

# **Clark County Clean Water Commission 2015 Annual Report**

**Approved on January 6, 2016**



# Clark County Clean Water Commission

## 2015 Annual Report

2015 Active Commissioners	Term Expiration
Dick Rylander, Chair	2017
Gary Schaeffer, Vice Chair	2017
Jim Carlson	2015
David Meyer	2016
Susan Rasmussen	2015
Mark Schneider	2017
Marie LaManna	2016
Kate Schoof	2015
David McDevitt	2016

On behalf of the Clark County Clean Water Commission, I approve the 2015 Annual Report to the Clark County Councilors.



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Dick Rylander, Chair

JW 6 2016

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Dated

# Clark County Clean Water Commission 2015 Annual Report

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# **Clark County Clean Water Commission**

## **2015 Annual Report**

### **Executive Summary**

Three new commissioners were appointed in 2015 to the Clean Water Commission (CWC). The Commission met a total of six regularly scheduled meetings and one special meeting in October to discuss the Clean Water Fee Study. Five Commissioners also attended an educational tour of storm water facilities in May.

The Commission suffered a loss with the passing of Earl Rowell, Clark County Staff Liaison, in July. Chris Clifford was selected as the new liaison, and a new Clean Water Division Manager, Dean Boening, was hired in August.

The CWC areas of focus in 2015 were the NPDES permit renewal, the Clean Water Fee Study, and public outreach. The SWAMP project did not move forward as proposed due to a number of issues, including member turnover and task leader's absence.

This annual report details scheduled meeting topics, staff reports, accomplishments, recommendations, and the action plan for the upcoming year. The CWC will continue to advise the Clean Water Program, County Manager and County Councilors with regard to current storm water issues.

### **Meetings**

The CWC meeting schedule of every other month begins in January and ends in November. In 2015, the CWC chose to meet in October to discuss the revisions of the Clean Water Fee Study. The CWC also attended a storm water facilities tour to better understand the various methods of storm systems. Overall the meeting attendance was excellent with only a few of the Commissioners having conflicts. New members were selected for their analytic and environmental backgrounds, and bring diversity and enthusiasm to the Board.

#### **Scheduled Meeting Topics**

##### **January**

- CWC Polluter Fee Report
- Review of the 13.30A.040 CWC Responsibilities
- Change in the Bylaws
- NPDES Permit Stakeholder Advisory Committee Representative

## March

- Board of County Councilors Clean Water Commission Annual Report
- Storm Water Alliance Multiuse Project (SWAMP)
- NPDES TAC update

## May

- Clean Water Fee Study
- Educational Outreach task force
- Google mail and document sharing among members
- Proposed field trip

## July

- Clark County NPDES Municipal Stormwater Code and Design Manual update

## September

- Clean Water Fee Study presentation by Don Benton
- Introduction of Dean Boening, Clean Water Division Manager

## November

- Outreach Presentation review and discussion
- Nomination and election of 2016 Chair and Vice Chair

## Educational Tour

### May

- Stormwater facilities tour with Earl Rowell
  - Thomas Wetland East
  - Mt Vista Rain Gardens
  - Parkside Manor

## Special Meetings

### October

- Review of the Draft Clean Water Fee Study

## Staff Reports

- Fee Study required by Clark County Code 13.30A.050
- CWP Polluter Fee Report Status
- Overview of the NPDES 2013-2018 Permit for Clark County
- Clark County NPDES Municipal Stormwater Code and Design Manual Update

## Accomplishments

1. Revised bylaw term expiration date to coincide with program assignments
2. Revised the relevancy of the responsibilities of the commission
3. Analyzed and provided comments, suggestions, and corrections to the following:
  - Clean Water webpage

- Clean Water Fee Study
  - Clean Water Public Outreach PowerPoint presentation
4. Commissioners Rylander and Rasmussen attended the January meeting with the Board of County Councilors
  5. Commissioner Carlson met with staff from the Cities of Ridgefield and Battle Ground to discuss SWAMP (2015 SWAMP Project)
  6. Commissioner Meyer attended the NPDES Permit Technical Advisory Committee meeting
  7. Commissioner Schneider attended a Willamette Riverkeepers presentation on new stormwater practices
  8. Commissioners Rylander, Schneider, Rasmussen, Schoof, and LaManna attended the stormwater facility tour

## **Challenges**

1. No public presentations were made during the year. We began a process of redesigning the slide set in February but were unable to complete the revisions until the end of November.
2. S.W.A.M.P. had some initial meetings with local agencies but was unable to proceed due to follow through issues. This program will not return in 2016.
3. The Fee Study Team had some success. They reviewed materials provided to them by DES Staff, timely and thorough feedback and suggestions. Unfortunately, due to a series of internal challenges with DES, delivery dates for the team to receive review materials slipped until they were no longer value added with respect to council deadlines. We addressed this at the October special meeting after the hiring of Dean Boening. We are confident this issue will not arise again.

## **Recommendations**

1. We recommend that the Department of Environmental Services Clean Water Fee Study be impact based on scientific fact; that we continue to review the document as valued technical advisors. We propose that any fee increases and/or new fees are fully vetted and understood by the Clean Water Commission prior to facilitating public outreach and support of the fees.
2. We recommend that the commission provide input for the 2017-18 biennium budget.

## **2016 Work Plan**

1. Continue to provide analysis on the proposed Clean Water System Development charge.
2. We propose three (3) working teams in the CWC:

- a. A Communication Team: Provides input on the public outreach presentations and continue to be a positive presence in the community
    - i. Is responsible for giving public presentations about the clean water program to various community groups and organizations
  - b. A Partnership Team: Collaborate with other advisory groups to establish amenities such as trails and educational opportunities on storm water facility sites
  - c. A Research Team: Responsible for defining and gathering data and information needed by the CWC members to evaluate programs and make recommendations.
3. Implement the use of gmail accounts and Google documents to increase efficiency in communication among members. To this end each CWC Commissioner established an email address using a convention of <lastname>.ccwc@gmail.com and we have established a Google master account that has a repository for all documents related to Commission work. This has been cleared and is supported by the DES.
  4. We will begin reviewing the Clean Water Budget in 2016 and provide feedback and recommendations per our charter.

## **Summary**

In conclusion, the CWC is actively involved in working with the Environmental Service Department's Clean Water Program and the Board of County Councilors to advise on the current storm water issues facing the county. The CWC also plays a role on providing educational outreach within the community. In moving forward, the CWC respectfully ask the Board of Clark County Councilors to offer input as to what they foresee as the critical issues that should be addressed in the upcoming year.

## **Acknowledgements**

We would also like to thank Bobbi Trusty for her consistent support and assistance during the challenging times in 2015. We look forward to working with Bobbi and Chris Clifford in the coming year. We have also been very impressed with the new Manager Dean Boening and appreciate his participation in our meetings as well as his openness to suggestions and ideas.

## Appendix A: CWC Meeting Attendance

<b>Commissioners</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>March</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>July</b>	<b>Sept</b>	<b>Oct</b>	<b>Nov</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Regular</b>
Dick Rylander	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	7	6 of 6
Gary Schaeffer	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	6	5 of 6
Jim Carlson	A	P	A	P	A	A	A	2	2 of 6
Rob McKinney	P	P	*						
David Meyer	P	P	P	A	P	P	A	5	4 of 6
Susan Rasmussen	P	P	A	P	P	A	P	5	5 of 6
Virginia van Breeman	P	P	*						
Melanie Wheeler	P	*							
Mark Schneider			P	A	P	P	P	4	4 of 5
Marie LaManna			P	P	P	P	P	5	5 of 5
Kate Schoof			P	P	P	P	P	5	5 of 5
David McDevitt				P	P	P	P	4	4 of 4

\* Resigned from CWC before completing term  
 Shaded column represents Special Meeting

Bylaws state that Commissioners shall attend 75% of regularly scheduled meetings