

**Three Creeks Advisory Council
December 9, 2010
Clark Regional Wastewater District
10:00 am to 12:00 pm**

Members Present: Jim Carlson, John Caton, Michael Harris, Beth Holmes, Denny Kiggins, Ron Lauser, Vaughn Lein, James Spinelli, Lynn Valenter, Bud Van Cleve, Ron Wilson

Alternates: Sharif Burdzik, Laura Hudson, John Peterson

Absent: Hal Dengerink, Ila Stanek, Dave Taylor, David P. Taylor

Staff Present: Colete Anderson, Oliver Orjiako, Mary Beth O'Donnell

Vaughn Lein opened the meeting at 10:06 A.M. Lynn Valenter requested to edit the minutes from 10/14/10 with regards to the WSU master plan date, change 2014 to 2023. Minor edits in grammar received from Ila Stanek will be made. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Vaughn announced the resignation of council member Dan Bodell due to job responsibilities and thanked him for his good work and input over the years.

Oliver Orjiako gave a brief overview of the Aging Task Force and their assignment. Commissioner Boldt attended a forum last year put together by WSU and Southwest Washington Agency on Aging and Disabilities (SWAAD). Following that he communicated his ideas based on what he heard from local and national experts to ask the question whether Clark County is ready to face the increase of the aged population over the next 20 years. This is a great opportunity for the county to engage in assessing its readiness to handle the aging "tsunami" that is coming. He charged the Community Planning department to work on this project. The handout in today's packet explains the charge on the second page. Following the national trend, Clark County's population of 60+ is projected to double by 2025 (one in four residents). From 2010-2025, those 60 and over will grow from 16 to 23% of the total population. Those over 85 will increase by 15%.

Specific charge:

- Review models used nationally
- Inventory existing amenities, programs and services in the county
- Assess where the gaps are in this inventory
- Engage the public in dialog on strategies and policies to address those
- By end of next year develop recommendations and an action plan for short, mid and long term to the Commissioners for adoption. Integrate with other local jurisdictions.

Meetings began in May of this year. There have been two workshops so far, Housing and Transportation. There are three others scheduled. The complete schedule appears on the third page of the handout.

Colete offered a breakdown of the task force (TF) activities. Last winter the BOCC issued a press release seeking volunteers for the TF. 70 responses were received from very qualified applicants. After review of the applicants, 24 were appointed. Bud Van Cleve is on the TF. He is our conduit with the Three Creeks council and we hope you can play a part in some of the final recommendations.

The TF meets every other month. On the alternate month a community workshop is held. The first of five workshops was in September and the subject was housing. Almost 100 attended. The second workshop was in November on Transportation/Mobility and over 70 attended. The third one in January is on Healthy Communities. How do we create healthier communities to age better over

time? This ties into the charge of Three Creeks and what we wanted to do within the various sub-area plans. It's all inter-related. The fourth workshop is in March on Support Services which includes EMS, CRESA, in-home delivery and care, roving nurses, etc. as discussion items. The last and fifth workshop is on Civic and Social Engagement. We know that most people want to age in place. As you age the opportunities for transportation dwindle if you lose your license. How do you stay socially connected with others or are you isolating yourself in your home and what does that do to you? How do we create volunteer bureaus, opportunities for connectivity, is there internet connection and training for internet? Clark College for example has a 50+ program if you want to go back to school.

In between the meetings and workshops a lot of work needs to be done in generating what we've heard and the proposed recommendations for the TF to review, bringing in experts to speak on the various topics so we tap into the right area, etc. We've created subcommittees by topic to help with this work. The Housing subcommittee has had four meetings and will probably have a couple more before they are finished with their report. The Transportation subcommittee starts in January.

We are getting into areas that are very specialized and unique. We're trying to come up with recommendations that can be implemented. Many are low/no cost recommendations. How can we move forward? One suggestion out of the Housing subcommittee will be to our building code. You can build under ADA standards if you want to. ADA standards work for all ages, not just elderly. But what if we say all new construction needed to have the opportunity for ADA enhancements? For instance, when you're building your home it's easy to frame in an extra wide door or put the structure behind your shower wall so a grab bar can be added at a later time. It's cheaper on the front end rather than retrofitting later. It doesn't change the look of things necessarily but would be ADA ready for the future. This is one thought the committee is heading towards. We haven't talked to the Building Industry Association (BIA) yet but this gives you an idea of what we're talking about.

Another item of discussion was there isn't one central, local place to call for information in Clark County. You used to call the Human Services Council about Medicare or a volunteer to come into your home. DSHS changed their funding and that service went to Portland under a 211 system which is a long distance call. Clark County didn't keep up to date with things locally. We're looking at how we can create something like that because information is the key. There are lots of services out there but if you don't know they exist you can't benefit from them. How can we make that more available and known to everyone? We're hoping to bring things like this to you and have you provide input to the TF. Commissioner Boldt has asked that this be done by the end of next year and we will do our best to accomplish that.

Bud said that he's on an ADA committee. As the community is aging so are the ADA demands. Just simple things such as what side of the toilet the flush handle is on, or how to get around and live more comfortably in their own house. As the general public has a need for disability information, they don't know where to go. The committee is going to be more involved in getting information brought in from around the country to give examples of what they're doing. The group has inspected all county facilities and next will be parks. Some things are just common sense, for example clear out under the sink so a person in a wheelchair can use the sink. They're the only ones doing this in the northwest and will be contributing back into the pool over time.

Colette cited a good example from the state of Iowa. If suddenly you or your loved one is having difficulties, how do you get your arms around what's going to make life easier in your home? Easy things like how the door swings and location of light switches. The Iowa group created a list of essentials and wants. You go through the house with that checklist to see what you can easily change and what is essential to life skills. We'll create a checklist guide for Clark County that will have a website of informational services so people can do their own investigation. There are contractors that will come to your home and help with an assessment then link you to those that can help you. We're also linking up with Leadership Clark County this year. They've decided that the Aging project is something they want to tackle as a special project between now and end of July. We're talking about what that might be. We are meeting with the BIA today. They do

contractor training on ADA modifications. This isn't just about ADA though, it's life skills and many other things.

Jim Carlson commented that he was able to get his mother's taxes reduced and found out about it on the county website. His solution to care for his mother was to open a senior group home in Longview and become a provider. A statistic of interest to him is what the financial status is of this 60+ group of people. There is a lot of difference for those who have money and those who don't. It's Medicare vs. Medicaid. He said they can't run their business model in the group home on state Medicaid pay alone.

Colete replied that we have the 2000 census and some information from the 2009 American Community Survey. We're somewhat restricted until the results of the 2010 census come out in early 2012. We're making some assumptions. We have some programs in place for low income. There's more need than availability. What do you do with the people that don't qualify for that but don't have the income to hire services out? The bulk of this aging group will fit into this no man's land category. One thing we've talked about is how much is the obligation of the government, or non-profits? What is the social or moral obligation? Do you get volunteers to offset things? So we're looking at forming volunteer groups. We're dealing with outdated information but will use what we have at this point. We may be able to get census results as early as May 2011 so we'll get bits and pieces from that.

Questions:

Lynn asked who the rep is from WSU. It's Cory Balkan and she is on the TF. We also have someone from the nursing college who's working through the public health board and helping from that end. Another rep from WSU is in the Leadership Clark County group whose focus is the workforce. Lynn said she used to manage hotels and from her experience, it's very expensive to do ADA compliant work. She encouraged Colete to look at a "transitional" designation because most people don't want grab bars or ramps when they don't need them. She feels what we're doing is smart but the BIA involvement is critical. She suggested reaching out to Elders in Action, a volunteer organization in Portland. They have been talking about having a chapter in Vancouver so the time might be right to talk to them.

Bud said each individual need is different and you have to be flexible. The ADA improvements don't have to be expensive, just common sense like lever door handles instead of knobs. But if you haven't been there you don't know what to do. The biggest drawback is stairs. There's also the issue of countertop heights. Code is 34" and most people want 36". For people in a wheelchair that's too high. Also inconvenient are stove knobs being located on the top where they're out of reach.

It will be interesting to see how the BIA approaches this because of smaller lots. Are people going to be downsizing in terms of square footage as well as smaller lots? There will be a transition of people that won't go into a care facility and need a place to live. Some will need to work longer and don't have enough money saved to support themselves in retirement. Colete said for all these reasons they are making up the checklist so people can go through their homes and evaluate what they need, otherwise they just don't know what to do.

Jim C. said they get a lot of calls at his facility from people asking for information on where to go. There isn't much information out there. It's going to take volunteers with expertise in different areas to build a network and provide it to the seniors.

Half the housing in Clark County is single story. We have no way of figuring out how many 2-storys there are with masters on the ground floor. If you look at aging in place, you have isolation and associated problems with that. Within a small distance from you, do you have a grocery store, pharmacy, a bank? Do you have those things around you that allow you to be successful if you lose your car? Lynn made the point that cell phones offer free long distance now and Safeway.com solves some problems. These are things we didn't have 10 years ago. Bud said 85%

of calls to the fire department are not for fires. Someone has fallen and can't get up so they call fire department for help. Can we sustain that as those calls increase over time?

2011 Work Program:

The BOCC approves the work program for the Community Planning department. Oliver has tried to get a two year work program tied to the two year budget. A copy of the 2011-2012 work program is in the handouts. The focus here will be on what we do and what projects are of interest to this group.

Community Planning is responsible for planning under the state GMA. Most projects we do are consistent with the state statute as it relates to the GMA. We are responsible for review and maintenance of the county's comprehensive land use plan, development and implementation of regulations, transportation planning and special planning studies and ordinances.

Review of Three Creeks accomplishments:

- Bike and Ped Plan adoption
- completion and action plan for Highway 99 Form-Base Code
- reviewed lifting of UH in North Orchards
- East Fairgrounds lifting of UH denied (we will be going back to the BOCC to look at 179th)
- Heritage Farm 78th Street project (received grant money and project is ongoing)
- Commercial Code update approved with minor cleanups
- Railroad Overlay District approved
- Retooling the Code (ongoing process has started)
- developed letter of support for Salmon Creek interchange
- Discovery SAP (put on hold)
- Salmon Creek SAP (ongoing, plan to complete next year)
- Regional Sewer Plan (reviewed and provided input)

2011-12 projects: The BOCC identified two more areas to look at: Whipple Creek (area 4); Pleasant Highlands (area 5). Of the eight sub-region areas approved by the council, we've completed Highway 99; Discovery corridor with minor changes following additional projects (area 2); and Salmon Creek SAP (area 3) will complete next year. We will start Whipple Creek and Pleasant Highlands sometime next year. We have a full plate with limited resources in terms of staffing and will do as much as we can.

As the Aging Task Force begins to put forth recommendations, you will be seeing those and providing input. The BOCC approved that we look at employment lands (non-commercial, office campus and business park). They floated the idea of having one employment district instead of three or four that we currently have. The press release went out seeking interested members of the community to serve on a task force. There should be an appointment by the end of this year to look at this question. It will impact the Three Creeks area depending on their recommendation. The bicycle and pedestrian plan implementation updates will continue to come before you as well as additional work on the Heritage Farm. Regarding the Felida/McCann road circulation plan, we will be working with Public Works to revisit the plan and see whether there is a need to address the concerns of the neighborhood. The county update of road standards, which will have an impact on the area, will be coming to you as that work commences. Public Works will be the lead and Mike Mabrey and Laurie Lebowsky from our department will be assigned to this and will report to you throughout the process.

Other projects we will be sharing with this group:

- Equestrian plan
- Regional planning efforts with local cities for the future of urban reserve areas. How we expand or overhaul the comprehensive plan, identify areas that will be urban reserve, and coordinate with cities will have an impact on the Three Creeks area.

- Electric Vehicle infrastructure: the Legislature passed a bill charging Clark County to identify vehicle charging substations maybe along the I-5 corridor. We are working with Public Works and other service providers. Colete commented that GE has been advertising these electric cars and charging stations. The Feds charged each of the states to come up with primary docking stations like that and they choose the I-5 corridor. So counties that butt up against the corridor need to make accommodations for installations of the stations. WSDOT will want to put one in Gee Creek rest area because it's the first one past the Portland OR border and most likely a place for one. They are similar to cell towers, we just don't know where they will be placed but we know we have to modify our code to allow for their use. Lynn said WSU looked at this and it's not like filling up your gas tank, it takes more time. You'd have to find a place that you'll want to stay for awhile. At this point we're just following the legislature's requirement for the bare minimum so there's not much thought yet other than WSDOT will have to comply and we have a deadline by next year. WSU looked for a grant to install them but it won't work for external users. Lynn would like to have them involved or help out in some way. John Caton said to contact OMSI because they put in a station this year and have gone through the process so would be familiar with the necessary infrastructure. Another contact is Larry Blaufus at CPU who is already involved in the project. Jim Spinelli said that the current codes make it difficult to find a place that complies.
- Retooling our code; mainly issues relating to code process that may be of importance to you. Gordy Euler will come back in February to update you on what items will be before the Planning Commission.
- In June another update on the Aging plan and hopefully we will have some kind of document for your review whether it's on housing or transportation.
- In August Jacqui will again share where we are on the Aging plan. Also Mike will share what is happening on the Felida/McCann circulation plan.
- In October Laurie will report on the bicycle and pedestrian plan implementation. At that time hopefully we will know where we stand on the employment lands issue and retooling our code, and what the task force has recommended. We'll also be wrapping up the equestrian plan.
- In December we'll kick off Whipple Creek and Highlands SAP and provide an outline for the 2012 work program.

The BOCC wants the Three Creeks council to continue and finds value in what you are doing.

Lynn questioned why two meetings on the equestrian plan, not sure it's the best use of the group's time. The aging topic is so huge it could use two meetings. Oliver explained the reason for the equestrian topic is because there are some areas in Three Creeks, for example along Whipple Creek, that this group can weigh in on but the agenda is not set in stone. You can focus more on aging if you want. However, there's a huge horse community (20,000 in Clark County) that contributes much that we aren't part of and don't see. Lynn is not sure if this is the group to be looking at this. Dan said there is a big equestrian park near the fairgrounds and it would be helpful to be informed of the process prior to the Whipple Creek SAP as it would be an element of that. There is a task force working on creating the equestrian plan. You could have one meeting to see what they've done before its adoption. You could exchange the time in February for the Aging plan. Ron W. felt it's something that will impact our community so we should hear about it early on, then maybe have a second update. Colete said it won't take a lot of time, maybe one hour of the two hour meeting so something else could be added to the agenda.

There was no public comment.

Vaughn thanked Dan Bodell for being a great at-large representative providing insight and good comments at the meetings. Dan reminded Vaughn that all the terms of the council have expired. Vaughn said a letter was sent to the BOCC in that regard but they have yet to respond. Colete said they wanted to wait for the budget to be approved (which happened yesterday) and look at the work

program for next year. There should be some movement soon as they are reposting the council positions to be filled. If anyone wants to resign or recommit, now is the time to let us know.

The work program will be formalized at the next meeting, February 10.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 A.M.