program Budget Summary*

Mr. Wierenga handed out the budget summary for 2011. The summary identifies revenue, expenses and the department's starting point in the second half of the biennium. Mr. Stubbs asked to receive a budget forecast the next three years.

### **Public Comments**

None.

### **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Bobbi Trusty

### **Action Items**

- Attend the work session with the Board of County Commissioners for the 2011 Annual Report on Wednesday, March 28, 2012, at 10:00 a.m., Clark County Public Service Center, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, BOCC Hearing Room