

Design & Construction Standards Update
Kickoff Meeting Notes
April 25, 2006 at 3 pm
Clean Water Services, Tualatin Room
2550 SW Hillsboro Highway

Welcome and Introductions—Carrie Pak

Carrie thanked the 50+ attendees for their time and input to the update of the Design and Construction Standards. She encouraged them to stay involved in the update process and to ask appropriate colleagues to participate, as well. The update process will be focused in facilitated small groups that will meet every three weeks on Tuesdays at 3 pm at Clean Water Services. The meeting dates will be: May 9, May 30, June 20, July 11, August 1, August 22, September 12, and October 3.

Review list of issues—Terry Keyes

Terry explained the update will address only specific sections of the Standards, and shared a list of the preliminary 121 issues grouped by topic. Staff will address housekeeping items such as language clarification, while the larger issues will be addressed in working groups at the meetings. He encouraged participants to bring colleagues to ensure their interests are represented for each issue. The process will be posted on the Clean Water Services website, including schedules and agendas, issue papers, and proposed revisions. Anyone who cannot attend the working groups can comment by email to him at keyest@cleanwaterservices.org or Sheri Wantland at wantlands@cleanwaterservices.org.

Describe the update process—Sheri Wantland

Sheri described the process is designed to use participants' time efficiently. Information will be posted on the website to be open to those who are unable to attend in person. The process will be flexible to accommodate the complexity of the issues and the level of interest. Proposed revisions will be done in legal style (strikeouts of amended sections, proposed new language underlined). She will contact environmental groups to ask how they prefer to be included. After committee work is completed and revisions are proposed, we plan to go to the Board of Directors for adoption in late April 2007.

Review meeting dates and topic lists—Terry Keyes

Terry indicated the proposed topics for the May 9 meeting would be: Planting Densities, Pipes, and Low Impact Development Techniques. [Note: During the meeting the Buffer Slope Calcs was included, but has since been decided that staff will review that item before committee work.] The staff leads will be Astrid Dragoy for Planting Densities, Marvin Spiering for Pipes, and Terry and Carrie for Low Impact Development Techniques. Tell Sheri which group you are interested in – so she can figure out the process and get more familiar with the process in general.

Question and Answer--All

Q How can you participate in simultaneous work groups?

A People can move from one group to another; all comments will be posted in the website for additional comments. As appropriate, hot issues will be reviewed at more than one meeting.

Q What happens when Cities have different standards?

A Although District standards are the minimum, Cities can set stricter standards.

Q Will the Clean Water Advisory Commission (CWAC) be involved?

A For information updates only.

Q The County, in terms of future road plans, sometimes comments on design knowing some jurisdiction prefer certain types of pipe, etc. Will that change?

A You know your standards, so let us know so that we develop a standard we can use and work with.

Q Group process often results in taking the most conservative position, so we might need core standards for cities' individual needs and circumstances.

A District standards are the core standard. We are at most risk when Cities go with less than our standards because our permit strategy is based on the rationale that we all start with the same minimum standards.

Q Pipe standards are different; pipe material is not specified by NPDES permit.

A Pipe materials is not, but maintenance is. Our standard regarding material is to avoid maintenance problems.

Q Could you list the regulatory basis for each issue so we'll know what can't be done?

A Most are tied to the Clean Water Act, but we will highlight the regulatory basis in the issue papers. We will ask for a rationale for changes that are suggested, for example the change is more efficient, costs less, easier to maintain, etc.

Q How will we start on the entirely new section about Low Impact Development Techniques?

A This will be on a parallel track with DEQ and may take more than a couple of meetings to work out. The Goal 5 proposal has to go to Metro in September of 2006, and those changes will need to be included in this update.

Q How much time will I need to dedicate for this to be an effective process?

A Staff will do the research work and a detailed issue paper will be posted before each meeting. Anticipate one day to prepare for an issue.

Announcements

Ernie Platt announced the May 15 workshop on the new 1200C permit public comment process, to be held at the Home Builders Association in Lake Oswego with representatives from DEQ, Clackamas County WES and Clean Water Services.