



CLEAN WATER COMMISSION

For the Department of Environmental Services

Meeting Summary

Wednesday, May 7, 2014

6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

**Public Service Center, 6th Floor Training Room
1300 Franklin Street, Vancouver**

Members Present: David Meyer, Brian Peck, Susan Rasmussen, Dick Rylander, Gary Schaeffer, Virginia van Breemen, Melanie Wheeler

Members Absent: Jim Carlson, Rob McKinney

Staff Present: Don Benton, Chris Clifford, Earl Rowell, Bobbi Trusty

Partner Agency Staff Present: None

Public Present: Art Stubbs, NACCC; Jennifer Halleck, Vancouver Public Schools; Sunrise O'Mahoney, Vancouver Watersheds Alliance; Tyler Graf, The Columbian

I ROLL CALL

The April 2, 2014 meeting summary was approved as submitted. Mrs. Rasmussen contended that she didn't feel the notes captured the tenor or her comments regarding shift in policy during the last meeting. She was reminded by staff that the summary was not intended to capture all of the details and for more information the audio files are available for review.

II PUBLIC COMMENT

None

III PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION

Mr. Benton provided an overview of a presentation "*Clean Water Program Funding.*"

Commissioners discussed the proposed fees inside and outside the UGA area, system development charges, polluter fees and fee comparisons. Mr. Benton was asked about the criteria on how the polluter fees were evaluated. Mr. Benton said that his team looked at five criteria; was there a direct nexus, easy to collect, easy to assess, does the county have the authority and what revenue it would generate.

Mrs. Rasmussen asked that items from a 1999 Task Force Report, Exhibit E be reviewed on recommendations from citizens about the fee. She is concerned about the process used to come up with these recommendations stating that neither the commission nor the public were involved to provide feedback. Mr. Benton informed Mrs. Rasmussen that he attended the commission meeting to involve the commission and to request their support for the fee increase before presenting to the Board of County Commissioners. He also stated there would be public hearings on this matter before it was implemented.

Motion 2014-03

Mr. Meyer moved that in the event the commission recommends to the Board of County Commissioners to increase the fees for Clean Water, that the earlier vetting from the 1999 public task force comments be revisited during the research phase of the system development charge and



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polluter fees. Ms. Wheeler seconded the motion. During discussion the motion was amended to table the discussion and motion for the next meeting. Motion to table passed.

The public was given an opportunity to comment during this section of the meeting. Concern was raised about the polluter fee and how the newspaper was identified as one of the top polluters. Ms. O'Mahoney would like to see the facts and statistics on the polluter findings. Mr. Benton told her to contact him the following day and he would get the information for her.

Motion 2014-04

Mr. Schaeffer made a motion to accept the staff recommendation to move forward to the Board of County Commissioners with the clean water fee increase as presented and ask the Board to consider a polluter and connection fee study at which time they will determine the details at a later date. Mr. Peck Seconded Motion passed with a roll call vote:

Commissioners Wheeler, Meyer, van Breemen, Rylander, Peck and Schaeffer – Yes
Commissioner Rasmussen – No

ANNUAL REPORT

Mr. Carlson had trouble with his computer and the report is not ready for the commission to review. He will have it ready by the July 2, 2014 commission meeting and the work session with the Board is rescheduled to July 30 at 9:00 a.m.

Clean Water Program Fee Waivers to Schools

Mr. Rowell provided a staff report that recaps what is going on with the fee reduction for the public schools.

NPDES Stakeholders Advisory Committee (SAC) Updates

Commissioners Schaeffer and Rylander attend the last SAC meeting. The discussion was in regard to design manual, codes, status of clean water fee and the school fee waiver. On May 8, both commissioners will attend the SAC meeting and report back to the commission at the next meeting.

Bylaws for Clean Water Commission

Mr. Rowell handed out a draft copy of the bylaws and asked that the commission review them by the next meeting.

V PUBLIC COMMENT – feedback

Ms. Halleck thanked the commission and the staff for their continued support in working with the schools on the fee waiver.

VII ADJOURN – 07:58 PM

Summary provided by: Bobbi Trusty / 360-397-2121 x 5268

For audio file, previous meeting summaries or presentations please visit:

<http://www.clark.wa.gov/environment/stormwater/management/commission.html>