



CLARK COUNTY WASHINGTON

PUBLIC WORKS  
CLEAN WATER

## CLEAN WATER COMMISSION

### Meeting Minutes

**Wednesday, March 6, 2019**

**6:30 pm - 8:45 pm**

**Public Service Center, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room 698**

**1300 Franklin Street, Vancouver**

**Members Present:** Marie LaManna, Brendan Addis, Christy Dunbar, Michelle Girts, Sue Marshall, Justin Maynard and Michelle Maynard.

**Members Absent:** David McDevitt and Josh Seeds

**Staff Present:** Dean Boening, Cary Armstrong, Eric Lambert, Alice Millward and (7:20) Ahmad Qayoumi

**Public Present:** None

### I. ROLL CALL

Commissioner Seeds can't attend due to the snow and unable to connect telephonically. All of the attending commissioners and staff introduced themselves.

One change was made to the January 2, 2019, meeting minutes to clarify that Michelle Maynard wants to be on the Research and not Partnerships Work Group. Commissioner Girts moved to approve as amended. Commissioner Addis seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

### II. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

### III. PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION / RECOMMENDATION / ACTION

#### Public Works - Clean Water Division

Dean Boening, Clean Water Division Manager, introduced himself and gave an analogy of the tortoise and the hare to illuminate to how government works. The Clean Water Commission helps to bring innovation and creative thinking to the department as it processes these ideas through the sturdy framework which government must operate through. He acknowledges that it can be a slow and deliberate process. However, Dean wants the commissioners to know that he appreciates all the expertise they bring to the table even when the process can be frustratingly slow. An example of this can be seen through the business insight and recommendations the Research Work Group gave last year regarding the cash balances policy and proper fund reserve amounts. Due to the valuable feedback from CWC members, the department now is in the process of creating reserves for operations, capital and emergencies.

#### Clean Water Division Private Stormwater Facility Inspection Program

Cary Armstrong, Clean Water, Sr. Environmental Operations Specialist, gave an overview of the Clark county private stormwater facility inspection and maintenance program and some of the challenges they face. Currently, there are 1216 private stormwater facilities that the county is responsible for overseeing. There are four categories of private stormwater facilities. There are 445 NPDES Permit regulated facilities; 102 commercial sites with pollution generating potential; 87 oil/water separators and 441 water quality sites not going to a MS4 system, 72 dry wells and only two inspectors to inspect them on an annual basis. (We just hired Rich Wanke in October as the 2nd inspector. He is a valuable addition to the team due to his many years of experience.)



Cary and Rich are very busy! Clark County's two inspectors are responsible for over 1200 private facilities (75% are residential sites which are significantly more labor intensive than commercial sites) while Pierce County has six inspectors to cover 1500 private sites (only 25% are residential).

First priority is to inspect all of the NPDES required facilities on an annual basis (and move towards compliance) and then finish the others. Technology has played a big part in maximizing efficiency for Clark County. Starting in 2017, the inspection team started to use Ipads which connect to a GIS linked database. Instead of making hardcopy notes which are then entered into the database, the Ipad apps make it much easier to upload their findings, list contact numbers for the private facilities and other key information for each such as gate codes. They continue to update the database with new information as it comes available but it is a long process since there are so many individual sites/owners. Cary explained the process for inspecting private stormwater facilities, the maintenance requirements, potential costs and extensive staff follow up necessary to ensure compliance. HOAs are responsible for maintaining private facilities and usually hire a contractor which can be pretty expensive.

Another issue that Clean Water encounters is with the vegetation in bioswale retention sites. The soils best used for drainage are not ideal for growing most plants, even those on the approved lists and many builders are not planting approved vegetation, which translates into significant costs down the road. Also discussed are some of the challenges when developers do not properly maintain the vegetation for the required two years prior to turning it over to the HOA or the county. The primary purpose for these requirements is so that the plants are established. There is currently significant budgetary scrutiny even though we are not in the general fund. Dean has submitted a white paper to justify the need to hire a landscape architect. When further along in the process, there may be some opportunities for the Commission to weigh in. Commissioner Michelle Maynard discussed the examples she previously submitted stormwater agreements. Cary will review it again.

Dean introduces Public Works Director, Ahmad Qayoumi, to the Commission.

### Clean Water Division Outreach

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

- The two new Clean Water Restoration Fund grants through the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board will be taking up a lot of their time and energy. He is in the process of finalizing the contracts for the following LCFRB grant projects.
  - Grant 1 – Stormwater Facility Maintenance Outreach will provide owners of private stormwater facilities and others a website in order to bridge the knowledge gap to make it easier for owners to learn how to properly maintain their stormwater facilities.
  - Grant 2 – Watershed Sign Revitalization and Outreach focused on signs originally installed in the mid-1990s. Many are missing or damaged and this project will fix and replace these signs, coupled with online outreach to help raise awareness. He is also working to update the interactive watershed maps.
- The final Friends of Trees street tree planting event of this grant cycle will be Saturday, March 9th. They plan to plant over 100 street trees in Felida neighborhood. They are always looking for volunteers and need a variety of skills and contributions. There is a potluck at the end and everyone has a great time. This is an excellent opportunity to volunteer if interested. This program has had a very positive impact on the county's tree canopy.
- The Don't Drip and Drive campaign currently has eight events scheduled for 2019. Eric is having the literature and website translated into Spanish.



- Multnomah County and the city of Gresham have contacted Eric and several SW Washington jurisdictions to partner on a media buy with KPTV – Fox Channel 12 and to analyze the effectiveness of previous campaigns. The media research will focus on the county's public service announcements with KOIN a few years ago and specifically on the how much the focus groups liked the ads and the public's willingness to take action on specific stormwater/clean water practices. They will use this information to shape the content of KPTV's PSAs. The plan would be for a meteorologist to talk about stormwater issues and good practices as part of a public service announcement. The county and cities of Camas, Washougal, Battle Ground, Longview and Kelso will be partnering with the Oregon jurisdictions. It's slated to start this summer and will go 6-7 months.
- Klineline Fish Derby will be held on April 12-13. This is an excellent volunteer opportunity for anyone interested, especially on Saturday afternoon because Eric will also be giving a presentation at the Small Acreage Expo. Marie has also volunteered to help. Clean Water is having a wheel built which will add a lot of interest to the booth's outreach efforts.
- Eric will be giving a presentation entitled "Sustainable Small Acreage Living" which is a holistic approach to utilizing our natural resources at the WSU Extension Office's Small Acreage Expo on April 13.
- Clark Public Utilities Earth Day Fest will be April 20 and Clean Water will have a booth. There will be opportunities during the garlic mustard and English ivy pulls along Salmon Creek for board members to volunteer if they would like.

### **Working Group Goals and Objectives**

Partnerships and Outreach Working Groups met and reported on their progress. Research Working Group did not meet since there was a bit of a question of board composition.

### **Working Group Updates: Research, Partnerships and Outreach**

- **Partnerships Group (Girts, J. Maynard, Marshall, Seeds)**
  - Commissioner Girts reported they met via conference call and again just prior to this meeting. They are getting up to speed and revising the group's mission statement and action plan. It's very much a 'working document' so it is still considered a draft.
  - Commissioner Marshall has been working with Assessor's Office's Task Force for the public benefits rating system on how to rank and public benefits of open space. She further explained the process. She will send to Alice to forward to everyone. It has great potential to land owners and the public as a whole. The draft and approval process will be several years out. This is a system for managing runoff on a watershed basis.
  - Commissioner Girts continues to move forward from Pat Lee's interview and is focusing on the draft for the Heritage Farm's Master Plan. The NACCA meeting focused on this at their last meeting. This property is a good demonstration of clean water practices due to the parking lot and the restoration along Curtin Creek. The working group would like to Clean Water Commission to approve a letter from the commission endorsing the Heritage Farm's Master Plan as it relates to stormwater runoff, restoration facilities, education and demonstration of practices. Commissioner Girts will draft it for everyone to edit and approve it. Individually, there is an opportunity to comment and give input via electronically which is due mid-month. Commissioner Girts moved and Commissioner Addis seconded for the Commission to submit a letter in support of the stormwater aspects of the Heritage Farm's Master Plan. (It was unanimously approved.)



- **Outreach & Education Group (LaManna, Dunbar, McDevitt)**
  - Commissioner LaManna reminded the commissioners to make sure that any activities they participate in are noted in this year's draft of the Clean Water Annual Report which is on the shared google drive. Alice can add them if needed.
  - Canines for Clean Water events are easy ways to volunteer if commissioners want to be involved with the outreach and not have to have a lot of specialized knowledge.
  - The group will continue to explore ways to support the various clean water divisions.
  - The NACCA meeting is March 11 and Chair LaManna will not be able to attend. If another commissioner wants to attend in her stead, they can, but the meeting is going to focus on catching up on the individual HOA concerns and not larger issues. WS-Dot interchange will be the focus of the April meeting which should generate quite a bit of interest. Please see website for more details.
- **Research Group (Addis, Dunbar, M. Maynard, Marshall)**
  - Discussion ensued regarding who would be a part of this working group. There can be four members in each work group without having to worry about quorum concerns.
  - The draft of the 2019 Clean Water Bylaws is ready for approval. The commissioners discussed the various changes and how the updates better reflect the current situation, the work groups, and OPMA considerations such public notice for the annual educational field trip. The level of detail outlining the election process was also appreciated. On line 16 of the first page, there is an extra "W" and an orphan hyphen which should be deleted. Commissioner Girts moved and Commissioner Marshall seconded, that the 2019 Clean Water Bylaws be approved as corrected. (Motion was unanimously approved.)
  - As Dean mentioned, the capital reserves fund balance recommendations are currently still being reviewed by the county and will be instituted soon.
  - Now that the shared file is up and running Commissioner Addis further explained the "Water Resource Programs Project" which will research the following:
    - Identify all organizations working within the county on projects related, directly or indirectly, to water resource conservation.
    - Create a general outline of those organizations' services and roughly quantify their reach (areas, projects, number of public/community reached, etc.).
    - Look at financial viability and sources of funding for budgets and sustainable funding sources.
    - Outline the overlaps of program targets and competing financial sources.Next week, the group will start working on identifying and contacting all of the organizations and nongovernmental entities who focus on like work.
- The Stormwater Management Plan is has been available for public comment for more than a month. Commissioners Michelle Maynard and Girts provided excellent comments already. Currently, we are in process of editing the 136 page document so that it can be approved by the county manager and submitted to Department of Ecology by March 31.
  - Chair LaManna noticed that on Page 25 the MSRC roster should reference the state roster and not the City of Vancouver.
  - Commissioner Girts questioned the elimination of the "watershed view" from the mission. Dean explained point system and the staff's initial response to Ecology's recent draft permit which would have blown up the watershed approach. There may be a way to rephrase it to better encapsulate current orientation/philosophy of the commission.



- Commissioner Girts questioned the removal of the importance of partnerships in the CIP section as a part of the selection process. Dean explained the context as being related to various funding relationships. The prioritization process was also eliminated. In addition, Clark County isn't in compliance with the Growth Management Act and isn't allowed to apply for certain grants. Due to this, Clean Water is looking to lose out on \$510,000 in grants this year because of the lack of compliance.
  - Dean answered various questions regarding water quality, MS4s and TMDLs. He recommends reviewing the 2010 Stream Health Report which is on the website. This is something that is generally produced every five years, but for a variety of reasons didn't create one in 2015. We are looking to publish another one in 2020. TMDLs are on the horizon but not required at this point.
  - UICs (Unground Injection Controls) and Dry Wells / Injection Wells also were discussed and Dean clarified the definitions better.
  - Illicit connections and the time lines for privately owned repairs were discussed. Staff will look this verbiage.
  - The commission was thanked for taking the time to make comments. It is valuable. Any additional comments please send in as soon as possible.
- Chelatchie Prairie Rail Road comment letter – It is not an appropriate time to send the proposed draft letter. It has been tabled indefinitely. Dean will discuss with the Development Engineering Advisory Board regarding the gap between the initial planning permit requirements and project SEPA requirements as it relates to stormwater management.
  - 2018 CWC Annual Report – Chair LaManna did an excellent job with the power point presentation and answering the Council's questions last week. Thanks to Commissioners Addis, Girts, Dunbar and Marshall for attending and their show of support. It also allowed them to meet Director Ahmad Qayoumi who also attended the presentation. Thanks to Alice for updating the Annual Report and power point to a new professional style.

#### IV. COMMISSION DISCUSSION TIME

- Commissioner Girts brought forth issues regarding Washington State University-Vancouver's code change request for dormitories which could have more impacts affecting water quality and the watershed as is an example of how projects could fall through the "initial zoning change versus SEPA planning cracks" as discussed earlier in the meeting.
- Chair LaManna started the discussion of looking towards a 5-6 year mission oriented Strategic Plan for the commission. She has started research on the history of the commission. An example of a commission success story is the Thomas Wetlands. They pushed for a multi-use stormwater facility. She will put it together in an easily accessible format so that new members and the public can review. Commissioner Girts suggested that a condensed version could be part of the annual report to help the councilors understand the history of the group.
- Dean announced that the new (third) Thomas Wetlands access point will be constructed this summer.
- Commissioner Addis attended recently the "Soak It In" training for stormwater landscape professionals. The focus was on long term care of storm water facilities. Some of the highlights were the long term costs of maintaining the facilities and impacts simple things like planting in straight line versus side by side and the impact for erosion issues. He will forward



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info to the group regarding the interesting studies currently focusing on various types of soil medium to get appropriate infiltration rates but still have good survivability of plants. Commissioner Girts will also send link on bio-char info that she was recently given.

Alice Millward, Clean Water Commission Staff Liaison, gave an update on several matters.

- Alice explained the status of the transition to the new county Clean Water google account. New commissioners have created their accounts using the new naming protocols. She will work with Chair LaManna and IT to make sure all documents are captured / shared. Everything is organized and she sent out invites to all the commissioners. As a reminder, all commissioners must cc her on all clean water related emails and only use the CWC email account and not personal email accounts.
- The county's new financial management software WorkDay has been dominating the past few months as we prepared for the "soft Go Live" this week. It has been a massive undertaking with significant changes every business process as we move from the 1980's DOS-based Oracle system to this new web-based format. The entire financial system has effectively been shut down for the month of February and will soon be starting to process invoices again next week. County staff have been preparing and training for it for several months. This week, Alice has been helping upload all of the contracts into the system and verifying the information is correct so that invoices can start to be paid off of them. Public Works has been very proactive in preparing for this business process change and are in a relatively good position.

### V. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

### VI. ADJOURN – 08:39 PM

Minutes provided by: Alice Millward, Clark County Staff Liaison / 564.397.5267

*Audio recordings of this and most previous Clean Water Commission meetings are available through the county website at:*  
<https://www.clark.wa.gov/public-works/clean-water-commission>.