



Meeting Summary

Wednesday, July 11, 2018

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

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

Members Present: Marie LaManna, Brendan Addis, Jeremy Burnett, Janice Killion, Holly Norris, Mark Schneider, Josh Seeds

Members Absent: Michelle Girts, David McDevitt

Staff Present: Andrea Logue, Dean Boening, Eric Lambert

Partner Agency Staff Present: Sunrise O'Mahoney, Watershed Alliance; Susie Peterson, Columbia Land Trust; Nikkie West, Audubon Society of Portland

Public Present: None

I. ROLL CALL

No changes were proposed to the meeting summary for May 2, 2018, and Commissioner Schneider moved to approve. Commissioner Burnett seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

III. PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION / RECOMMENDATION / ACTION

Backyard Habitat Certification Program

Sunrise O'Mahoney from the Watershed Alliance, Susie Peterson from the Columbia Land Trust and Nikkie West from the Audubon Society of Portland are partnering to bring the Backyard Habitat Certification Program (BHCP) to Clark County. Currently serving Multnomah and parts of Clackamas County, the program leverages the time, labor and skills of nearly 100 volunteers and 5,000 program participants and provides technical assistance, incentives, resources, and recognition to owners of private property sized one acre or less. The objectives of the program are to increase the public's awareness of the benefits of conservation in the metropolitan area and to incentivize continual, measurable on-the-ground habitat enhancements in five key areas:

1. Remove invasive species
2. Enhance native vegetation in their yards
3. Reduce pesticides
4. Steward wildlife
5. Improve stormwater management

There is a waitlist of over 50 participants across Clark County for BHCP to launch in Spring 2019. More information is available at www.backyardhabitats.org.

Columbia Land Trust is a non-profit that holds easements and owns property along the Columbia River starting in Astoria, OR, and extending past The Dalles, OR, conserving about 43,000 acres. The headquarters is at Fort Vancouver, and satellite offices are in Portland and Astoria. While Columbia Land Trust typically holds larger parcels of land, BHCP is an important outreach message in the areas they work in, providing impetus to co-manage the program to help engage people in conservation.

Audubon Society of Portland is the nation's largest chapter of the Audubon Society, doing a wide range of work in the protection of birds and their habitat. BHCP is administered in the conservation department, which is focused on natural resources, planning, policy, advocacy and litigation. BHCP is



a way to achieve on-the-ground habitat conservation, helping people to make changes in their own yards impacting birds and wildlife. In addition, it connects to the broader conservation goals of policy and litigation for a long-term natural resource plan statewide and up and down the Pacific Flyway.

The Watershed Alliance focuses on clean water projects, including restoration on creeks, education on urban stormwater issues, and events engaging upwards of 700 volunteers annually planting trees and removing invasive vegetation along creeks and in parks. Initially working solely in the city of Vancouver, they have expanded to serve southwest Washington. Thanks to support from the City of Vancouver and the Firstenburg Foundation, the Watershed Alliance has been conducting a pilot of BHCP for properties in the riparian buffer of creeks in Vancouver.

Clark County Fair

Space has been set aside at the Clark County Fair for advisory boards and is encouraging representation for all boards. Fair dates are Aug. 3-12, 2018. Stay tuned for more information.

Clean Water Division Outreach

Eric Lambert, Clean Water Outreach Specialist, gave an update on outreach events:

- Stormwater Partners of SW Washington
 - Don't Drip and Drive
 - First leak check event was held at Port of Vancouver
 - Just cleared for leak check event at the Clark County Fair
 - Upcoming leak check events at Shorewood Condominiums and Battle Ground City Hall; other events are being finalized
 - Digital marketing:
 - Google Adwords on search keywords for "engine oil leak", "car leak" or "mechanic near me"
 - Facebook ads
 - About 400 web hits to date
 - Articles in local news media and upcoming CVTV coverage
 - Storm drain Cleanout Assistance Program (SCAP) – developing request for quotes (RFQ) for contractors to pump out storm drains at a predetermined price
 - Third quarter meeting Jul. 18, 2018 at 78th Street Heritage Farm
- Promoting Canines for Clean Water at DOGPAW off-leash dog parks
 - 2018 goal to receive 300 pledges, will meet and exceed
 - Next at Brush Prairie on Jul. 14, 2018
- Friends of Trees Planting on Dec. 8, 2018, expanded to North Salmon Creek and Northeast Hazel Dell east of I-5

There was discussion regarding uncovered dumpsters at parks, allowing rain inside resulting in a high probability of leachate from contents, including possibly dog waste bags, leaking to the ground.

Reserve Recommendations – Research Group

Commissioner Schneider reported the Research Group spent the last couple months working on the capital reserve. The group's discussion is on hold because Public Works has a consultant drafting a fund balance policy for various divisions, including Clean Water. Once this policy has been reviewed and revised, it will be shared with the commission.

Working Group Updates

- Research Group
 - With the capital reserve on hold, the group plans to reshuffle priorities and work on other objectives



CLEAN WATER COMMISSION

- Vice Chair Addis has contacted other counties and cities to get an impression of what they have done
- **Partnerships Group**
 - Commissioner Girts' notes from a Jun. 1 meeting with Clean Water Division staff Dean Boening, Rod Swanson and Andrea Logue and commission Chair LaManna and Vice Chair Addis on potential partnerships, priority contacts, draft mission and goals
 - Top priorities:
 - Stormwater Partners of SW Washington – commissioners share expertise and resources to help move efforts forward
 - Home builders, developers and construction contractors
 - Homeowners associations – contacts and conversations to complement Cary Armstrong's work
 - Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
 - Clark Public Utilities
 - Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board – deposits settlement payments from Clark County in the Clark County Clean Water Restoration Fund and administers a grant program with the funds
 - More contacts:
 - Pat Lee, Clark County Public Works Parks and Lands, manages Legacy Lands and Heritage Farm
 - Connected to Columbia Land Trust, Audubon Society, The Nature Conservancy and Intertwine Alliance
 - Watershed Alliance and Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership – possible restoration partnership opportunities
 - Cowlitz Indian Tribe
 - Clark Conservation District – in need of consistent funding
 - Potential to be involved in specific projects, for example FieldScope citizen science database current partnership of Clean Water Division, City of Vancouver and Student Water Quality Monitoring program as a central location for data collaboration
 - Stewardship activities fulfill NPDES permit requirements, including:
 - Backyard bird habitat restoration projects
 - Riparian restoration projects
 - Commissioner Norris asked about Washington State Department of Ecology grants. The Clean Water Division applies for Ecology grants, and there may be grants of less than \$10,000 for education and outreach on stormwater that the division wouldn't pursue.
- **Public Outreach Group**
 - Group members met on Jun. 27 – objectives, action items and long-term goals
 - Attend Neighborhood Associations Council of Clark County (NACCC) meetings
 - Attend public outreach events
 - Drafting letter for HOAs
 - Who we are, what we want to do, can we speak at a future meeting
 - Two versions, for property managers and homeowners
 - Mailing list
 - Work with Clean Water Division to revise slide presentation for HOAs
 - How to manage your stormwater
 - Visual examples
 - Impacts of budget cuts to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, potential changes to Washington State Department of Ecology, and how can a citizen advisory group prepare for a future with less funding and enforcement



CLEAN WATER COMMISSION

- Educate ourselves – non-profit organizations’ white papers projecting impacts
 - How to keep citizens involved if there is no enforcement – target community beyond HOAs and neighborhood associations
 - Educate children – Boys & Girls Clubs, library summer reading groups, boy and girl scouts, Parks & Recreation, YMCA, and Marshall and Firstenburg Community Centers
- Plan to meet with Clean Water Division staff
 - Vice Chair Addis and Commissioner Norris mentioned stewardship of some area churches

Clark County Social Media Policy

At the May meeting, commissioners recommended reviewing the Clark County Social Media Policy and continuing discussion of adding a reference to it in the bylaws, Section 7. County and Department Expectations.

In response to a question from Commissioner Norris, it is only appropriate to use the title of Clean Water Commissioner when submitting a public records request for Clean Water Commission tasks.

IV. COMMISSION DISCUSSION TIME

Vice Chair Addis gave a presentation to Clark County Public Works staff maintaining stormwater facilities on what he sees out in the field and suggested approaches. Potential follow-up could be a similar presentation to developers.

As a follow-up to the May meeting, Dean Boening, Clean Water Division Manager, discussed Section 5.7 Privilege of the Clark County Home Rule Charter located online at: www.clark.wa.gov/sites/default/files/dept/files/elections/Clark%20County%20Charter%20BOFCharter_052714.pdf.

In consultation with the Clark County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office, Clean Water Commission members are appointed officials and the following provision from the Charter governs their conduct.

Section 5.7 Privilege states:

County elected officials, appointed officials and employees shall not use their positions to secure employment or special employment privileges for themselves or others. County elected officials, appointed officials and employees shall not solicit or accept any benefit, compensation, profit or advantage directly or indirectly from or by reason of the discharge of their county responsibilities and duties.

Commissioner Seeds attended the Western States Source Water Protection Workshop in June. He brought flyers on septic system funding programs from Washington State Department of Ecology, including loan programs to assist homeowners to pay for repairs, hoping to distribute the flyers where they would be useful. Chair LaManna works for Clark Regional Wastewater District (CRWWD) and requested some of the flyers. CRWWD also has incentive programs to transition from septic to sewer.

Commissioner Seeds visited the Boise WaterShed, an education center on water protection and conservation through hands-on exhibits and the largest concentration of public art in the state of Idaho, located at the West Boise Water Renewal Facility. There were a lot of great ideas for interactive education and outreach. One of the artistic installations is a simulation of a headworks dam and reservoir, allowing children to play with how much water is released and the impact on the reservoir.



CLARK COUNTY WASHINGTON

PUBLIC WORKS
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The annual field trip will be on the agenda of the next meeting and will take place in late September or October.

Chair LaManna and Commissioners Girts and Schneider will meet and develop the goals and objectives for the commission.

Commissioner Schneider wondered if the Clean Water Program fee could be waived when a homeowner completed a program like the Backyard Habitat Certification Program. It is difficult to have a residential fee waiver because it is administratively inefficient and costly.

V. ADJOURN – 08:28 PM

Summary provided by: Andrea Logue, Clark County Staff Liaison / 564.397.5268

For more detailed information, an audio recording for this meeting is available through the county website at: <https://www.clark.wa.gov/public-works/clean-water-commission>.