

**CLARK COUNTY  
CLEAN WATER COMMISSION**

**Meeting Notes**

Wednesday, January 4, 2012

6:30 – 8:30 P.M.

Public Service Center, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Training Room  
1300 Franklin Street, Vancouver

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Clark County Clean Water Commission Members Present

Jim Carlson, David Darby, Don Moe, David Morgan, Nancy Olmsted, Susan Rasmussen, Art Stubbs, Virginia van Breemen

Clark County Clean Water Commission Members Absent

None

Clark County Staff

Cary Armstrong, Earl Rowell, Bobbi Trusty, Ron Wierenga

Public

Thom McConathy

Quorum

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m.

*Agenda and material review*

1. Agenda
2. December 7, 2011, Meeting Notes
3. Proposed 2012 CWC Work Plan and Meeting Calendar

*Approval*

The December 7, 2011, notes were approved as submitted.

*Clean Water Commissioners: Communications with the Public*

None

Upcoming meetings and deadlines:

- January 10, 2012, at 10:00 a.m. is a Public Workshop followed by Public Hearing in Vancouver at the School for the Blind regarding the Draft NPDES Permit, sponsored by the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology)
- January 18, 2012, at 10:00 a.m. is a Work Session: Capital Committee – Clean Water Fund with the Board of County Commissioners [Note: this work session was subsequently postponed and has not yet been rescheduled.]
- January 20, 2012, is the deadline to submit a letter of interest to Jennifer Clark ([Jennifer.Clark@clark.wa.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Clark@clark.wa.gov)) for continuing on the Clean Water Commission (CWC) if your term is expiring

The commission discussed the Ecology workshop and hearing; all commission members are encouraged to attend. The commission agreed that they were not prepared to complete a formal

position statement as a single body in time for the hearing on January 10, 2012, but would like to prior to the end of the comment period on February 3, 2012. Clean Water Commissioners should submit their comments to Ms. Nancy Olmsted, who will create a letter for consideration by the CWC at their meeting on February 1, 2012.

### **Public Comments**

Mr. McConathy urged the CWC to read the NPDES permit and fact sheet as he believes that staff has mislead them. He believes that there needs to be a way to address regional needs from a collection of stakeholders like recreation, fisheries, and other permittees. In addition, Clark County needs to be above Ecology's minimal water quality standards to keep the summer algal blooms out of Vancouver Lake.

Mr. McConathy also wanted to know what Clark County is doing in the way of public process to change the ordinances they now have to comply with by the findings by the State Court of Appeals. Mr. Wierenga clarified that last week a Federal Judge of the U.S. District Court of Western Washington, issued an injunction to the Clean Water Act lawsuit that is different than the Washington Court of Appeals Case. The injunction precludes the county from issuing permits that do not meet the state's flow control standard, specifically section S5.C.5 of the 2007 Municipal Stormwater Permit. The county is working closely with legal council and does not have a formal response at this time.

### **Action Items**

#### *CWC Annual Report 2011*

Ms. Olmsted reminded the group that the outline of the report was approved and she would like to have the administrative draft completed before the next meeting. She asked that the commissioners follow up on the items that that they were assigned at the December meeting. Please email your items to Ms. Olmsted ([nancyolmsted@comcast.net](mailto:nancyolmsted@comcast.net)) and copy them to Bobbi Trusty.

#### *2012 CWC Work Plan and Meeting Schedule*

Mr. Rowell presented the *2012 CWC Work Plan and Meeting Calendar* to the CWC. The commissioners were asked to review the work plan and calendar for any further changes. Mr. Rowell will make the recommended changes and have it ready for approval at the February meeting.

### **Clean Water Program Update**

#### *Pollution Source Control Inspection Update*

Mr. Armstrong oversees the county's Pollution Source Control efforts. The NPDES Permit requires the county to annually visit or inspect about 20% of the businesses throughout the county. An inspector visits businesses and looks for activities that may cause stormwater pollution. Some activities include illegal dumping, garbage and outdoor storage of materials. Business inspections are systematically completed watershed by watershed to avoid the perception of picking on an individual business. When no violations are noted, businesses receive education about the Clean Water Program and how the stormwater system works. In addition to education, businesses that have violations noted during inspection are given guidance on how to improve or change their activities to prevent stormwater pollution.

A CWC member commented that most people think that the stormwater is treated before going to the streams, rivers and lakes. According to Mr. Armstrong, one-on-one education is valuable in helping businesses understand that their stormwater is not treated prior to flowing into the streams.

Questions were asked about compliance and Mr. Armstrong acknowledged that most people want to do the right thing. His task is to work with the businesses and educate them on what they need to do. In some situations, cases go to Code Enforcement who can issue fines, liens, and stop work orders; and if necessary, some cases will go to Ecology who has additional enforcement authority.

### **Public Comments**

Mr. McConathy hopes the CWC challenges the paradigm that working septic systems are not polluting the groundwater during the septic tank discussion scheduled in April. He feels that it is not appropriate to separate groundwater and surface water as they both contribute to the hydrophilic zone. Mr. McConathy would like to see the CWC add groundwater protection to its list of activities to address in 2012.

Mr. McConathy urges the CWC, after discussing stormwater topics to reach consensus; CWC should draft recommendations for consideration by the Board of County Commissioners.

### **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Bobbi Trusty

### **Action Items**

- Mr. Carlson to write the Public Education and Outreach portion of the 2011 Annual Report
- Mr. Morgan to write the Effectiveness section of the 2011 Annual Report
- CWC members to write three points of desired actions and recommendations for the 2011 Annual Report
- CWC members to submit comments for a formal position statement regarding the Draft NPDES Permit prior to the next meeting to Ms. Nancy Olmsted