

**CLARK REGIONAL WASTEWATER DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
CONTINUED MEETING
JANUARY 9, 2008**

The continued meeting from January 8, 2008 was held on January 9, 2008 with Clark County Board of Commissioners at the Clark County Public Service Center, Board Conference Room. Commissioner Kiggins called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM.

Those in attendance were: Commissioners Neil Kimsey, Denny Kiggins and Norm Harker. Clark County Board of Commissioners Betty Sue Morris, Marc Boldt and Steve Stuart.

District staff: Chuck McDonald, John Peterson and Kim Thur.

Clark County Staff: Pete Capell, Kelly Sills and Bill Barron.

Visitors Present: Michael Anderson, *Columbian* reporter.

Employee Recognition – Pete Capell presented John Peterson with a Clark County Best employee recognition award. Mr. Peterson was nominated by Clark County staff members for this award based on his excellent job of overseeing the Phase 4 expansion of the Salmon Creek Wastewater Management System and his interaction with Clark County staff. Mr. Peterson is the first non-County employee to be recognized.

Work Session – A work session was held to discuss the County's and District's relationship, including the District's desire to own the Salmon Creek Treatment Plant.

The District explained to the County that they feel they should own the treatment plant since the District already pays 80% and Battle Ground pays 20% of the operating costs of the Plant. In addition, the District is the only agency in Clark County that handles sewer and is willing to assist other agencies with their sewer issues when requested to do so (currently by offering cleaning and tv'ing services). The District also is financially stable to take over the treatment plant.

The County explained their issues with transferring the treatment plant to the District, including the District's apparent concern with the City of Vancouver's plan to annex the District's service area. The

County also stated that they would not transfer the Plant without some payment.

The District felt that while the County owns the Plant, the District has paid for it over the years. The County felt they have also paid for the Plant.

Discussion occurred on the District providing funds to assist Ridgefield with their pipeline. Commissioner Kimsey stated that the District was only providing the money because the District was informed that there would be some connections to the sewer line that would be District customers. However, that understanding has changed. The District is not interested in using our ratepayers' funds when we have no return on our investment.

The County shared their vision of a regional entity (not being the District) taking care of treatment only collectively. All of the current treatment plants would be owned by the regional entity collectively. Each agency would have a seat at the table.

The District had concerns with losing their 80% capacity at the Plant to the entity. Discussion occurred on how this could possibly be negotiated.

The District felt that the County, if they were unwilling to get out of the sewer business, should be the regional entity, based on their vision. The County explained that wouldn't work, as the County draws the urban growth boundaries and does not want any potential for conflict of interest. The ultimate goal of the County is to get out of the treatment business.

Discussion occurred on the District's working relationship with Battle Ground, Ridgefield and La Center. The District explained that they have a good working relationship with each entity.

Discussion occurred on who should take this regional vision forward for further discussion. It was suggested by the County that John Spencer with CH2M HILL facilitate a meeting.

The District asked the County what they needed from the District in order to transfer the Plant to the District. The County explained they needed to research that issue, as the County has not considered transferring the Plant to the District.

It was suggested that District staff schedule the North County Regional Pipeline Memorandum of Understanding meeting. The following entities will be invited: Clark County, Clark Regional Wastewater

District, City of Battle Ground and City of Ridgefield.

With there being no further business to come before the Commissioners at this time, Commissioner Kimsey moved to continue the Clark Regional Wastewater District meeting until January 15, 2008 at 7:00 AM at the Cameo Café.

Commissioner Harker seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

At 4:00 PM, Commissioner Kiggins continued the meeting until 7 AM on January 15, 2008 at the Cameo Café.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary

Approved