

**CLARK COUNTY
SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMISSION**

**Regular Meeting
October 1, 2009**

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

Members: Eldon Wogen, Don Ebbeson, Richard Baker, Jack McClary, Jeanne Stewart, Mike Carnahan, Dan Kaler

Members Absent: Lisa Schmidt, Rebecca Wale

Staff: Anita Largent, Mike Davis, Gary Bickett, Susan Newman, Rich McConaghy, Tanya Gray

Others: Mike Drumright, Scott Campbell

I. Roll Call, Approval of Minutes

The minutes of August 6, 2009 were approved as written with abstentions from Don Ebbeson and Mike Carnahan who were not at the August meeting.

II. Updates: County Public Health, County Solid Waste, City of Vancouver Solid Waste and State Department of Ecology

Clark County Solid Waste: Anita Largent

- Household Hazardous Awareness Week is October 5th – 11th. SWAC was given a copy of the press release highlighting several events throughout the county.
- CREAM (Computer Reuse, Education and Marketing) is holding a Grand Opening of a free internet café; located in the same shopping center as the new Habitat for Humanity Restore and CREAM drop-off facility on Fourth Plain Boulevard. It will allow access to computers and basic internet skills are taught. An article from *The Columbian* was distributed.
- Jim Mansfield participated in a panel discussion before the Environmental Health Committee with the Washington State House of Representatives in Olympia recently. He was there to discuss the county's Medication Take Back Program; how it works; and how we have dealt with DEA regulations. Consideration is being given to development of a state-wide medication take back program.
- 2008 Environmentally Responsible Purchasing Report was presented to the Board of County Commissioners on September 9th. An article from *The Columbian* was included in the SWAC packet. This report will be discussed at our next SWAC meeting.

- County Solid Waste has two Americorps workers on staff this fall – Gregg Hayward is returning to work with SOS Program with Erin Rowland and Ryan Cruse will be working with the Sustainability Program with Pete DuBois.
- City of Seattle is conducting study with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) that will track garbage through their system. They will be placing tags on 3,000 items or so to see where these items end up. An article was distributed about this project.
- Waste Business Journal.com has an article about RecycleBank teaming with Waste Connections of Colorado to bring the program to several major cities in Colorado.
 - Staff has had discussions about RecycleBank and there are some concerns about bringing the program to Clark County at this time.
 - Staff will put this topic back on the agenda in the next few months.

Clark County Solid Waste: Mike Davis

- Rural area roll out is done. Mike reported that there are a few outstanding issues, most of which are smaller carts being requested. He also reported that there are approximately 60 customers that have two carts for recycling.
- Staff has had their quarterly meeting with WCI. Multi-family program has been switched over to the new program. Signage is being switched out as well. Both county and city of Vancouver will be done by October 12th.
- The West Van MRF is up and running and CRC is doing test runs right now. Scott reported that overall it's going very well. The sort is excellent when the equipment is running. They have had some electrical components that have failed. It can only run for so long and then things have to be tightened up again. Humidity has played a part in this. They have had better success than anticipated and have had buyers come out to look at the material already.

SWAC agreed on Saturday October 24th at 10 am for their tour of the new sort line at West Van Material Recovery Facility. It was also decided to tour the Rufener Landfill on Saturday morning. Gary will make arrangements for the landfill to be accessible.

- Traffic has been an ongoing issue at the Central Transfer and Recycling Facility on NE 117th Avenue. Waste Connections is looking at an expansion/improvement to the facility. The property that is directly behind CTR and is for sale. Concept plans are being developed. First needed is a site remediation assessment, a traffic assessment and then a cost analysis before moving forward with a draft design. If this site will not work, WCI will begin looking for a location for the 4th Clark County transfer station.

City of Vancouver – Tanya Gray

- The city's cart roll-out will begin on October 12th and maps are now online for residents who are interested in when their area will receive carts. That rollout will be complete on November 20th. The city is going to every-other-week recycling collection and is standardizing on a 95 gallon cart. Recycling collection will alternate weeks with yard waste collection.

- October 8th is the next First Tuesday at the Vancouver Planning Commission and the highlight will be “The Many Travels of Recycling and Trash.” The panelists are: Eldon Wogen, Anita Largent, Tanya Gray, Jason Hudson and Scott Campbell.
- Today – October 1st – is the beginning of the leaf coupons in both the City and the County. This program will run through December 20th.

Department of Ecology – Mike Drumright

Ecology received grant applications from Solid Waste and Public Health and has also received the additional information that was needed. The applications have been scored and deemed eligible. Mike reported that they are waiting for the budget analyst to determine that there are enough funds to do the first eighteen months of the grant. He hopes to have more information regarding the funding by the end of October.

Clark County Public Health – Gary Bickett

- Public Health received their remedial action Site Hazard Assessment Grant but were awarded only 70% of what was applied for. The grant began on July 1st. This grant funds Bryan DeDoncker’s position in Site Hazard Assessment section.
- Clark County Public Health – Almost all managers in Public Health are involved in the Incident Command for the H1N1 flu. This is very important work right now. Clark, Cowlitz, Skamania and Wahkiakum Counties and the Cowlitz Tribe are joined in a coordinated regional response to this major health threat. See <http://www.flunewsswwashington.org/index.html> for complete information. He added that Governor Gregoire was here to visit and see the regional model that has been established for the area.
- Rufener Update: The applicant was asked for four items and they have not responded or submitted anything since our last meeting. SWAC’s question remains – how long will this continue? They are out of compliance with no permit, no closure plans, or financial assurance. SWAC reiterated that in the event of a public hearing, they want substantial advance notice to review the information and to have a pre-hearing meeting with Bronson Potter, PA’s Office. It would be better not to plan on a public hearing during the upcoming holidays.

III. Review of 2008 Data Report and Annual Report – Sarah Keirns and Anita Largent

SWAC was given copies of the 2008 update of the Solid Waste Data Report. Sarah went through the report with the members. She noted that there have been a few minor adjustments made since the initial issuance of this report. Major points of discussion from the report included:

- Waste disposed from Clark County decreased for the second consecutive year, likely the result of the economic recession.
- The county-wide recycling rate was 38.6% and the diversion rate was 48%.
- In 2008, Clark County disposed of 254,468 tons of waste, which is 24,946 tons less than the amount disposed in 2007.
- The total amount of waste generated per capita per day was 7.17 pounds, and waste landfilled per capita per day was 3.29 pounds.
- C& D is down significantly but explainable by the economy and the decreased building.
- The data report is incomplete because data from facilities reporting to the Department of Ecology has not yet been released. It will be updated when the data is made available.

IV. SWAC's Program Evaluations & 2010 Budget Update: Anita Largent

Both SWAC and the Solid Waste staff participated (independently) in a program evaluation exercise which involved priority ranking of the Solid Waste programs. Ranking criteria included: tons recovered, recycled, and/or toxics reduced; environmental benefit; community benefit; Board acceptance; bang for buck; and legal requirement. All programs were scored for each criterion; an average score was derived; and programs priority was ranked based on the numerical score. SWAC's ranking was then compared with how staff ranked. Anita handed out copies of this comparison. It was interesting to note the differences in how the two groups rated the programs. Both agreed on the number one priority – the single family and multi-family recycling program. Other programs which were ranked closely were: school recycling, Master Composter/Recyclers, public information, paint take back program, home HHW collection, Leichner Landfill, SQG business assistance, organics coordination, and puppet shows. The other rankings showed a disparity between the two groups. Only four SWAC members participated in the rating. There was discussion about seeking more input from the public for feedback on our various programs.

Anita gave an update of the budget process. Solid Waste has submitted updates for the 2010 budget. We are projecting for a readopt of the 2010 budget which is at the current 2009 budget level. There are some projects which were originally planned for 2010 which we are rethinking. With revenues being down, beginning in 2009, Solid Waste has cut its budget by approximately 16%. We will be looking at some different ways of accomplishing things.

V. Other Business

No other business this evening. SWAC's next meeting will be November 5, 2009.

VI. Comments from the Public on Non-Agenda Items

No public comments received.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:45 p.m.