

**Clark County
Solid Waste Advisory Commission
Regular Meeting
Thursday, December 4, 2008**

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

SWAC Members Present: Mike Carnahan, Eldon Wogen, Richard Baker, Don Ebbeson, Jeanne Stewart

SWAC Members Absent: Jack McClary, Rebecca Wale, Lisa Schmidt

Staff Present: Anita Largent, Mike Davis, Leslie Johnson, Jim Mansfield, Susan Newman, Gary Bickett, Rich McConaghy, Tanya Gray

Others: Mike Drumright, Dan Schooler

I. Roll Call, Approval of Minutes – November 6, 2008

The minutes of November 6, 2008 were approved unanimously with one abstention.

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

Clark County Solid Waste – Anita Largent

- Newspaper articles regarding electronic recycling are included in SWAC's packet. Jim Mansfield is here to give an update of the CREAM program.

CREAM has made the switch from a government program to a non-profit program. They will be co-locating with the new Habitat for Humanity's Re-Store at the Vancouver site located at General Anderson and 4th Plain Blvd. CREAM will have a collection site there at the resale store. The Jail Work Center collection site closed on November 26th.

Staff is working with the attorneys regarding the legal portion of this program. CREAM will be marketed as a reuse resource. The good materials will go to Clark College for refurbishing and will continue to go to the Salvation Army for distribution. Computer equipment that is not workable will be disassembled and used for parts.

Once this program is up and running, another site will be leased for classrooms. We will bring in instructors to teach people how to use this equipment. Evergreen High School found that 25% of their students had no access to internet.

Q: CREAM will not want the CRT's that don't work, how will these be disposed of? A: IMS Electronics Recycling will pick up these items.

Q: How are these programs funded? A: The county has had \$100,000 in CPG money to pay for the disposal of the CRT's. The county will continue to fund CREAM at this level for three years. The City of Vancouver will be contributing some funding and Waste Connections will be contributing in-kind services. Any equipment that cannot be used – it will be disassembled so it doesn't have to be shipped to China.

Q: How will the new state program work? A: An Authority will run the program and will cover the costs. The Authority is comprised of those who sell the computers and televisions and other electronic equipment. They will pay \$250,000 for the Department of Ecology to oversee the overall program. The new statewide program focuses on recycling not reuse. CREAM wants to continue to deliver the reuse portion of this program and is working as a non-profit to do so.

- Also included in the packets is an article about a segment shown on 60 Minutes, *Following the Trail of Toxic E-Waste*.
- There is a *Columbian* article about the \$384,000 in Offset cycle grants that the county received which will fund 4 green projects.
- There will be a Block foam collection event Saturday December 6th at the Clark College Yellow 1 parking lot.
- The Recycling Carts are on order and WCI should start receiving them this next week.

Mike Davis gave an update on the Washougal Transfer Station. He reported that they are about 2 weeks behind schedule and should be mid-January before opening. SWAC again requested a tour prior to the opening of the facility. Staff will suggest a date and will notify SWAC members. Those that can attend will do so.

City of Vancouver – Rich McConaghy

- City of Vancouver held a forum called *Thinking Beyond the Bag*. The City Council believed that more education and time was needed on this before charging for bags.
- Leadership Clark County group has chosen to focus this year's project on reusable bags.
- The city has passed new solid waste rates. The rates are up 10% of which 68% is an increase in utility taxes and 32% is a partial inflationary adjustment.

Q: What about the recycling? A: No, just a standard rate increase for recycling – January 1 that goes up from \$2.63 to \$2.72 a month. The utility tax only applies to garbage and not to recycling.

Q: Where is the city with the carts? A: City staff is still talking to WCI about all the issues. We needed to wait for the county to complete their implementation planning.

County Public Health – Gary Bickett

- Washougal Transfer Station plans are complete and approved. The moderate risk waste plan has been undergoing revisions based on comments from Public Health. We received comments from Ecology and a few minor corrections.
- Erik Robinson from *The Columbian* has been talking to the Health Department about the demolition project at the School for the Blind. Some of the material ended up on a piece of private property on Fruit Valley Road. There was too much woody material. City of Vancouver Code Enforcement is taking the lead on this.

Q: Was the private property somebody who needed the fill? A: That's correct.

Q: Is it in a lowland, wetland, aquifer site? A: It is located just south of the railroad tracks.

- General Chemical, which is located across from the Reufner landfill site on the port property, has an end product of alum. They do have a discharge permit through Ecology (which has been appealed) and one of the conditions was to clean up the slurry. There is

quite a build up of materials from operating for 40 years or so. They have 12 years more remaining room. There has been a disagreement between Ecology and General Chemical about the groundwater and what needs to occur.

- There is a meeting scheduled for next week with the Reuffner Landfill people. Craig Pridemore is involved as well as Bill Fromhold. Mike Simon set the agenda for this meeting. They want to pursue a permit deferral and not a grading permit. They want to apply for shoreline permit and the City of Vancouver would be lead agency.
- There have been three layoffs in Environmental Health and many more throughout Public Health. Gary stated that Public Health will be looking for non-profits to assist with overflow items. There will be approximately 50 staff cut by the end of 2009.

IV. Deconstruction Project on Leichner Landfill – Mike Davis and Leslie Johnson

The Koski residence was built in the 1930's. This property is adjacent to the Leichner Landfill on NE 94th Avenue. Mrs. Koski signed a lifetime agreement with the Leichners when she was 81 years old and she died two years ago at the age of 104 years old. After her death there was a caretaker on the property for a time and then squatters began moving in and stripping away material (including stripping live wires while they were hot). It was at that point that a decision was made to do something to make the property secure.

There were four structures on the property: a three-story barn, house and two outbuildings. There was a large amount of salvageable material in these structures. The determination was made to deconstruct rather than demolish. The siding of the house contained asbestos and had to be disposed of appropriately.

Much of the material was pre-sold before it came down. The Deconstruction Division of the Rebuilding Center did the work. The deconstruction services cost \$85,667 which included the cost of the asbestos abatement and filling in the basement. There was a total of 12,453 square feet (or 59,180 pounds) of reusable lumber taken out. Leslie has more comprehensive data which is available from this project.

Q: When did they do this deconstruction? A: Over the summer and it was completed in November of 2008.

Q: How do we get in touch with these people? What is their location? A: The Deconstruction Division is located on Mississippi Avenue in Portland. All of their information can be found on the *Recycling A to Z* web site.

III. 2008 Solid Waste Management Plan – Anita Largent

- The entire month of November was advertised and dedicated to soliciting public opinion including an open house that was held at the 78th Street Operation Center on Thursday November 13th from 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm. There were six people who attended the open house but were there primarily because of a Public Health Notice of Violation that had been issued to an individual.
- A public hearing with the Board of County Commissioners is scheduled for Tuesday, December 9th to adopt the plan. After that, we will go to the other local jurisdictions for their adoption. We hope to have the process complete by the end of January 2009 and will submit the final plan to the Department of Ecology for their final approval.

Q: Why would we go to the Board first before the jurisdictions? A: All of the cities have been involved through this update process. In prior years the Board of Commissioners has signed last

but they haven't expressed such an interest this time. We hope to have this adopted before the new Board is seated.

- Pages 4 and 5 of the Executive Summary describe the changes from the prior plan. The new policies in the first section are: 1) incorporate sustainability into all of the solid waste programs; 2) registration of commercial recyclers; 3) prohibit new landfills in Clark County; 4) prohibit landfill disposal for all Moderate Risk Waste; and 4) expand the program for unsecured loads. These are the new policy items.
- Items that are being recommended for further study include: 1) feasibility study for north county transfer station and evaluate the Central Transfer and Recycling Center transportation concerns; 2) investigate a biomass incineration plant for special waste management needs (at the Board's request this recommendation was expanded that to also look at uses for municipal waste stream for waste to energy); 3) prohibiting onsite burial of waste on residential, commercial and agricultural property (we need to look at residential and commercial, but agricultural property does need more of a study); 4) evaluate changes for CREAM program (already in process); 5) develop rate structures that encourage waste reduction and recycling; 6) update the county ordinance to reflect flow control legislation directing waste to our solid waste management system; and 7) finally evaluate a long term regional approach to the county's solid waste management system.
- The final category is Existing Policies, Programs and Projects. We want to continue with: 1) Environmental Management System program implementations; 2) promote commercial waste reduction; 3) develop a Green Schools program (we are actively working on this); 4) promote Green Building opportunities; 5) expand food waste recovery; 6) facilitate recovery of construction and demolition materials; 7) promote less use of plastic and paper bags; 8) improvements to recycling collection and processing facility (actively being worked on); 9) report annual progress towards meeting sustainability goals; 10) construct a household hazardous waste collection facility at the Washougal transfer station (being constructed); 11) increase educational efforts for rural and multi-family residences (coincide with changes in the collection system); 12) evaluate social marketing and incentive approaches; 13) enhance the solid waste web site to be more comprehensive and interactive; 14) facilitate recovery of special wastes; 15) implement a regional solid waste system steering committee comprised of the Public Work directors (now in place but needs to be formalized); 16) develop guidelines for fund usages; and 17) work with federal and state agencies to develop a plan for handling disaster debris (this would include dead chickens).

Q: I don't remember talking about plastic bags in chapter four. A: The recommendation was added after the second review. The emphasis is on an education campaign to encourage people not to use plastic bags.

Q: Regarding flow control, is this provided through state law? A: No it is an interstate commerce law and our flow is controlled by the contract with Waste Connections. Our primary concern is that Clark County's waste stays within the county system.

Q: Are there exemptions for certain materials with flow control? A: Yes, for example, recyclables are not included under the flow control because they are a commodity.

Q: Have we received any comments about the Solid Waste Management Plan in the month of November? A: We received requests for CD's and have directed individuals to the document online, but no comments were received.

Q: Was there an Ecology comment on the Moderate Risk Waste Chapter? A: Yes, after the Department of Ecology’s review, they commented that Chapter 11 – Moderate Risk Waste Plan - needed to have additional information added such as background, regulatory requirements and administrative language. This would allow it to be a chapter within the Plan and also be a stand alone plan. These changes have been made.

V. Recycling Market Changes – Rich McConaghy

Rich McConaghy recently attended a workshop regarding all the recycling market changes. Attending the meeting were processors, buyers, and consultants that deal with market items. The consensus of the people at this workshop was that we’re looking at a three to six month period where the markets aren’t going to look much better. He shared with SWAC what he learned at this meeting, starting with a brief recap of market changes. The information below comes from *Waste News*

Recycling Market Changes		
Commodity	Was	Is
Old Newspapers (ONP)	\$120 per ton	\$10-20 per ton
Cardboard (OCC)	\$150 per ton	\$30 per ton
Mixed Waste Paper	\$100 per ton	\$10 per ton
Aluminum Cans or Used Beverage Cans (UBC)	\$1.00 per pound	< 80¢ per pound
PET	>20¢ per pound	5¢ per pound
Tin	\$40 per ton	\$10 per ton
Glass	\$40 per ton standard	\$5 a ton for aggregate glass

In mid-September of 2008, prices began dropping dramatically in the recycling markets. Prices vary by the region you’re in, where you’re shipping to and the quality of the material. The good thing for our program is that our area is less reliant on exports than other places on the west coast. We have also developed good relationships with local markets. Scott Campbell of CRC said this is why we have been able to continue to move our products even through the dramatic drop in markets. Scott did report that they haven’t been able to move tin cans, but they do have the ability to stockpile them until the market improves. Scott also thought that we’re about at the bottom and we should start to see markets picking up.

Also in attendance at the workshop was an economist who gave a presentation about the US and global economy. He talked about the impact of the building industry and the “cheap” and “easy” financing/refinancing that had been available. People could get money really cheap which led to buying items that they otherwise may have waited for, which then created a demand for consumer goods and created the whole credit crisis. He also spoke about the auto industry producing equipment that requires a lot of energy. And although we talking about retail, it all ties together because with higher fuel costs, it became more costly to transport the commodities to markets, etc. This comes back around to why it’s important that we have built good relationships with local markets.

Q: What does this all mean with our contract with CRC? A: As materials come in and they’re sold, the market value of everything is tracked and logged in as to when it was delivered, when it was sold, and what revenues were received. Every quarter, the county and the city get a report on the recyclables revenue. CRC keeps the first \$30 and then 30% of the remainder. So out of \$100/ton – CRC would receive \$ 30 plus 30% of the remaining \$70, or \$21. The remaining amount is paid to the county for county tons and to the city for city tons.

Scott Campbell reported to Rich that the third quarter revenues actually were a little higher than the second quarter coming in at about \$70 a ton. He thinks the fourth quarter will drop down to approximately \$20 a ton.

Other Business: The next SWAC meeting falls on January 1st and the decision was to cancel that meeting and meet again on February 5th. The February meeting will be election time for SWAC officers and Mike Carnahan has announced that he will not run again.

Comments from the Public on non-agenda items: No public comments

Action Item: SWAC tour of the new Washougal Transfer Station. Staff will find a date and notify members of the date and time.