

Staff Addendum to the Clean Water Commission 2013 Annual Report

The Clean Water Commission is a valuable resource for both the Board of County Commissioners and the Director of the department. Now at full occupancy...the commission members are dedicated and fully engaged in their role as advisors to the Board of County Commissioners. We value and appreciate their active input in assisting to fine tune our delivery of the clean water program in Clark County.

The Executive summary of the Clean Water Commission 2013 Annual Report, unfortunately, does not accurately reflect the full current financial position of the Clean Water Department. Their report accurately reflects the previous policy of spending reserve funds to cover spending above the revenue taken in annually by the clean water fee. They accurately report that the policy and practice of raiding the reserve fund bankrupted the clean water program. What was not included in the report is that the policy of spending reserves to cover shortfalls was discontinued when the current Director Don Benton began as director.

Also, the report did not reflect that over the 2013 year that the adopted budget and expenditures were reduced 29% by Department Director Benton. Action taken by the Board of Commissioners after this report was written was to adopt an increase in the clean water fee to bring in enough annual revenue to match expenses, and the Board of Commissioners adopted a surcharge to cover the settlement of the five year legal battle. All of this was done without layoffs in the Department.

2013 marked a full year of compliance (the first time in many years) with federal and state clean water laws without the necessity of a court order compelling compliance.

Creating a balanced budget has required tough decisions. We scaled back a program known as the Watershed Stewards but that program has not been eliminated. The program is being folded into another program in an effort to streamline expenses and eliminate duplication of efforts.

