

DRAFT Chambers-Clover Watershed Council Meeting Notes
Wednesday, February 17th, 2010
Lakewood City Hall, Lakewood, WA

Attending: Mark Vinciguerra, Don Russell, Melissa Paulson, Al Schmauder, Cindy James, Steve Wyant, Greg Vigoren, Bob Burkle, Jim Jenkins, Kurt Fremont, John Collins and Lindsay Tuttle (taking notes).

Presentations & Education

Stormwater Management Programs in our Watershed:

Small Jurisdictions (NPDES Phase 2): City of Lakewood
Greg Vigoren, City of Lakewood

The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) started in the early 70's for control of industrial waste. Now it also oversees storm water discharge for which the Stormwater Management Program (SWMP) was created. The annual report for 2009 will be ready in March 2010. The City of Lakewood (The City) has started the 2010 updates. There are 6 components to the NPDES Permit: Public Education and Outreach, Public Involvement, Illicit Discharge and Elimination, Runoff Controls, Pollution Prevention and Municipal Operations and Maintenance, and Monitoring.

Several activities were completed in Stormwater Management Program Administration. The City complied with Ecology's requirements for submittal of the SWMP documentation and Ecology's requirements for submittal of the Annual Compliance Report by March 31th, 2009. The City created its NPDES departmental/divisional organizational structure and identified and empowered NPDES leads. The City is also coordinating with various other permittees on NPDES related activities including education and outreach planning and implementation and illicit discharges.

Public Education and Outreach currently consists of educational brochures that focus on many audiences and activities of concern (e.g., charity car washes, vehicle repair facilities, and restaurants.) City staff also provides storm water pollution prevention education during business inspections. City staff meet regularly with several other permittees to review and share information about public education and outreach activities. The City also participates indirectly in storm water education and outreach by contributing to the Pierce Conservation District Stream Team program. The City has a "Scoop the Poop" booth at the Dog-a-Thon Event and will be marking more storm drains with placards and stencils in the future.

The Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE) portion of the NPDES Permit requires the City to implement an ongoing program to detect and remove illicit discharges, connections and improper disposal, including and spills into the municipal separate storm sewers owned or operated by the City. The IDDE also requires the City to develop a storm sewer system map, have ordinances that prohibit illicit discharges, and create a program to detect and address illicit discharges. Other permit requirements are to publicly list and publicize a hotline, track illicit discharge reports, train program staff and summarize all illicit discharges and connections reported to the City and response actions.

The City currently has an IDDE program that has mapped all storm sewer outfalls, bodies of water, and public catch basins. The IDDE program is working on mapping private catch basins and the drainage area for each outfall. The program inspects businesses and inputs all data into a Permits Plus database system. Citizens are also able to report any illicit dumping. For emergency response the staff maintains a list of emergency contacts and meets on occasion with Ecology to discuss potential violations that are not immediate threats.

Every other year catch basin cleaning is contracted out (some yearly). The City replaced 250 dry wells in the last few years and plan on 100 more this year. Parks Department needs to put storm drainage system in at Fort Steilacoom Park. The park has good soils to accomplish this task.

Large Jurisdictions (NPDES Phase 1): Pierce County
John Collins, Pierce County SWM

Pierce County (the County) is planning on having the 2010 Surface Water Management (SWM) Plan on the web in late Feb. 2010 and it will be open for public comment for 2 weeks. Some new activities for 2010 include hiring new staff aimed at meeting some of the permit's training and intra-jurisdictional coordination duties. They developed an inter-local agreement with the Pierce Conservation District directing Phase I NPDES permit activities for the County. Lacking additional resources, the County has redirected an existing monitoring staff and centralized Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP), equipment purchase, laboratory support contracts, sampling, analysis, and reporting in an out-of-class position. Using an auto sampler on several sites will allow for less man power.

Enhanced technical assistance will include three additional Home Owners Association workshops, focusing on asset management and budgeting for maintenance, and three workshops on watershed health assessment in partnership with Watershed Councils. The County will continue to focus on projects and programs aimed at improving water quality in its 2010 SWM Program. They will prioritize activities in the permit as well as other actions not specifically required by the permit but that directly relate to water quality improvement. Some components of the County's water-quality focused compliance approach include: Watershed Council Support, Shellfish Partners, Onsite Septic System Repair Grant and Loan Program, Puget Sound Partnership Participation, Floodplain and Basin Planning, Watershed Health Assessment and Salmon Recovery.

The lack of resources to meet all the requirements of the permit was a principle reason for delayed implementation. Since the fall of 2009 the County Council increased resources for implementation of the NPDES Phase I Municipal Stormwater Permit. The increase funded two additional NPDES permit staff.

Kurt Fremont, City of Tacoma

The City of Tacoma (the City) will have the new Stormwater Management Plan available on March 31st for review for 30 days. The source control aspects are smoke testing, best management practices, erosion and sediment control groups. Source control smoke tested over a thousand cases and eliminated many sewers to storm drain connections. About 2,200 business inspections were conducted. The City updated the storm water code to include more enforcement. The City will be hosting all Phase II permit holders to coordinate spill hotlines. Ongoing monitoring of the Thea Foss Super Fund site includes 47 storm events at 7 outfalls. Two bio swales and two rain gardens were also monitored. The City has also enhanced enforcement for construction activities.

Brief Reports

TPCHD (Lindsay Tuttle) – Regulation revisions accepted by the Board of Health. Waughop, Clear and American Lakes are still posted with advisories for Toxic Algae.

WDFW (Jim Jenkins) – Hatcheries are post adult and pre plant. They are just growing fish right now.

(Bob Burkle) – WDFW has been cut down to only RCW mandated activities. More layoffs expected. The Watershed Stewardship Program may be cut.

DOE (Cindy James) – Flett Creek will be monitored by DOE starting in October.

City of Lakewood (Greg Vigoren) – Working on 59th Ave. flood control project with sand filters.

Pierce County (Melissa Paulson) – Flood Hazard Management Plan will be available for public comment during the third week of March. They will be continuing with Rain Garden work. They are looking for PSP Ecosystem Coordination Board Member. A small portion of the CCW will be included in this role.

Clover Creek (Al Schmauder) – The Abitibi Property sale is final. He wants to make sure future use of property benefits fish and possibly working to daylight Garrison Springs. A PLU class of 28 students was out at Clover Creek. Clover Creek at 136th St. was noted to be flowing in January but not in February. Al will attend the Open Space Task Force Meeting on behalf of the Clover Creek Council and will be making recommendations to the county council about open space.

Sequalitchew Creek Council (Steve Wyant) – Looking to gather information on fishing rights for article in the Dupont Newspaper. He is looking to meet with Tribal folks and WDFW in July. Creek trail is still closed due to earlier washout.

Citizen (Don Russell) – Mentioned meeting with Dan Wrye of Pierce County and it was stated that a proposal from the TPCHD addressing septic systems and Spanaway Lake was submitted to DOE for funding.

Watershed Council Business: Bylaws accepted and work plan updated to accommodate comments received during review process. Melissa is looking for data and pictures to include in the Annual Report. Small Grants Program funded nine from the CCW. Sequalitchew Creek Council received one to address beaver issues.