

**CLARK COUNTY
CLEAN WATER COMMISSION**

Meeting Notes

Wednesday, February 3, 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, Virginia van Breemen, David Morgan

Clark County Clean Water Commission Members Absent

Patty Page, Nancy Olmsted, Art Stubbs, Don Moe

Clark County Staff

Earl Rowell, Jeff Schnabel, Bobbi Trusty, Ron Wierenga

Public

Thom McConathy

Quorum.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:38 p.m.

Agenda and material review

1. Agenda
2. January 6 meeting notes

Approval

The January 6 notes were approved as submitted

Communications with the Public

Mr. Morgan brought up that the Corps of Engineers is doing some stream restoration work on the Wild Life Refuge that is on Gee Creek, completing some mitigation and Salmon habitat improvements.

Public Comments

Mr. McConathy brought up that the County is not following the Western Washington Stormwater Manual and the Rosemere Neighborhood Association is challenging this. He urges the Clean Water Commission to follow this issue. There was some discussion amongst the group when Mr. Wierenga pointed out that this is not a lawsuit but an appeal to the agreement the County has with the Department of Ecology. The County complies with the Agreed Order and therefore the County is in compliance with the NPDES Permit.

Mr. McConathy reviewed the capital projects list that was distributed at the January meeting. He would like to see all the problem areas for which engineering solutions could or are being considered and how staff is selecting projects for the three-year capital plan. He feels the problem lacks transparency and full watershed basin planning should be done.



Mr. McConathy believes the use of road salt is leading to higher Mercury levels in Vancouver Lake and waterways. He does not like the continuous use of road salt.

Action Items

Motion 2010-02-03

Mr. Nichols moves that the proposed ground rules be approved as written. All were in favor. Motion passed. These will be available on poster board and cardstock paper at the March meeting.

Updates from Subcommittees

Outreach

The Outreach Subcommittee met with the Van Ridge Garden Club Association, Mr. Stubbs presented the information to the group. Ms. Rasmussen learned a lot from the process and identified that some visuals and more information would be very helpful. Mr. Rowell acknowledged that with advanced notification, staff could assist with gathering this information.

Ms. Rasmussen brought up that it would be nice to recognize people in the public who do good work for Clean Water. She passed around two newspaper articles about people who have completed stream habitat work and French drains to solve a drainage issue. It was suggested that a letter signed by both the Clean Water Chair and the Board of County Commissioner chair be presented to them regarding how much we appreciate their clean water efforts. Mr. Wierenga offered to write a draft letter.

Effectiveness

Mr. Moe and Ms. Olmstead attended a meeting with staff where they came up with some broad questions and information during their discussion. Ms. Olmstead said that she would be getting information out to the rest of the group. Look for an update at our next meeting.

New Business

2009 CWC Annual Report Planning

Mr. Rowell reminded the group to start planning the report.

KWRL Bus Barn Proposal

Art has the follow-up information, we will ask for an update at next meeting.

Clean Water Program Updates

Stormwater Needs Assessment Program (SNAP) update

Mr. Schnabel gave a presentation about the SNAP efforts since 2005. The SNAP assesses subwatershed resources; identify problems, opportunities, and recommends specific actions that can improve water quality. The information from the SNAP compiles a lot of information regarding the natural resources and the storm water systems in the area. Some of the types of effort in the inventory include drainage inventory and condition, rapid stream reconnaissance, physical habitat, riparian assessment, wetland assessment, macro invertebrate, water quality assessment and source control inspections. Mr. Schnabel discussed the principles, the tools used to obtain the data, results and successes and other users of the data. Since 2006, approximately 50% of the storm water capital projects completed were identified from the SNAP effort. Some other coordinated efforts from the SNAP are referrals to other agencies like the Salmon Creek Watershed Council, Fish and Wildlife, Ecology, Clark PUD, and Conservation District. Some of the challenges identified are feedback

loops where information is disseminated to other agencies and staff is not receiving follow-up on what they complete.

Public Comments

Mr. McConathy asked if staff give a rundown of the number and nature of Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs) with other jurisdictions regarding the NPDES permit. Mr. Wierenga stated that the County does have to coordinate storm water activities; however, MOUs are not required. In some instances, an MOU is a good tool, like the MOU being created with Public Health. The MOU will lay out authority, activities and identify what each programs responsibility is. Public Health does septic systems and the Clean Water Program does storm water, however they are both clean water issues so the MOU will address how we coordinate efforts to make sure we are having better environmental outcomes.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bobbi Trusty

Action Items

- Updates from subcommittees
- 2009 CWC Annual Report Planning (Next Steps)
- Update on KWRL Bus Barn Proposal