



CLEAN WATER COMMISSION

For the Department of Environmental Services

Meeting Summary
Wednesday, April 2, 2014
6:30 PM – 8:30 PM
Public Service Center, 6th Floor Training Room
1300 Franklin Street, Vancouver

Members Present: Jim Carlson, Rob McKinney, Brian Peck, Susan Rasmussen, Gary Schaeffer, Virginia van Breemen

Members Absent: David Meyer, Dick Rylander, Melanie Wheeler

Staff Present: Don Benton, Chris Clifford, Earl Rowell, Bobbi Trusty

Partner Agency Staff Present:

Public Present: Art Stubbs, NACCC; Laurel Whitehurst, Clark County Arts Commission; Todd Horenstein and Jennifer Halleck, Vancouver Public Schools; Sue Steinbrenner, Evergreen Public Schools; Mary Beth Lynn, Battle Ground Public Schools

I ROLL CALL

The March 5, 2014 meeting summary was approved as submitted

II PUBLIC COMMENT

Laurel Whitehurst invited the commission to attend a presentation on May 1, 2014, at the Water Resources Education Center and handed out a flier titled "*The Future of Water and the Art of Water*".

III PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION

Mr. Benton provided the Clean Water Fee background in a presentation "*Overview of the Clean Water Program Funding.*"

Questions were raised if there were other options to collect the fee (monthly vs. every six months), why the rate has remained so low and carries such controversy to increase it and if the program is currently doing more work than is required by the permit. Mr. Benton commented that using the Treasurer's Office tax statement to send out Clean Water Program bills is a lower cost item than sending out monthly billing. He stated the fee is decided by the Board of County Commissioners and that the program is only completing the necessary work required by the permit. Mr. Benton is recommending to the Board that they review the fee every five years with the permit cycle to ensure compliance can be met.

Mr. Benton then gave a presentation regarding the "*Clean Water Program Fee Waiver to Schools.*"

The schools raised concern that they do not have the funding to pay the fee this year. Their fiscal year is September 1 to August 31, they have been working towards a three-year phased in program



proud past, promising future

CLARK COUNTY
WASHINGTON

CLEAN WATER COMMISSION For the Department of Environmental Services

that was agreed to between the schools and the county and do not have the money in their budgets or a reserve fund. The schools believe they have been working towards the agreement in good faith and provide value to the community. They reminded the group that the NPDES Permit has an educational requirement and County Code 13.30A.050.D and RCW 36.89.085 both have educational components and allow for the fee waiver. The schools cumulatively reach over 100,000 children per year and asked how the county will meet the requirements without their help. There is no state requirement that the schools teach stormwater curriculum.

Mr. Benton asked the schools to submit documentation to demonstrate how they have complied with the previous progressive agreement for him to consider with their appeal(s).

The commission discussed their desire to continue a working relationship with the schools and to find a way to create opportunity and compromise. They will discuss this topic at their next meeting on what they have heard and if they will make a recommendation to the Board.

V PUBLIC COMMENT – feedback
None

VII ADJOURN – 08:34 PM

Summary provided by: Bobbi Trusty / 360-397-2121 x 5268