

**CLARK COUNTY  
SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMISSION**

**Regular Meeting  
Thursday August 6, 2009**

**Clark County Auto License Conference Room  
1408 Franklin Street  
Vancouver, WA**

**SWAC Members Present:** Lisa Schmidt, Rebecca Wale, Richard Baker, Eldon Wogen, Dan Kaler, Jeanne Stewart, Jack McClary

**SWAC Members Absent:** Don Ebbeson, Mike Carnahan

**Staff:** Anita Largent, Mike Davis, Sally Fisher, Gary Bickett, Rich McConaghy, Tanya Gray

**Others:** Derek Ranta, Mike Drumright, Kim Jordan, Preston Reed

**I. Roll Call, Approval of Minutes:**

The minutes from the June 4<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved as written. One abstention from Jeanne Stewart who was not at the June meeting.

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

**Clark County – Anita Largent**

- Annual Report from Clark County Solid Waste and the 2008 Data Report were distributed. These reports will be reviewed at the next meeting.
  - SWAC pointed to the last chart in the report that shows the population going up but the tons landfilled going down. This is great news. Waste per person has actually decreased. The bad news is that the recycling rate went down; the total recovery rate went down a little.
- Newspaper articles:
  - The Post-Record article about Skyridge Middle School being a Washington Green School. As a result of the success at Skyridge, the Washougal School District is planning to become Clark County's first green school district.
  - Seattle Times article showing Edmunds to be the first city in the state to ban plastic bags. Also, the Seattle referendum on the bag fee is on the 18<sup>th</sup>.
  - The Columbian article about recycling carts and the rollout into the rural area. Mike will give a full update on how this is going.
- E-mail with events for the month of August
  - NBB Garden tour is scheduled for August 9<sup>th</sup>
  - Block foam recycling event which is a regular monthly event – the first Saturday of each month.
  - The County Fair starts tomorrow; Eldon is helping to staff the fair booth.
- Latex Paint Recycling Program: Previously, our paint was sent to Metro's facility for recycling. Metro has now stopped accepting paint from Clark County. For now we will take any paint collected at our satellite events to Philip Services for processing. Any paint that

comes into the transfer stations, CRC has made the decision to solidify the paint and send to the landfill.

SWAC discussed the paint program and questioned doing something like Metro was doing. This is a work in process as staff is seeking alternatives for paint recycling. For now, using Metro is not an option. The ReStore is accepting paint for reuse. And the county will continue to use Philip Services.

- Article about RecycleBank from the Waste Business Journal that Chicago has now signed on with the RecycleBank program. Representatives are here tonight from RecycleBank to make a presentation
- An update on the Ecology grant and Mike Drumright may have more current news. Staff met with Mike and we are more optimistic about the grants. The grants will be in two phases - Phase One is for 18 months and then Phase Two will be for 6 months. The county has some concern about how the funding for each phase will be allocated. So, at this point, 2010 is looking OK. For 2011, we will have to see what comes out of the legislative session.
- We have submitted two grant applications for Federal grants from the Dept. of Energy (Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants). One application is for a Waste to Energy Feasibility Study. Commissioner Stuart is interested in doing this study. The second one is a grant to promote the new recycling cart program. We've passed several of the first hurdles.
- The new Environmental Services Department: the Board is recruiting for a Director and the plan is to implement the reorganization on Jan 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **Clark County – Mike Davis**

#### **Recycling Cart RollOut:**

The urban area cart rollout has been completed and the county is now in week one of the rural rollout. Staff only had one hitch in the urban rollout regarding the size of carts. The issue has been resolved by providing 35 gallon carts for those residents who requested them.

The first week of the rural rollout, staff had four calls. We anticipate, during the first week of their service, more calls about how to manage the long driveways, clusters, areas where a number of private roads come together, and where people put out all their carts at a central location. Identification is an issue at the clusters, WCI has labeled the inside and exterior of the lid with the customer's name. The original rollout schedule was for six weeks. This has been rearranged and the rollout will be completed sooner. Maps were distributed of the rural area with a schedule of when carts will be delivered.

Data for the end of June in the urban service area show recycling up 14% compared to May; and up 18% comparing June 2008 to June 2009.

#### **New Sort Line at West Van:**

Phase one of the line has been installed. There are a number of components that still need to be installed. SWAC held a short discussion about a tour of the new line. SWAC would like to visit when the line is up and running. Staff will talk with Scott and see when it can be scheduled.

An additional component is a new glass plant with the sort line. Glass will be processed (like a centrifuge) and can be sized to different needs. The glass will become mixed cullet and will be marketed as best as possible. The county is committed to using it in some of the county projects. The new glass machine is light years ahead of what we've had in the past. It will be a

cleaner product and more uniform in size. The county would like to utilize this product like aggregate around a drainage area or a pipe.

Q: Where are the recycling prices/markets in terms of paper, cardboard, metals, etc.? A: Waste News is showing them slowly coming back. We are hoping for some stabilization.

### **Department of Ecology – Mike Drumright**

During July we had two training sessions, one in Olympia and one here in Vancouver. Mike felt confident that both Public Health and Solid Waste are well prepared to apply for grants next year. The application is due September 9<sup>th</sup> for the next two year grant cycle. There are new procedures and he felt confident that Clark County will have no problem with the grants.

### **City of Vancouver Solid Waste – Tanya Gray**

- On June 15<sup>th</sup>, the City Council voted to move to cart-based recycling collection system. Staff will:
  - Conduct a special outreach to senior citizens; give them a chance to see the carts full, push them around and if they feel like that won't work for them – they have options for another size. Meetings for outreach are scheduled at the Leupke Center and the Firstenburg Trapadero Center.
  - Identify some condo associations where they might be constrained in size and send out letters showing options
  - Displays are set up at both Waste Connections offices and the East Precinct in the City.
  - City of Vancouver standard cart size will be a 95 gallon Rherig just like they're rolling out in rural Clark County. It will be the same style cart, same sorting system. The city has benefited from all the work and promotional pieces that the county and WCI have done.
  - The collection schedule will be every other week. We will alternate the services with every other week recycling/garbage and yard debris/garbage. There are approximately 45-50% yard debris subscribers in the city.
  - Rollout will begin October 12<sup>th</sup> and should be done before the end of November.
  - Maps will be online; that should be ready about mid-September.
  - Frequently Asked Questions will be online by mid-August.

### **County Public Health – Gary Bickett**

Gary discussed a public hearing regarding the application for a permit deferral for the Portside Landfill (Boise Landfill). Public Health's original intent was for the actual grading permit to be issued prior to any deferral application decision – not just the shorelines environmental permit with the conditions in it. That's probably not going to happen because some of the conditions in the shorelines permit state that before issuance of the grading permit, a financial assurance bond be implemented and approved. Bronson Potter, Prosecuting Attorney, met with Bill Barron and Paul Christensen and Mike Simon (Paul's attorney). SWAC was given a copy of a letter regarding the status. The letter references and documents the meetings that Public Health had with the engineering firm for Portside. There has to be financial assurance in place before any deferral decision is even considered. This financial assurance/bond has to be based on cost estimates. These estimates have been submitted to the City of Vancouver and Brian Carlson is reviewing.

Gary stated that the wells have been tested and he has been provided a draft report by Portside's engineering firm. The draft report gives a summary of their analysis and compares past data with the requirements in the state of Washington (WAC 173-350). The data from

Public Health had been archived and is being retrieved. The Department of Ecology also has a copy of the draft report. Berger Abam is leading the project right now as far as the grading plan and the decommissioning of the landfill. They are the consultants for the project.

According to Bronson, the enforcement action is still pending. So before the hearing, there either has to be a grading permit or financial assurance in place. The City of Vancouver is committed that these things will happen before a grading permit is actually approved.

Q: Isn't there a schedule for insurance or financial assurance purposes based on the type of landfill, the size and the age? A: Yes, if it was a landfill and in post-closure. For the proposed project, the bond will have to cover the decommissioning and bringing the land above the 100 year flood plain (in order for them to develop as light industrial property). Their costs estimate is \$1.3 million dollars for the entire project.

The financial assurance instrument has to include a scope of work, decommissioning plan, final elevations based on the City of Vancouver's approval of the cost estimates, a final grading permit is not going to be issued until all of those conditions are met. The shorelines permit has already been approved. The SEPA deferral document has already been accomplished when that shorelines permit was going through that process.

Q: Is that the one that the city said was a determination of non-significance? A: Yes and it had 20-30 conditions added to it.

There is also public notification to adjacent property owners. Notice will go into the newspaper and will be on the County Public Health web site. Documents will be available at the Health Department and the library. SWAC will have this information electronically and hard copies.

Q: What's the notification for a hearing like this? Wasn't it 30 days? A: It's 20 days for the adjacent property and then the ad in the paper is 10 days before the hearing.

A public hearing has been tentatively set September 3<sup>rd</sup> or the next SWAC meeting. SWAC discussed the date for the public hearing. There was some question if there would be a quorum for the hearing as it is the Thursday before Labor Day. There were seven members in attendance and three will not be able to attend the September meeting. It should be rescheduled for at least the 17<sup>th</sup>. Staff will check on the hearing room. There will be no meeting on September 3<sup>rd</sup>.

SWAC asked that before this comes before the Commission that there are a minimum number of things that need to be provided. There will need to be a complete Financial Assurance and they would need evidence that all conditions in the shorelines permit have been met. Gary agreed.

Q: What if the conditions are not met? A: Then there will be no grading permit.

Q: Is it possible to give a recommendation for deferral if all conditions are met? A: Yes.

Q: So, they can't begin pulling anything out of the landfill and begin spreading on the land until they get a grading permit? A: Yes that is correct.

Q: If they take everything out of the landfill, what becomes of the infrastructure, the test wells? A: That all comes out, it is removed.

SWAC had numerous questions and concerns regarding this public hearing and what their role and responsibilities truly are. After a lengthy discussion back and forth about what is and what isn't, they requested to meet with Bronson Potter at a separate meeting prior to the public hearing to get his legal perspective. The date of September 15<sup>th</sup> was agreed upon for that meeting. SWAC requested staff for copies of the County Code which shows how SWAC is formed and what the duties and responsibilities are. They also requested the same information from the WAC's. And finally copies of what our previous recommendations were to Public Health from the last public hearing in 2004. They also requested an outline of their role and responsibilities like he did before the last public hearing.

### **III. Presentation by RecycleBank**

Kim Jordan, RecycleBank Regional Manager for the West Coast, and Preston Reed, Senior Vice President for Government Affairs, were presenters.

RecycleBank is a four-year-old company, headquartered in New York. They are a premier rewards and loyalty program motivating people to recycle. They shared some ideas about why the program is working and what the value would be in Clark County. A brief clip about the company was shown that aired on ABC World News as part of the Spirit of America series.

Residents earn points based on the weight of their recycling bins which is recorded via an electronic ID chip. Points can be converted with discounts and rebates with dozens of local and national retailers up to \$45 a month. Everett, Massachusetts residents have recycled ten times more with this program and reduced their garbage by eleven tons a day which provides savings in disposal costs. The farthest west the program is right now is Albuquerque NM. They just signed up Phoenix AZ and just rolled out a program in Chicago IL. They will soon be in southern California.

The value for Clark County includes three things: (1) boosts the local economy; the average active recycler is earning approximately \$20 in rewards per month (2) drives the diversion rate even higher; Clark County has a diversion rate of 39% and a goal for 50% by the year 2011. We feel the program would help you achieve this. (3) residents begin earning rewards immediately.

In addition to the recycling program, RecycleBank has just begun a rewards program in the UK for organics and yard waste. They also have a rewards program for e-waste.

Kim showed examples of a statement from RecycleBank. Information can be accessed online and through a 1-800 customer care number. At this time, the customer care line has Spanish and English available. Currently, RecycleBank is working with over 1900 reward partners. If Clark County were to choose to participate in this program, local partners including school districts and local non-profits would have the ability to be a part of this program.

Q: Are the points that you earn tied to the market pricing for recycling? A: No they are not. The points are based on the number of pounds in your container every market.

Q: How does your company get paid? A: Through diversion savings – this is part of an agreement with the local jurisdiction. We are also paid through online advertising.

Q: How does this tie in with our local contracted hauler and processor? A: We partner with all the haulers as well as the cart manufacturers. RecycleBank already has a relationship with

Waste Connections in other regions. For Clark County, we would work with Waste Connections to determine a price and work as partners.

Q: Is your company incorporated? A: Yes it is. The name is RecycleBank LLC and they are venture capital backed. Kleiner Perkins is one of the bigger venture capitalists involved in this program.

Q: Are the ID chips on all bins or just those that are participating? A: They would be retrofitted on the carts as people signed up for the service.

Q: We have concerns about privacy issues and as you place ID chips on all these carts, a list of names, addresses and other information will be in your records. Do you sell these lists as part of your revenue earning? A: No, we do not sell that information. When you sign up online, there is a non-disclosure agreement that is part of the registration.

RecycleBank has two different programs. The first is called the Community Weight Based Solution. This means that as each route comes into the transfer station, their truck is weighed and the weight is divided up amongst the participants. You must be registered and set out your cart in order to receive those points. The second program is weighing each individual cart. This is a little more expensive because there are scales involved. It is being done primarily in the semi-automated truck environment as opposed to the fully automated truck environment that Clark County has.

Q: So the person who is really involved in recycled gets the same amount of points as his neighbor who only participates randomly. A: That is correct, but you have to remember you only earn points if your cart is set out.

Q: With a community based weight system do you still need a chip to track that put out their cart? A: Yes

Q: Who is your contract with? A: We have three different options. We can contract directly with the hauler, with the municipality or sometimes it's with the MRF.

Q: How would a flat fee be charged? A: It would be a part of your monthly subscription. Sometimes, the community decides to take that on, but most often it is charged back to the customers. We have found that with the potential of earning \$20-\$45 a month on rewards, that citizens are eager to be a part of this program. There are sometimes grant funds involved and possibly corporate sponsors.

Q: How are the merchants chosen for a local area? A: We work directly with the Chamber of Commerce, the Department of Economic Development and any other major stakeholders in your community. We visit with each merchant and each business to assure that they meet with the goals and values of your community. We want to make sure they are doing the things that lead towards sustainability. It becomes an extension of their marketing efforts and hasn't cost them anything except for the reward dollars.

There was a lot of discussion amongst SWAC about the means of doing this, the government participation, the cost of doing this and being voluntary based. They were reminded that tonight's presentation was to give them a deeper introduction to RecycleBank and it's evident that conceptually this is a great idea. SWAC would like to encourage staff to investigate further and come back with more information - bring Waste Connections into the discussions.

#### **IV: Recycled Arts Festival Update – Sally Fisher**

Sally Fisher, project manager for the Recycled Arts Festival, presented on the fourth annual event. It was a fun weekend with a lot of education at the event. The whole point of the project is to make waste reduction fun and create interest in the community about waste reduction, recycling and reuse, to reach a broad and diverse audience. The goal is to make behavior change seem possible to them.

There are many partners to this festival. Americorps members are involved in both planning and staffing the event. Waste Connections is a major partner. They bring recycling containers for the event, provide staff to assist with the booths and most especially they provide everything for the Tossed and Found Experience.

Education is the primary goal for the weekend. Signs are displayed throughout the park with different environmental facts. This year there were three displays to show how many paper coffee cups, grocery bags and plastic bottles the average person uses in a year. There is a spin wheel used to entice people to fill out surveys. 700 evaluations this year were completed. A Junk-to-Funk fashion show was on Saturday afternoon. Everything was made from recycled material. The Tossed & Found Experience is a collection of items that were sent to the transfer stations but should not have been. People can put a tag on one item and there is a lottery style drawing. It's very impactful to see this whole tent full of items that should have never been taken for garbage.

We try to have many family activities. The Mud Eye Puppet Company did two puppet shows and made puppets with the kids with reused materials. Eartha the Clown, a Stiltwalker, and onstage entertainment were there throughout the weekend.

The art was varied: greeting cards, sculptures from bicycle gears, glass mosaic, bench made from corks and wine bottles, earrings out of old fishing gear, and lots of yard art. Signs were out in front of each artist – to mention what type of materials they used and why they felt it was important to do recycled art instead of using new materials.

The Oregon Electrical Vehicle Association brought converted electric cars.

Promotion included banners throughout the downtown area, an extensive web site and lots of good press. The numbers from the event were: 85 artists, 20 educational displays, 15,000 citizens come through and perfect 80 degree weather. The goal is to keep making it more educational.

#### **V. Other Business:**

With the hour being late, it was suggested hold over the last item on the agenda – Review of SWAC's Program Evaluation – to a future meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.