

Clean Water Services

Clean Water Advisory Commission

Meeting Notes

January 14, 2015

Attendance

The meeting was attended by Commission Chair Tony Weller (Builder/Developer), Vice Chair Mike McKillip (District 3-Rogers), and Commission members Molly Brown (District 2-Malinowski), Alan DeHarpport (Builder/Developer), Lori Hennings (Environmental), Erin Holmes (Environmental), John Jackson (Agriculture), John Kuiper (Business), Art Larrance (At-Large-Duyck), Judy Olsen (Agriculture), Stephanie Shanley (Business), Richard Vial (District 4-Terry), and David Waffle (Cities), and Clean Water Services District General Manager Bill Gaffi.

Attending from the general public were Erin Poor.

Clean Water Services staff members present included Bob Baumgartner (Regulatory Affairs Department Assistant Director), Andy Braun (Capital Programs Manager), Nora Curtis (Conveyance Department Director), Tracey Dulin (Water Resources Project Manager), Laurie Harris (Development Services Engineering Technician), Mark Jockers (Government and Public Affairs Manager), Kathy Leader (Finance Manager), Jerry Linder (General Counsel), Ely O'Connor (Education & Outreach-Public Affairs), Carrie Pak (Engineering Division Manager), Mark Poling (Business Operations Department Director), Damon Reische (Development Services Manager), Ryan Sandhu (Field Operations Division Manager), Jadene Stensland (Senior Engineer), Elle Allen (Development Services) and Sheri Wantland (Public Involvement Coordinator).

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Weller at 6:32 PM in the conference room at the Clean Water Services Administration Building.

2. Review of Meeting Notes from October 8, 2014

There were no comments on the Meeting Notes from the meeting held October 8, 2014.

3. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Mr. Weller and Mr. McKillip were elected by acclamation as Chair and Vice Chair, respectively, as there were no other nominations and no objections.

4. Confirmation of Budget Committee Members

Mr. Poling said last year's Budget Committee included Ms. Brown, Mr. DeHarpport, Mr. Kuiper, Mr. McKillip, and Mr. Weller. Only Mr. Kuiper's term has expired; each of the other four are willing and able to continue their terms.

Mr. DeHarpport moved to recommend Ms. Hennings to the Board of Directors for appointment to the Budget Committee. Ms. Olsen seconded. Motion passed.

4. Conveyance Department Activities and Challenges

Ms. Curtis and several others from Clean Water Services provided an overview of the Conveyance Systems Department staffing and responsibilities, what is being done now to provide cost-effective services to a continually growing population, what challenges are expected to arise in the future and what planning is taking place to meet them, and how the Commission may be involved in those efforts (*presentation attached*).

Mr. Reische said development in areas throughout the District which have recently come into the UGB (Urban Growth Boundary) is projected to top 57,000 dwelling units, plus industrial development in some. In North Bethany, planning for stormwater quality and quantity facilities reflects the cost-effective regional approach, with facilities serving multiple developments rather than one for each development. Many of the cities with areas similar to North Bethany are using the regional approach in siting water quality/quantity facilities, but the more traditional “one development-one facility” approach may still be used in other smaller areas (such as Area 93, also known as Bonny Slope West). While stormwater ponds were initially seen as the way to implement a regional approach in North Bethany, the hydromodification requirement expected in the upcoming NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) permit renewal for Clean Water Services has staff also looking at stream enhancement projects which would address runoff cost-effectively and offer broader environmental benefits. Mr. Reische described a project in the North Bethany Falls area of North Bethany as an example of this more integrated approach as well as an example of partnership with the development community.

Ms. Stensland and Ms. Dulin presented two examples of projects where partnerships and an integrated approach achieved multiple objectives for the greater benefit of the community and the environment. The Cedar Mill Falls bio-retention swale project began as a sidewalk installation by Washington County and became a collaboration between the county, Tualatin Hills Parks and Recreation District, and Clean Water Services resulting in a naturally functioning, aesthetically pleasing stormwater treatment site serving a 66-acre development and offering improved pedestrian safety, water quality, plant and animal habitat and diversity, and connectivity to parks and trails. Similarly, the Derry Dell Sanitary and Stream Enhancement Project began with the need for Clean Water Services to address four places where sanitary sewer lines crossing Derry Dell Creek had become exposed. Clean Water Services chose the long-term solution by re-routing sewer lines to eliminate the stream crossings, and partnering with the City of Tigard so the final project provided improved pedestrian access to parks and regional trails, wildlife corridor connectivity and fish passage, a re-meandered stream less susceptible to erosion and an enhanced wetland and floodplain for more natural flow and function, and restoration of natural plant materials.

Ms. O’Connor and Ms. Harris described LIDA (Low Impact Development Approaches) demonstration project partnerships with Cedar Park Middle School and Highland Park

Middle School in Beaverton, and Fowler Middle School in Tigard. Clean Water Services usually does the project construction work and the public outreach while the cities of Tigard and Beaverton have provided in-kind assistance and Tualatin Riverkeepers has done pre-project education with the students. Staff would like to increase the number and diversity of LIDA demonstration projects, and expand to other cities as well as involve more and different types of community partners such as neighborhood associations and local businesses.

Mr. Sandhu outlined cost-effective practices in day-to-day operations which have allowed the department to provide the same or increased level of services while keeping staffing at almost the same level for the past 10 years, even as the population has grown. He foresees that technology will continue to help accomplish more work without additional staff.

Mr. Braun described some examples of how capital projects also focus on cost-effectiveness, technology, and partnerships. An important strategy is maximizing the investment in existing facilities through such efforts as the I/I (inflow and infiltration—water that does not belong in the system) abatement program. Repairing and replacing pipes preserves capacity for wastewater that actually needs treatment, avoiding the need for new or expanded facilities.

Mr. DeHarpport asked if there has been a measurable reduction in flow as a result of I/I abatement efforts. Mr. Braun said it is most apparent at the pump stations but is also evident at the treatment plants and that if this is a very rainy year the difference (from past rainy years) will be even more obvious.

Mr. Waffle commented that he had served on a Hillsboro committee which recommended a surcharge to help pay for I/I projects, which he felt has worked out very well.

Ms. Pak summarized that everything being done to meet today's challenges will put Clean Water Services in good position to meet future challenges. She added that in looking toward the future, Clean Water Services is looking to the past as efforts are underway to gather and retain institutional knowledge that would otherwise be lost as long-time workers move on or retire.

Ms. Curtis concluded by saying that the Commission may be asked to help with future decisions related to some or all of the topics presented tonight, and noted that Clean Water Services is fortunate to have such a strong and involved advisory group.

Mr. McKillip observed that Clean Water Services is in the middle of many partners, and if there is as much enthusiasm for its innovative approaches from EPA (federal Environmental Protection Agency) and other “upstream” partners as there seems to be amongst existing local partners, then the long wait for the NPDES permit renewal will have been worthwhile.

5. Announcements

Mr. Jockers reminded all that the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 11.

6. Adjournment

Mr. Weller thanked the evening's presenters and adjourned the meeting at 8:45 PM.

(Meeting notes prepared by Sue Baumgartner)