

Surface Mining Advisory Committee: Yacolt Mountain

Friday, March 22, 2019

SUMMARY NOTES

Clark County Staff Present:

Mitch Nickolds, Community Development Director
Ahmad Qayoumi, Public Works Director
Jan Bazala, Land Use Planner
Marilee McCall, Neighborhood Association Coordinator
Taylor Hallvik, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney
Oliver Orjiako, Community Planning Director

Meeting called to order at 2:41 p.m.

This meeting was recorded. The audio will be posted on the Community Development website.

Key Objectives:

1. Developing dialogue between mine operators, community members and County
2. Identifying conflicts
3. Consensus and agreements for reasonable solutions

Nickolds prefaced the meeting by saying he was interested in finding solutions and a means to co-exist.

Nickolds explained the sequence of events when a code violation has been reported and the need to have a more expedient process for resolutions.

PUBLIC COMMENT AND RESPONSES:

Dick Leeuwenburg

1. There is very little trust between county and citizens
2. Short time frame of notice of meeting (not a trust building situation)
3. What are the rules for the mines; the county can't tell us
4. The county sends a lot of different messages
5. Council Chair Quiring said Yacolt Mountain is in full compliance
6. Where is the report card?
7. No one at the county is watching unless someone gets hurt
8. There isn't an ongoing process
9. If someone submits a complaint it goes into a black hole
10. People are worried about the dust in the quarry
11. Trust is slow to develop

Nickolds stated the desire for the county to earn back the trust of its citizens.

Qayoumi is working on various options such as cameras on streets and more trips to the mine to ensure compliance.

Nickolds encouraged feedback from the community. He suggested they be provided with a periodic report. Other items:

- Need to implement a process to report violations
 - Call the mine or the county
- Working on modifying the code enforcement process
- Working with the Prosecuting Attorney's office

Charlie Crisafulli

- Extracting ores must be done congruent with ecology
- Unrealistic unsafe truck traffic
- Groundwater/hydrology has changed; changes the bedrock
- The sound of the rock crushers has increased over the last two years; need to monitor the noise levels.

Katie Jarvis

- Concerns:
 - Potential of carcinogens
 - Other landslide protection.
 - Can the county test for carcinogens in the bad atmosphere?
 - The overlay is going down to the Lewis River.
 - Carcinogens for Storedahl employees.

Qayoumi suggested having discussions with the State Department of Ecology. They are responsible for environmental and water quality.

Gary Ogier

- Dust is a big health concern
- Testing done; mordenite is in the air
- Suggests additional testing
- After property was logged things were much worse
- 2 miles away the sounds and vibrations are very loud
- Considering getting our own seismograph
- Document from 17 years ago - hearing examiners report; mentioned setting up a 5 member advisory group. What happened to that group?
- Attend public hearings but nothing gets done

Storedahl:

- Blasting happens about every two weeks
- Storedahl would be happy to supply seismic measurement equipment to homeowners if requested
- Blasts are typically the same size every time
- Two issues: ground vibrations and air blast
- Ogier asked if they could be effective with more frequent smaller blasts rather than large blasts. Storedahl replied the neighbors' tolerance regulates that.

Nickolds suggested that the mine operator could circulate the blasting schedule to the community in advance:

- Storedahl announces the schedule weekly to all property owners with the schedule
- Need an agreement that there will be direct communication between Storedahl and neighbors
- We are reliant on third party testing

- State has set standards
- Proper regulation of time of day must be administered

Storedahl hasn't tested for mordenite:

- Employees wear a standard mask
- There are L & I standards that are followed

Ogier supports studies and an advisory group.

Mark Rose:

Rose asked who is invited to participate. Nickolds stated the meeting is open to everyone. Rose stated the following concerns:

- Non-stop truck traffic on Kelly Road.
- Weight conditions, frequency and restrictions – Rock Creek Bridge.
- Number of trucks on Rock Creek Road
- Truck speed and safety issues

Qayoumi replied:

- Required to comply with the codes
- Vehicles change and we have to apply it to all vehicles
- Emergency vehicles are getting heavier
- It goes through a Public process.
- This committee should establish the number of trips
- We are exploring the possibility of monitoring with cameras.

Nickolds:

- The county is hiring a new code enforcement officer
- Any enforcement actions would be reported and discussed at the forum
- Anything that requires the state or actions, testings, etc. should be brought to the forum

Nickolds proposes to bring this up as a topic for consensus.

Stan Green

Concerns:

- Asthmatic for last two years
- Subsidizing the quarry by having Public Works repair the roads. Tax payers paid for digging out the potholes. October 2018 cost: \$176,000; asphalt crew \$83K: Total \$226,00
- When a truck goes downhill it causes wash boarding.

Richard Durin

- Our mission is to protect the east fork river and improve the water quality for salmon and steelhead.
- Changes needed in compliance, enforcement and accountability.
- Concerned with health risks of mordenite.

- Estimate of materials leaving Clark County according to Storedahl is less than 5%. Previously told it was 40 to 60% depending on the year. We need rock, sand and gravel for construction in the county, but how much are we sending out of Clark County?

Nickolds:

- Acknowledged the environment is important to the group and will follow up regarding the amount of resources leaving the county as a means of making decisions and getting support.
- Expressed the desire to build a consensus that meets the needs of the mine operators and the community.
 - The CUP set the criteria; need to be clear about the requirements.
 - Clarify those exact requirements for the Yacolt Quarry
 - Report the trip counts and what is allowed.
 - Find the quickest resolution to a problem.
 - Storedahl hand out seismometers
 - Testing the mordenite in the air
 - Invite the local responsible clean air companies to our next meeting
 - Bring others into this discussion; speak to ecology, mine safety people.
 - Check with the prosecuting attorney to see about inviting counselors to participate.
- Meeting thoughts:
 - Did this meet your expectations?
 - Next meeting will have a podium and possibly more of a square or circle setting.
 - Future meetings will be held in the evening to accommodate those coming from work.
 - Create a list of things for future agendas.
 - Create sub groups if needed.
 - Bring solutions to the group.
 - Roundtable.
 - Develop a process and protect both parties.
 - Reschedule next meeting for April 11th.
 - Meeting recordings will be uploaded on the website, summary notes will be available.

Meeting adjourned at 4:36 p.m.