

**Clark County  
Solid Waste Advisory Commission  
Regular Meeting  
Thursday 3, 2011**

Clark County Auto License Office  
1408 Franklin Street  
Vancouver, WA

**SWAC Members Present:** Lisa Schmidt, Don Ebbeson, Richard Baker, Allan Jeska, Dan Kaler, Jack McClary

**SWAC Members Absent:** Jeanne Stewart, Brandon Vick, Stephen Smythe

**Staff Present:** Anita Largent, Mike Davis, Gary Bickett, Rich McConaghy, Fereidoon Safdari

**Others:** Judy Hittle

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

Don Ebbeson motioned to approve the October 6, 2011 minutes, Allan Jeska seconded the motion. Minutes are approved as written.

**II. Updates**

**County Solid Waste – Anita Largent**

Handouts:

- VOLUNTEER Clark County! Growing Green Tree Planting: hosted by Department of Environmental Services, looking for volunteers (November 11, 12, & 19), event last about 4 hours.
- Holiday Gift Event: November 12, 2011, from 10:00-3:00 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual “Check ‘Em Off, Green” at the Marshall Center.
- “Hello, Night Creatures”: Annual workshop teaches kids and adults about owls, bats and other night creatures. The event was held October 19, 2011 with 151 in attendance.
- MASTER Composter Recyclers “Family Worm Shop” this Saturday, participants will build a worm bin
- Medication Take-Back Event on Saturday October 29, 2011 was attended by 380 people who turned in 900 pounds of pharmaceutical waste.

The first-ever Washington Green Schools “Student Summit” was held November 3, 2011, at the Water Resource Center and hosted by Clark County Environmental Services. Of the 179 schools participating in Washington Green Schools program, 41 are from Clark County.

Empower Up received a \$3000.00 award from Wells Fargo Bank.

The Solid Waste Management Plan is almost due for update. Anita is requesting input from members on how they want to proceed with this project. We will discuss at the next SWAC meeting.

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

Waste Connections is rerouting garbage, recycling and yard debris service for City of Vancouver customers starting this Monday. Out of the 40,000 residential customers, 18,000 will have a day change and 25,000 will have some other kind of change. The main reason is to improve efficiency in time and service. Some drivers' routes currently take 6 hours while others take 10 hours; with this change, it will help to balance the routes. Waste Connections is taking the lead on this for city customers only. If you are a city residential customer, getting a change, you would have received a post card last week notifying you of the upcoming change. This week you will receive a letter giving more details. The Waste Connection website has a map showing the schedule - color coordinated by days of the week and location throughout the city. Next week will be the beginning of the change; residents will receive a call the night before reminding them to set out their garbage, yard debris and recycling accordingly.

The City of Portland made big changes this week switching over to weekly yard debris with food waste and every-other-week garbage pick-up.

"Free Leaf Disposal" coupons are out and available for customers, or individuals can sign up for curbside yard debris.

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

We received the contract agreement from Department of Ecology for the Site Hazard Assessment Grant. The previous grant expired at the end of June; we received 80% of what was requested.

Quarterly reports were sent out recently. Allan Jeska had some questions after reviewing the reports. Gary will provide additional information related to the Quarterly Reports to the board at the next SWAC meeting.

### **III. Update on Closure/Decommission of Boise Cascade Landfill – Gary Bickett & Anita Largent**

There is a letter of intent; part of the terms was that the parties have 90 days to complete a purchase and sale agreement. The letter of intent was executed about 30 days ago.

QUESTION: Don reported reading Melissa Sutton's reports which are consistently reporting that Boise Cascade Landfill is out of compliance. If the sale falls through is there a contingency plan to wrap this up? The reports say; "*out of compliance*", "*not currently permitted*", "*ground water monitoring not being done*", "*waste exposed to the elements*".

ANSWER: Gary stated that the contingency plan is the next step and will be talking with our attorney.

### **IV. Low Impact Development Presentation – Fereidoon Safdari**

Fereidoon Safdari is an Engineer with the Department of Environmental Services Clean Water Program. He has been a Water Resource Engineer for 18 years, the last seven years with Clark County.

**HISTORY:** The Clean Water Act (CWA) establishes the basic structure for regulating discharges of pollutants into the waters of the United States and regulating quality standards for surface waters. The basis of the CWA was enacted in 1948 and was called the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, but the Act was significantly reorganized and expanded in 1972. "Clean Water Act" became the Act's common name with amendments in 1977.

In early 1990s, different jurisdictions started taking stormwater management quantity and quality seriously. In the late 1990s, the practice was to build as many lots as possible utilizing one stormwater facility. During the county's housing boom from 2000 to 2007 around 70-75 subdivisions were approved, with 50, 60, 70, and, sometimes 100 lots per subdivision.

In 2007, the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) required the County to either adopt their new stormwater manual or develop our own manual that would be reviewed by Department of Ecology. Clark County decided to develop its own manual which was adopted in 2009. The manual encourages new ways to manage stormwater such as low impact development. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is the federal agency that sets the requirements, while the Department of Ecology works with each jurisdiction to implement the requirements.

**What is Low Impact Development?** Low Impact Development is an innovative stormwater management approach with a basic principle: manage rainfall at the source using uniformly distributed decentralized micro-scale controls.

**How did it start?** Development of Low Impact Development principles began with the introduction of bioretention technology in Prince George's County, Maryland, in the mid-1980s. Pictures were shown in a presentation of a rain garden in a natural indent.

**Objectives:** To protect and restore native soil/vegetation by: reducing the development envelope: reducing impervious (unable to penetrated) surfaces: manage stormwater as close to its origin as possible; create multifunctional landscape: reduce concentrated surface flow; minimize stormwater contact with impervious surface; and increase storm water contact with soil and vegetation.

**Common LID practices:**

Bioretention cells, rain gardens, pervious pavement (allows water to pass through it and soak into the ground), amending soil with compost, vegetated roofs, minimal excavation, foundations, rooftop rainwater harvesting, and dispersion.

**Examples:** Whipple Creek is a 42 acre development of single family residences, 80% of the development is roofs and streets, and a 1/3 acre pond is set aside as Storm Water Facility. Another slide example shows 20 acres of development with 65 % open space. Numerous rain gardens located within the development. Example: Bioretention collects runoff for infiltration into the ground below. Good soil was mixed with native soil to create a good filter system.

**Curbless Roads:** set-up more for residential roads with minimal traffic. Another slide showed a Green Roof in Chicago and Minnesota,

**Low Impact Development Techniques:** Bioretention Facility, Rain Gardens, Green Roofs, Soil Amendments, Rain Barrel and Cisterns, Permeable Asphalt, Permeable Concrete, Permeable Pavers; example Vancouver Toyota Parking Lot. The Water Quality Treatment in Permeable Pavement diagram shows how permeable pavements provide several pollutant removal mechanisms inherent to the paving structure.

**Cost:** Case studies show at least 25% to 30% reductions in cost (site development, stormwater fees, and maintenance.) Saving is achieved by: reduced site clearing, reduced grading, less inlets, curbs and paving and pipes. Smaller pond or no pond reduces maintenance.

**“Talking points” of Low Impact Development (LID):** Low Impact Development is simple and effective, it is economical, flexible (don't need to be as deep), and is a balanced approach. LID is a versatile approach that can be applied equally well to new development, urban retrofits, and redevelopment projects.

Fereidoon suggested that SWAC members view the newly completed road improvement project on NE 99th street east of SR-503, which features many low impact development features.

#### **V. Update of Planning Project for Improvement to Central Transfer Entrance – Mike Davis**

Central Transfer & Recycling Center drop lane: WDOT wants to have the median all the way down the road (south of 117<sup>th</sup> Ave/ 503). This would include a median in front of the transfer station closing the left hand turn lane and creating a right in right out only. One of the reasons for this proposed change is that traffic gets backed-up waiting to turn into Central Transfer Station. Staff is working on plans for a drop down lane. With this, WDOT will consider allowing left turn in to continue but the left out will definitely be removed.

Central Transfer Station averages about 18,000 transactions a month, down a lot from the peak in 2008 but still a very busy place. When development begins again, self haul activity will increase.

Staff is charged with planning for facilities the next 20 years. Later in the year, we will begin discussions about the need for a fourth facility or expanding the Central Transfer facility. Meantime we need to plan for problems when this median is installed. A drop lane is the interim plan. Another issue with the state is regarding stormwater as part of this project. The state has strict standards, we discussed low impact development but WDOT was not interested in that option.

Working together, Public Works, Environmental Services, Waste Connections and state have conceptually approved of this particular design. We just finished the lighting plan to determine what utilities will need to be moved. In about a month, we should have an idea on the construction costs. We will base the property acquisition on \$10.00 a square foot but that is the next phase. There is a need to discuss how the project is financed with all of the participants: Waste Connections, the state, and county.

More information will be available next month or at the first of the year.

#### **VI. Other Business**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:26