

**CLARK COUNTY
CLEAN WATER COMMISSION**

Meeting Notes

Wednesday, July 7, 2010

6:30 – 8:30 P.M.

Public Service Center, 6th Floor Training Room
1300 Franklin Street, Vancouver

Clark County Clean Water Commission Members Present

Dave Darby, Robert Nichols, Susan Rasmussen, Nancy Olmsted, Patty Page, Art Stubbs, David Morgan, Don Moe

Clark County Clean Water Commission Members Absent

Virginia van Breemen

Clark County Staff

Bobbi Trusty, Ron Wierenga

Public

Thom McConathy

Quorum

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 p.m.

Agenda and material review

1. Agenda
2. June 2nd meeting notes
3. Article: Aquatic Life Declines at Early Stages of Urban Development

Approval

Ms. Olmsted requested a change to the June 2 notes regarding the location of where the annual Watershed Congress meeting was held. The notes were approved as amended.

Communications with the Public

Mr. Stubbs updated the group that the meeting with the Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) of SW Washington is rescheduled for October 12 instead of in July.

The Paradise Point Home Owners Association (HOA) contacted Mr. Stubbs again because the KWRL bus barn is going forward. The HOA would like the Clean Water Commission (CWC) to get involved. There was some discussion from the group and Ms. Rasmussen reminded the group that a motion was passed in April that this project would be allowed to run its course through the county regulations and development process as normal.

Public Comments

Mr. McConathy brought up that the key element of the yearly algal blooms is phosphorous in Lacamas and Vancouver lakes. He is concerned because plans were developed in the past and they have not implemented to reduce the phosphorous in the lakes. He believes the city of Vancouver and Clark County have shown reluctance to implement a plan until a three year report from the USGS is



completed. Mr. McConathy feels that phosphorous can be reduced by using sediment traps, treating sediments chemically, increase new development requirements or implement treatment trains.

Mr. Moe asked Mr. Wierenga for his thoughts on what Mr. McConathy is discussing. Mr. Wierenga said the Vancouver Lake Partnership just initiated a three-year study with the USGS to find out how the lake works. Before the county spends public funds it needs to have confidence that phosphorous reducing BMPs will work. The USGS study will help the Partnership identify how the lake works and the correct location(s) for treatment. There was discussion from the group on where the phosphorous comes from and how to control it.

Action Items

Updates from Subcommittees

Outreach

The Outreach subcommittee is requested to give a presentation for the SW Washington School Retirees Association on September 23. Ms. Page will have the presentation ready.

Ms. Rasmussen contacted the WSU Extension Office regarding 4-H program. She discovered there is an interest in environmental studies and clean water within the 4-H. Ms. Wannamaker thinks it would be easy to integrate a clean water stewardship into the animal and plant sciences. There are many different opportunities available to 4-H students, ranging from independent environmental studies, senior projects and the Federal Science, Engineering, and Technology mandate (S.E.T). Ms. Rasmussen feels this is where the CWC can partner with the 4-H groups. The CWC discussed how to achieve this, the cost, and its involvement. It was decided that Ms. Rasmussen would work with the Outreach Subcommittee to develop a proposal.

Ms. Rasmussen indicated that the 4-H receives general fund dollars from the county. She is interested in having the 4-H do an Environmental Habitat and Clean Water Study, and wants to know who the county contact person is. Mr. Wierenga said that he would ask Mr. Rowell to find out who the person is that manages the general fund contribution.

Effectiveness

The Effectiveness subcommittee did not meet during the previous month. Ms. Olmsted suggested having a field trip to see Mr. Morgan's property and some of the new monitoring station sites. Mr. Nichols asked if there would be a presentation on the MMS system in August. Mr. Wierenga stated that he would ask Mr. Rowell to schedule a tour of the monitoring facilities and would go over the schedule of the MMS system during program updates.

Debrief of the Work Session

The CWC members who attended the work session, discussed that the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) seemed more engaged during this work session than they have in the past reflecting that the new style of the Annual Report made it easier deliver and discuss. They all concurred that the vial of water Mr. Gray brought to the meeting was a big hit. Mr. Wierenga stated that a memorialization will be completed, sent to the BOCC and shared with the CWC.

Discussion occurred around the schools waiver fee. The group would like to know what the schools are providing to receive the exemption and how much impervious surface it involves. Mr. Wierenga said he would provide the number of schools, acres of impervious surface, how much money is being forgiven and what are they providing in education in lieu of the fee. Mr. Nichols would like this as an agenda item on an upcoming meeting so it can be discussed.

Ms. Page brought up that it would be nice to receive a report about the work that is being done by the Watershed Congress. Those children are involved, even if their science is not perfect, their enthusiasm is important as they are the next generation of adults, taxpayers and Clean Water fee payers.

Clean Water Program Updates

Mr. Wierenga discussed agenda topics for the next few meetings.

- August - Capital projects 2010 through 2013
- September - MMS Implementation and results of public facilities inspections
- October - 2011/12 Budget, receive input on where the program is proposing to spend money

Mr. Stubbs wanted to know if someone from the CWC receives a phone call from the public regarding a stormwater facility, who is the best person to refer him or her to contact. Mr. Wierenga recommended that they should contact Mr. Rowell.

Public Comments

Mr. McConathy gave his email address to the members of the CWC. He asked that they email him if they would like him to send a copy of the white paper to support the paragraph that he discussed regarding phosphorous.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bobbi Trusty

Action Items

- Updates from subcommittees
- Explanation of the county's 4H funding
- Memorialization of work session
- School Waiver Program - provide the number of schools, acres of impervious surface, how much money is being forgiven and what are they providing in education in lieu of the fee
- CWC tour of the monitoring sites
- Watershed Congress report