

**Clark County  
Solid Waste Advisory Commission  
Regular Meeting**

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Clark County Auto License Office  
Conference Room – 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
1408 Franklin Street  
Vancouver, WA

**SWAC Members Present:** Lisa Schmidt, Mike Carnahan, Richard Baker, Dan Kaler, Jack McClary,

**SWAC Members Absent:** Don Ebbeson, Rebecca Wale, Jeanne Stewart

**Staff Present:** Anita Largent, Mike Davis, Gary Bickett, Rich McConaghy, Sabra Hall-Nelson

**Others:** Derek Ranta (CRC/WCI)

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

Richard Baker stated a correction on the April 7, 2011 minutes, noting that he had abstained from February 3, 2011 minutes and approved the March 3, 2011 minutes, but did not abstain March 3, 2011 minutes.

Mike Carnahan made a motion to approve the April 7, 2011 minutes with corrections and motion seconded by Richard Baker.

**II. Updates**

**County Solid Waste – Anita Largent**

Each SWAC member received a copy of the letter SWAC Chair, Lisa Schmidt sent Eldon Wogen for his many years of service on the Solid Waste Advisory Commission. The vacant position has been advertised and an application for the position has been received. The recruitment will close May 6, 2011. Hopefully by the next SWAC meeting the position will be filled.

April was a busy month for Environmental Services, due to a lot of activities with Earth Day/month celebrations. Staff was at Marshal Center, participated in the tree planting and mustard pull at Salmon Creek Park, conducted three HHW collection events, one block foam event, a medications take back event, participated in the Home and Garden Idea Fair, and staffed our booth at the Vancouver Farmers Market.

Anita sent the news link to SWAC for the medication take back event. This proved to be good publicity for Clark County and this event - a very popular program.

Included in the packet:

- E-mail from Sally Fisher regarding activities for May, which will be another busy month.

- May 14<sup>th</sup> is the last block foam collection event for Environmental Services. Empower Up has begun taking block foam.
- In the packet is a copy of an insert from Waste Connections encouraging residents to sign up for yard debris curbside service.
- Staff is also working with Waste Connections on developing a coupon for HHW collection, getting people to the fixed facilities.
- Press release: about recycled glass being used at the Salmon Creek interchange Project – (2500 tons as of today).

Articles that may be of interest:

- Portland curbside food waste project: still has their pilot project in place and evaluating how to move forward.
- Biomass plant: County going ahead with the project and will be issuing a RFP to design/build/operate.

We received a lot of good press about our Demo trailer with Community Development - "Planet Clark". It was created to inform people of various green options in building supplies. The trailer was at the Home & Garden Idea Fair and will be at the County Fair. Last week there was a Grand opening/dedication for the trailer with the Board of County Commissioners. Lisa Schmidt suggested that other SWAC members think of events that they may want to include the "Planet Clark" trailer for additional outreach opportunities.

Two correspondences from Public Health were included in the packets. This will be discussed later as an agenda item.

- Columbia Resource Company application and letter – Pilot food waste reload
- Melissa Suttons letter of response

Gary Bickett discussed the recent news on the former Cliff Koppe scrap metal yard. A lot of time and energy went into investigating that site. There was contamination in the ground water. The initial investigation was ranked as a number 2 priority by Ecology (Number 1 being the most priority for cleanup and number 5 the least). The contaminated soil has been removed but there is still concern about the water. Gary will follow up on the status of this cleanup and report to SWAC.

### **City of Vancouver – Rich McConaghy**

Last month in early April, staff conducted a workshop for the Planning Commissioners on Designing with Nature, which discussed how to use compost to help with stormwater issues. Staff showed how to make compost blankets and had booklets available with additional information. There were about 20 people from the county, city, stormwater and planning staff to share information on how to do things with compost to address stormwater issues.

Tanya is working with the Vancouver Downtown Association to address getting dumpsters off the street. There have been a few incidents recently. Some of the issues have been about management of a parking lot, getting the garbage containers out to make parking spaces more available. Staff continues to be creative in trying to find solutions for these problems. Staff is still advocating shared enclosures.

Disaster debris: Had a follow up meeting with the regional planning group. This group will continue to meet quarterly with other solid waste program and public works people around

the region (5 counties and 60 jurisdictions). Each quarterly meeting will focus on different topics. One meeting could be having the street and roads crews come in and talk about debris clearance issues to keep everyone on the same page. The next meeting could be finding sites for debris collection and handling. Then by next year, there would be a regional table top exercise to test plans and discuss scenarios on how debris would be handled. At the same time next year, there are plans to have a TOP OFF (simulating an earthquake scenario), in Puget Sound area.

Appliance collection: Several years ago during the city's appliance collection, 400 appliances were collected. Last year, 40 were collected. This year, 20 were collected. This could be due to the metal markets which are good and people are hauling them off themselves. Also Clark Public Utility continues to operate its used refrigerator and freezer redemption program which will pay for used refrigerator or freezer and pick up for free. The city is talking with Waste Connections to see how to do this differently next year, due to the decline in the participation of appliance collection.

Question: Will FEMA put out "lessons learned" from the tornado in the southeast?

Answer: The federal government response has improved since the Katrina disaster. Much has been learned since then. An important piece when involved in a disaster is the need to do things by the book. Mike Carnahan shared his appreciation for all the work the city and county have done in preparing the Disaster Debris Plan.

Jack McClary: R22 Freon is no longer being made. As heat pumps and air conditioners get older and break down or the cost to repair them is too expensive. More of these items will be going into landfills. The R22 Freon that is still available is very expensive.

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

The current Site Hazard Assessment Program grant funding expires at the end of June. Last Thursday, April 28, Environmental Health Specialist, Bryan DeDoncker, and several other staff members from Clark County Public Health went to the Council for Region 4 Public Health, and gave a presentation for a "Region-Wide" approach to site hazard assessment. This would be based out of the Clark County office. Clark, Cowlitz, and Wahkiakum County, as well as the Cowlitz Tribe, were represented, however Skamania County was unable to attend. The counties looked favorably towards the region-wide approach to assessing suspected contaminated sites, but would like more detail in the public proposal. Two submittal packages will be prepared due to the limited time frame with the grant application, one for Clark County only and another for Region 4 Public Health. Some elements are currently shared in Region 4 Public Health, including Emergency Preparedness and Response and sharing the same Health Officer.

Lady Island landfill (owned by Georgia Pacific Camas Mill) had requested a change in their Financial Assurance Agreement from a Letter of Credit to a Performance Surety Bond. Public Health worked with the Department of Ecology and the County Prosecuting Attorney to justify denying the proposal. After some correspondence, an e-mail was received from Atlanta Georgia stating that they are withdrawing of their request and therefore, the letter of credit still stands.

Quarterly reports will be sent electronically to SWAC members.

Melissa Sutton wanted to mention that the annual reports for all facilities, even the non-permitted facilities and recycling facilities, have been received.

Leichner Landfill meeting is scheduled for mid-May with Ecology, Clark County, and Public Health to discuss various agency roles and to confirm all areas of responsibility are covered.

Philip Services Corp: Still waiting for final comments from the Department of Ecology regarding their pharmaceutical waste pilot project. There should be hearing by mid May. Keith Lund of Ecology has been notified and Gary will follow up with a report next month.

Public Health had a workshop with the Board of Health on permit fee structure changes. Three different scenarios were discussed with the Board. Next step is a public hearing. Public Health will inform all permitted solid waste handling facility owner/operators involved when the hearing date will be and the proposed changes. Solid waste permit fees may increase back to 2005 levels of funding. The direction of the Board of Health is that the work needs to be funded through fees, if grant funding is reduced. Fees include permits for on-site sewage treatment, water recreation, drinking water, food service permits, solid waste handling facilities, and plan review fees.

Melissa Sutton was asked by the state Department of Ecology to participate in the 2012- 2013 Coordinated Prevention Grant guidelines and application form user testing. They anticipate having the guidelines out by June 16, 2011. Hopefully the state will have a final budget by that time. Budget information will be added in once it's determined.

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

No updates

#### **III. Update of Leichner Landfill Purchase & Sale Agreement – Mike Davis**

The Purchase Sale Agreement (PSA) is on the consent agenda for City of Vancouver Council on Monday night and Board of County Commission meeting on Tuesday. A copy of the Staff Report to the Board is in the SWAC packets. The execution of the PSA kicks off the process of finalizing all the documents before the sale takes place. Staff anticipates that this will be a one year process in finalizing negotiations of the site management plan. This will also kick off master planning of the site for future uses. All parties to the Consent Degree need to be in agreement for this property to actually close.

#### **IV. Food Waste Reload at West Van – Gary Bickett & Mike Davis**

Public Health has placed the condition on the food waste reload which limits the storage of food waste up to 72 hours. Waste Connections representative, Derek Ranta, reported they spoke with all potential processors in the state of Washington and Oregon and they are down to just one potential facility (operated by Allied Waste, near Corvallis). No other facility is currently permitted to take the material or even wants the material. Currently there is stock pile of compost on the market. Waste Connections is not seeing a demand for compost which makes the process even more challenging. Assuming using the Allied Waste facility to take the material, the plan is to open up at West Van Material Recovery Center in mid June and start trucking the material to Corvallis. The challenge of having 72 hours to move the material is an issue because there is not a lot of volume. Waste Connections doesn't have interest in shipping quarter full containers some 100 miles just to stay within the 72 hours.

Once this service begins, the market rate for processing food waste will be \$40 or more a ton than garbage to process. This raises a question: Are people interested in paying \$40 more per ton to process? Waste Connections will first roll out to commercial operations. There is a waiting list of approximately 100 customers; however it is about two years old now. We will see how interested they are in paying for the service. Then we could slowly roll it out to any other user to increase the volume. Hopefully by another year or two there will be another processor in our local area.

From a contractual and planning aspect, this is a pilot project. This program is similar to the situation in Portland. They are looking at their rates as this material requires different handling. Staff needs to see what the market will bear with this pilot project and what's functional right now as far as the processor. We also need to see how the 72 hour condition impacts operations. Seven days is too long to hold the material and yet Columbia Resource Center (CRC) needs some flexibility. At this time, the school program is our priority. Staff wants to make sure this works before it is offered as a residential program. Current recommendation is to move slowly and cautiously.

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

None

#### **VI. Comments from the Public on Non-Agenda items**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM