

**Clark County
Solid Waste Advisory Commission
Regular Meeting
Thursday, March 5, 2009**

**Clark County Auto License Office
1408 Franklin Street
Vancouver, WA**

SWAC Members Present: Jack McClary, Eldon Wogen, Dan Kaler, Lisa Schmidt, Don Ebbeson

SWAC Members Absent: Mike Carnahan, Jeanne Stewart, Rebecca Wale, Richard Baker

Staff Present: Anita Largent, Erin Rowland, Susan Newman, Mike Davis

Others: Mike Drumright, Scott Campbell, Jason Hudson,

I. Roll Call, Approval of Minutes: March 5, 2009

Dan Kaler was introduced as the new Southeast Clark County representative. The motion was made to approve the February 5 minutes. Motion carried.

II. Updates: County Public Health, County Solid Waste, City of Vancouver

Clark County Solid Waste – Anita Large

- Habitat for Humanity Restore in Vancouver is now open. CREAM will be subleasing a portion of this building. It is located at 5000 E 4th Plain Boulevard. It will be open Tuesday through Saturdays from 9 am to 5 pm. The store opens on March 10, 2009.
- SWAC members were given a copy of Appendix E, which contains all the adopting resolutions from the County municipalities, as well as, Clark County's adopting resolution. The final plan has been given to the Department of Ecology for their final review.
- Residential Holiday Extras is a worksheet developed by Waste Connections showing extras billed during the snow event of December 19, 2008 through January 10, 2009. The worksheet compares the same time period in 2007 and shows an actual decrease in charges for extras for this year.
- Jim Mansfield held a workshop for Pesticide Free Management. The workshop was attended by the Cities of Camas, Vancouver, and La Center; ESD 112; Vancouver school district; and the Fort Vancouver Regional Library.
- First Saturday – Block Foam Collection is this Saturday the 7th at Fisher's Landing Transit Center.
- Leadership Clark County Project Group: A group has elected to promote reusable shopping bags as their Leadership Clark County project. Sally Fisher is working with them on this.
- Department of Ecology is beginning the 5 year update of Beyond Waste Plan.

- Waste Connections has purchased Silver Springs, an organics composting facility located in Thurston County near Tenino.

City of Vancouver Solid Waste – Rich McConaghy

- World Water day will be recognized on Saturday, March 22, 2009 at the Pearson Air Museum at the Walk for Water event. This event is to raise water related awareness of issues around the world. There will also be an event that same day in downtown Portland. A final event will be held on May 2nd in Lake Oswego. For more information see www.thewalkforwater.com.
- The city is currently taking reservations for appliance pickups in April. For more information see the City of Vancouver web page <http://www.cityofvancouver.us/solidwaste.asp?menuid=10465&submenuid=10531> or call 360-619-4120.

Clark County Public Health - Gary Bickett

- Eight permits were issued for solid waste handling with two more waiting. Reuffner Landfill would be the eleventh.
- Circle C is not the only landfill that where the gas levels are drying up. The Department of Ecology is the process of writing up a fact sheet of what the stabilization of landfills means.
- Reuffner Landfill Shorelines permit has gone through the City of Vancouver and is now with the Department of Ecology. Gary brought a copy of the conditions of Approval for this application. He asked SWAC to pay close attention to items #18 through #22, as these are the recommendations that Public Health made. He asked SWAC members to contact him if they had any other comments or conditions to suggest.

C: In discussion, SWAC was seeking assurances that the timeline will be followed, conditions will be adhered to, and that the project will be completed on time. Are there mechanisms to insure enforcement?

- “No Ifs, Ands, or Butts” committee (an offshoot of the downtown business association) is working on placing more receptacles for smokers throughout the downtown area to minimize litter and cigarettes going down the storm drains. They will begin with 12 sites that have been identified and will increase to 30 sites. They are working to get businesses to help with the funding of these receptacles

Mike Drumright commented that butts are considered litter. Lisa Schmidt had several ideas which she will share with the appropriate people.

III. School Education: Save Organic Scraps & Washington Green Schools, Program Spotlight – Erin Rowland

Save Organic Scraps presentation: Power Point attached

Erin made a presentation on the Save Organic Scraps school food waste collection program. A copy of the power point presentation is attached and is incorporated into these minutes.

Q: Erin, how long have you been with the program? A: Erin came at the beginning of the program in 2005. She has worked on most of the program expansion and education for this program.

Q: When do you anticipate that some of our school districts like Battle Ground and Ridgefield will be starting? A: These schools should be implemented in the coming school year (2010-2011).

Q: Is the goal to have every school in Clark County involved in this program and how many schools are there? A: Yes the goal is every school to be included in the program. There are approximately 100 schools; 60 schools have been brought on to date through the Vancouver, Evergreen and Camas School Districts.

Q: There was a lot of education at the beginning with each school; do you have to go back for re-education? A: Yes, they try to identify the needs of each school. We have a new strategy this year called "Blitzing" – a group (at least 3 people) goes into the cafeteria and work from table by table talking to the kids at lunch. They also offer a new assembly program and classroom presentations.

Q: How many people are involved? A: Erin is full time; an Americorps volunteer is at $\frac{3}{4}$ time; Waste Connection educator is at $\frac{3}{4}$ time; and 2 temporaries who spend 5 hours a week in lunch monitoring.

Erin added that there are also teacher workshops. They had a workshop this past spring and hope to do more of those for direct communication with the teachers and offer some curriculum that Clark County has created.

Q: Once you've reached your goal of being in every school, what is next? A: More education with the schools, which leads us to the other program Erin is presenting this evening.

Q: Are the students running this program or the custodians? A: It's a combination of both. It is different at every school. Custodians are more involved at the elementary level

An Introduction to Washington Green Schools: Power point is attached

Erin Rowland made a presentation on the Washington Green Schools program. A copy of the power point presentation is attached and is incorporated into these minutes.

This is a new state-wide voluntary web based program for schools. The emphasis is to reduce the school's carbon footprint; reduce the school's operating cost; providing students with hands-on experience and education about the environment.

The steering team for this program has been meeting for almost 3 years. They were inspired to develop this program in Washington because there are similar programs in other states: Oregon, Ontario, Canada and Wisconsin have very strong green schools programs.

In 2007, the steering program applied for a grant from the Washington State Department of Ecology. They have worked with a consultant to compile program information, create

a website and begin a pilot program. They have received another grant from Ecology to complete the program development and organize a 1st annual summit.

Lisa mentioned the library's non-profit search – today actually closed out the Quest foundation and their specific funding is un-funded mandates in school. The next one will be in August, 2009.

Q: What is the website for the green schools? A: www.wagreenschools.org

Q: Do you give them guidance as far as subject matter? A: That's the goal of the website. There are assessments and audits as well as action items for students.

Q: How much time do you spend on your two projects? A: It fluctuates. At the beginning it was decided that the Green Schools Program would be web-based only. Now we see that regional coordinators are needed. The schools need a contact person.

Q: Going back to the SOS program, it looks like we will be successful in getting all the schools and so what's next? Do you see a curbside food waste collection? A: Absolutely we have that vision. Most likely it would be combined with the yard waste collection.

Q: Is the city of Vancouver considering this collection as well? A: Yes.

IV. Update of Recycling Collection Switch to Carts – Mike Davis

The rollout of new carts will begin on April 6th with approximately 4,700 customers per week for 10 weeks in the urban growth area. Households will be receiving postcards (sent two weeks prior to cart delivery) the week of March 23rd; followed by brochures the week of March 30th (sent the week before cart delivery); followed by the delivery of carts starting April 6th.

We have developed a list of Frequently Asked Questions for the Waste Connections' customer service representatives and county staff. Mockups of the brochure and postcards were handed out to each of the members.

The Saturday following the delivery of the carts will be the day for picking up extra bins. Households need to keep one bin for glass (a sticker for glass will be delivered with the cart). Those households that wish to keep all their bins are welcome to keep them. Any missed cart deliveries will also be made on Saturdays.

After completing the urban areas, we will then implement in the rural area and then the multi-family.

Q: Are there written standards or goals for this program? A: Yes, we have developed a list of standards and these are incorporated within the contract.

At the same time as the new collection program is being developed, CRC has been going through the process of selecting a new sort line for West Van. So material collected initially in this program will be going through the old line just as we did with the pilot program.

Q: What about press releases? There hasn't been much in the paper. A: A press release will be issued just prior to the first cart delivery.

Q: Is there someone from Waste Connections that has experience in this type of roll out and are they working with you on this process. A: Yes, we have been meeting on a weekly basis in this planning process. WCI did the planning and implementation of the Pilot Program. Jason worked with the Portland cart roll out and WCI implemented the rollout of garbage carts in Vancouver.

Q: Are you happy with Waste Connections performance so far in this process? A: Yes, we have had a good working relationship.

Q: What cart size are you going to use? A: 65 gallon is the size for the urban growth area and 95 gallon for the rural area. For those customers who think the carts are too large, we are asking them to use them for a trial period.

Q: What happened to Recycle Bank? A: Anita responded that we are arranging to have a Recycle Bank company representative to attend a SWAC meeting.

Q: How far behind are the cities on this? A: Camas, Washougal, Vancouver and Ridgefield are still negotiating with Waste Connections at this time.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

Mike Drumright from Department of Ecology: Mike Drumright provided an update of funding for CPG – regular cycle grants that are going through the end of this year will continue at the current levels. The offset grants that started in January of 2009 and go through 2010 are going to continue. We can be happy that there are offset grants. There was a five day period just recently where all statewide offset grants were pulled from funding. We don't know what the funding levels will be for the next regular cycle, which begins in January of 2010. We should know more at the end of March.

Lisa Schmidt announced that the new Redirect Guide will be out April 22nd.

She also shared www.caninesforcleanwater.com. The Clean Water program received a grant for this program. Anita added that Clean Water staff has asked to come and share this program with SWAC. So they are scheduled for May.

VI. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.