

**Clark County
Solid Waste Advisory Commission
Regular Meeting
Thursday April 7, 2011**

Clark County Auto License Office
1408 Franklin Street
Vancouver, WA

SWAC Members Present: Lisa Schmidt, Don Ebbeson, Mike Carnahan, Richard Baker, Dan Kaler, Jeanne Stewart

SWAC Members Absent: Rebecca Wale, Jack McClary

Staff Present: Anita Largent, Mike Davis, Rich McConaghy, Gary Bickett, Tanya Gray, Pete Dubois, Tom Donovan, Kevin Gray, Sabra Hall-Nelson

Others: Scott Campbell (CRC/WCI), Mike Drumright (Dept. of Ecology)

I. Roll Call, Approval of Minutes

Motion made to approve minutes from March 3, 2011 SWAC meeting; motion carried with Richard Baker and Dan Kaler abstaining. Motion made to approve minutes from February 3, 2011 SWAC meeting; motion carried with Richard Baker abstaining.

II. Updates

County Solid Waste – Anita Largent

Anita introduced Tom Donovan, Environmental Services' new Finance Manager. Tom has been with the department for six months.

Recently an e-mail was sent to all SWAC members notifying them that Eldon Wogen had resigned from his position. The position is currently being advertised. Eldon represented Clark County business community. If anyone knows of someone who may be interested in this position, notify Anita. The Board of Commissioners sent Eldon a letter acknowledging his service. SWAC members recommended that they also send Eldon a letter recognizing his many years of service.

Updates: As of April 1, 2011, Empower Up is now accepting block foam, Tuesday-Saturday. Staff will continue to have the second Saturday block foam event this month and next month (May).

The city and county are working with St. Vincent DePaul, Jail Work Center, and CRC on mattress recycling/reconditioning. St. Vincent DePaul in Eugene, Oregon has a very similar operation. The proposed project would be at the Jail Work Center facility, utilizing the Jail Work Center population.

The Army Corp of Engineers has finished working on the locks. Waste is being transported by barge again.

Handouts:

- "Work to Salmon Creek interchange in high gear". This project is using a lot of our crushed glass around buried pipes. At this time there is no charge on using the product.
- Department of Ecology – "Washington's 2009 Recycling Produces Results"

- Northwest Product Stewardship Council – Legislation Update (the medicine take-back bill did not pass)
- Brown pages - dexknows.com – recycling & garbage guide
- News Articles:
 - “Sustainable house may get new home – Clark County mulls different site for project with Habitat for Humanity”
 - “After Japan disaster, disposing of waste creates dilemmas”

April is Earth Action month. The Board of County Commissioners is issuing an Earth Day Proclamation on April 12, at 9:45 am, in the Board Chambers. The County has an Earth Day website under Environmental Services. There are a lot of activities for the month of April: HHW collection, Saturday block foam event, Rain Garden Workshop, Critter Camp, Stormwater Facility Workshops, Farmers Market, Earth Day celebration at the Marshall Center (DES will be participating). April 23: Plant it for the Planet CPU Stream Team partnering with DES who is hosting in garlic mustard weed pull. Also on the same day, a garlic mustard weed pull activity is at Hathaway Park in Washougal. We are encouraging everyone to view this webpage to see all the upcoming activities. Anita will send a link to the webpage to all SWAC members.

City of Vancouver – Rich McConaghy and Tanya Gray

City residents received inserts/coupons in their bill this month. Each garbage customer received one sheet which included four coupons. The coupons were for yard debris, recycling tires, Dozer Days, and a shredding event. The shredding event is hosted by Waste Connections after tax day, with a maximum of two boxes and collect donations for the Race for the Cure. Also included was Clark County’s special event calendar.

County Public Health – Gary Bickett

Burlington Environmental/Phillips Services facility in Washougal received a Pharmaceutical Certification from the Board of Pharmacy. This allows them to handle outdated and excess medicine from retail pharmacies and health facilities. They applied to the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) for approval to collect controlled substances. This can be a long process: 9 months to a year to review and get approval. They need Board of Pharmacy approval for Wholesale Permit to collect from wholesale markets. Ecology feels these pharmaceuticals should be controlled under their hazardous waste permit, which only allows them to retain material for ten days maximum before it has to be transferred off site. Burlington Environmental would rather be regulated under the MRW requirements; if they need more time to collect additional materials to make it cost-effective. Security measures have been approved by the Board of Pharmacy but not by DEA. The tracking system requires having all materials inventoried and identified before accepting the material. This is not medical waste; they call it clean versus dirty. Pharmaceuticals are called clean waste whereas medical waste is called dirty waste.

Georgia Pacific – Camas: Lady Island Landfill at Camas Mill owned by Georgia Pacific is requesting to change from a Financial Assurance Agreement from a Letter of Credit to a Performance Surety Bond. Our Prosecuting Attorney, Lawrence Watters, has determined that it is to County’s prerogative to decide what is acceptable and what is not for assurance (WAC 173-350-600). There was a conference call with their Risk Management personnel, Terry Wall, from Atlanta, Georgia. Georgia Pacific legal counsel will look into it further.

West Van Material Recovery Center: proposal to accept food waste. CRC submitted a proposal February 28, regarding modifying the operation plan for handling food waste and then transferring to a composting facility in Corvallis. The proposal was very good, but it included a seven day holding time for food waste in a sealed container. Melissa Sutton consulted with other counties which have similar

facilities and Ecology. Some local health districts require as little as 24 hr. turnover time. Department of Ecology recommended 48-72 hrs. Public Health felt seven days was too long and is asking for a maximum of 72 hr. holding time before being transferred. This is a pilot program using school food waste and commercial food waste.

Department of Ecology – Mike Drumright

No updates

III. Update of Living Farm Project – Anita Largent & Pete DuBois

This is a project began as a grant through the Department of Commerce to look at all the barriers in the County’s building and development codes that would create problems for individuals that want to do sustainable development. Staff worked with Cascadia Green Building Institute. They identified codes and came up with 20 recommendations. Those recommendations were called the SARD recommendation, Sustainable Affordable Residential Development.

Those recommendations were further vetted by a group called Sustainable Communities, a working group with the County and cities. This group developed an ordinance which the county passed, called the Sustainable Communities Pilot Program. This ordinance allows for pilot sustainable projects at the local level. The requirements are linked to the highest green building standard which is called the Living Building Challenge. There are 20 requirements and if you are going to be fully certified Living Building Challenge project, the project has to meet all 20 requirements. It is not a check list where you can get bronze, silver, or gold, it’s all or nothing. Certification isn’t issued until after occupancy for a year. Energy and water bills are reviewed to make sure the building is meeting the intent. The Living Building Challenge is 100% reduction in energy and 100% reduction for water. The County ordinance focuses on affordability, which was always the intent of these studies. It requires a 75% reduction in energy and 75% reduction in water and that all stormwater and waste water will be managed on site. Those are the big ticket items. The project will definitely be an example of affordable housing. The County wants to be proactive and lead by example.

The Living Habitat House is a partnership between Clark County and Evergreen Habitat for Humanity (EHFH), to build the first pilot project permitted under the Clark County Sustainable Communities Pilot Program (CCC 40.200.090). Other partners in the project include: Living Building Challenge, Greenstone Architecture PLLC, Vancouver School District, WA Department of Ecology, Felida Neighborhood Association, Hazel Dell Neighborhood Association, Cascadia Green Building, Evergreen Septic Design, Clark County Weatherization Program and Planet Clark.

What are the benefits of this project:

- Demonstrate affordable, resources-efficient housing, saving money with lower operating costs
- Puts vacant county –owned land to a higher use, including tax income
- Provides superior indoor air quality improving health
- Forms a public/non-profit partnership model for future projects
- Inspires EHFH and others to rethink development practices

Who will live in the house:

A qualified Habitat family: Habitat sells its houses at no profit, offering affordable, and no interest loan.

The owner will meet the following criteria:

- Income is between 30-50% of the median income for Clark County
- Will put in 300 hours of sweat equity
- Maintain relationship per County / EHFH lease agreement

Lead by Example: Leads by example by being the first project permitted under the county's new code and processes.

- First Sustainable Communities project permitted
- Innovative building water discharge system
- First EHFH – structural insulated panel (SIP) house
- Volunteerism
- On the ground example of affordable high quality housing

Ordinance Requirements CCC 40.200.090

- A minimum of a 75% reduction in water and energy use over a baseline building
- 100% management of stormwater and building water discharge on site
- Education – homeowner's guide; webpage; interpretive signs; open houses
- A minimum of 8 additional Living Building Challenge imperatives

8 Additional Living Building Challenge Imperatives

Imperative	Notes
Limits to growth	Developed site, native plants
Urban Agriculture	2.625 sq. ft. for urban agriculture
Environment	Operable windows
Biophilia	Light, nature, sense of place
Human Scale	Promotes interaction
Democracy	Habitat Mission: ADA
Nature	Shading study
Beauty	Light and natural materials.

Removing Barriers: The ordinances allows for flexibility where codes and regulations [present obstacles in achieving these requirements, subject to jurisdictional approval.

- Managing on-site wastewater (Public Sewer Connection)
- Setbacks (rainwater harvesting cisterns)

Next Steps:

- Seek additional partners
- Develop strategy for utilizing road fund property
- Design on-site treatment system
- Execute agreement with EHFH
- Submit Building Plans per CCC 40.200.090
- Break ground and build house

Other possible innovative features:

Could include low impact development (LID) rain gardens, native plants, pervious pavement, composting toilets, an innovative greywater system, structurally insulated panels (SIP's), solar panels, solar water heater, and rain harvesting cisterns for potable drinking water.

IV. Disaster Debris Planning

Regional Disaster Debris Management Sessions – Rich McConaghy

Clark County experienced extreme snow and icy conditions in January 2004. Garbage collection was canceled for four consecutive days, schools and government offices were closed, and woody debris was a major issue everywhere. The county had five contracted debris sites: Central Transfer and

Recycling Center, McFarlane's, H & H, West Van Materials Recovery Center, and Triangle Resources. Four additional temporary sites were added: Fairgrounds Park, Kline, Norris Road and English Pit.

Recent History of Regional Disaster Coordination Efforts:

- Y2K Contingency Planning
- 2002 – **Comprehensive Emergency Management Plans** (Clark County and Vancouver –ESFs)
- January 2004 – Local Snow / Ice Storm – Temporary Sites
- 2004 Metro Disaster Debris Plan Stakeholders Group – contributed to RDDMP /Manual (3 counties)
- October 2004 – St Helens Ash Contingency Planning
- 2006 Clark County' Response Plan (NIMS/ICS)
- 2007 Clark County Hazardous Materials Response Plan
- December 2008 – Extended Snow Event

Emergency Support Function 3 Public Works and Engineering

- Purpose – support emergency operations through engineering services, technical evaluation, inspection, damage assessment, debris clearance and disposal and flood controls associated with a catastrophic disaster
- ESF 8 – Health and Medical Services - references a key role of Health Department related to solid waste as well <http://cresa911.org/docs/cemp.pdf>

Preparing for Disaster – Emergency Management

Prepare, Respond, Recover and Mitigate

Debris Removal and Disposal

- Disaster Debris is key focus of the “recovery” phase – we also “prepare” through planning
- Debris Removal accounts for about 27% of the total damage cost associated with the average natural disaster.
- In 2008 total US damage costs were: \$29.7 Billion - \$8 Billion for Debris removal
- In 2005 US damage from all natural disasters totaled more than \$100 Billion (Hurricanes Katrina and Rita)
- Diversion – opportunity to control costs / impacts

Urban Areas Security Initiative

- UASI – regional emergency preparedness
- Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
- Funding starting in 2003 – focused on areas under potential threat from terrorism
- \$ linked to “highest risk”: international borders, population, population density, critical infrastructure, other
- Readiness and resilience to respond to and recover from terrorist attacks, major disasters and other emergencies

Portland Area UASI Region - Counties & Cities

- Clackamas, OR Clark, WA. Columbia, OR. Multnomah, OR Washington, OR.

All Hazard Preparedness - Coordinated Disaster Preparedness Through –

- Regional Vision, Strategy, Priorities
- Developed Plans, Procedures, Agreements
- Conducting Training and Exercises

- Acquiring and Maintaining Regional Capabilities to Protect People and Physical Assets from the effects of Disaster

Regional Earthquake Threat is Serious

- April is Earth Quake awareness month
- USGS mapped crucial faults within or near the 5-county Portland urban areas
- <http://earthquake.usgs.gov/hazards/>
- Impacts Are Being Carefully Modeled - Figure 5 (on the handout) shows spatial variation in earthquake ground motion

Debris Management is one Work group Focus – key project objectives:

- Expand regional disaster debris planning to include the 5-county PUA
- Increase communications and coordination
- Assess regional capabilities & collect copies of plans and MAAs
- Identify gaps and critical issue areas
- Develop a regional disaster debris management planning Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP)
- Begin implementation of the SEP

Benefits of Regional Coordination

- Local Planning is the clear priority
- Benefits for Regional connections:
 - Sharing ideas, knowledge, resources, alternate disposal/processing options
 - Local situation that exceeds our capacity to manage – received /render mutual aid
 - Best preparation for the **BIG ONE** where we're all impacted in major ways
 - Tapping into state / federal resources (USACE)

Accomplishments after 4 workgroup meetings

- Contacts and capabilities information shared – facilitates, mutual aid (some existing agreements) – 54 jurisdictions
- Networking and discussion on common challenges – e.g. definition of thresholds, contents of debris Plans, ID gaps/critical issues
- Documented status related to planning
- Interim Steering Committee to keep dialogue going
- Plan for Quarterly Large Group meetings - communication training/exercise

Draft Debris Management Plan – Anita Largent

Anita handed out the local Clark County Environmental Services Regional Debris Management “draft” Plan. The purpose of the plan is to ensure that Clark County is prepared to deal with the removal and disposition of debris generated in the event of a disaster. This plan specifies goals and objectives for disaster debris removal and disposal. It describes potential implementation strategies to ensure that disaster debris efforts are coordinated, efficient, effective, environmentally sound, and protects public health and safety.

The group working on this plan includes staff from Clark County Solid Waste, City of Vancouver Solid Waste, Public Health and also CRESA. The plan discusses how our solid waste system operates in the event of an emergency/disaster; we become a resource and work unit through CRESA. Some of the lines of responsibility are known. In the response phase, Public Works is responsible for clearing the roads. This involves just pushing debris aside on the right-of-way. The recovery phase is where all that debris is collected and handled. There will also be private sector debris that people and businesses have to clear away. In a very large situation, our system for handling normal activity will

be overwhelmed. This is the first time SWAC has seen the draft plan, we will highlight a few points and revisit as the plan progresses.

One important part of the plan is to identify how the county wants to handle debris - that recycling is considered in the hierarchy. Burning should occur only as a last resort. Having this identified in our plan will determine how FEMA reimburses us for that hierarchy. The appendix with this plan will identify different criteria for debris sites. Those would be the sites that all the waste goes to – to be reduced, recycled and/or transported for disposal. We will identify where potential sites are, the layout of the sites, and have sample contracts developed for collecting and operating the temporary sites. The idea is to have documents “off the shelf ready”, so if something happens we are able to go through emergency procurement quickly. Staff did some modeling and under our worse case scenario (a major earthquake), 4 million tons of debris could be generated.

Sites will need to be set up in different locations due to road closure or disruption of service. Staff is looking at dividing the county into eight sectors, a site in each one of those sectors. There would most likely be a system of drop boxes located throughout the county. The idea is to plan for the worst-case scenario and then scale back for different events. The plan needs to be consistent with FEMA rules and requirements. For example, FEMA does not advise having time and materials contracts. The plan should protect the system, as much as possible, so that we would be eligible for reimbursements.

Handout: After the Storm – Disaster Debris Management and Recovery

Material recovery is generally the last thought on anyone’s mind after a natural disaster has occurred. However, a disaster debris management plan can help a community identify options for collecting, recycling and disposing of generated debris.

V. Other Business

No other business.

VI. Comments from the Public on Non-Agenda items

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm.