

Minutes of 8/12/97 Meeting of the Four Creeks U.A.C.

The meeting began at 7:05 p.m. In attendance, were Members Leonard J. Davidson, Norm Green, Ray Griffin, Rich Harris, Kathryn J. Kaluzny, Stan Rabe, Bob Rhoades, J. Patrick Spencer, Jack Steidl, and Everett Wilcock. Also in attendance were the following county officials: Bong Santo Domingo; Carl Osaki, Chief of Environmental Health; Daniel J. Moran, Senior Environmental Health Specialist, phone number (206) 296-4575; Greg Bishop, Environmental Health Supervisor, phone number (206) 296-0189; Ann Shigeta, Program Planning Manager; Rodney Hansen, Manager, Solid Waste Division; and Jeff ____, Water Recycling Manager.

1. Minutes of Meetings for June 10 and July 8, 1997. The minutes for June 10 and July 8, 1997 meetings were approved.

2. Treasurer's Report. Mary Ellen was not present. Everett provided a Treasurer's report, showing a balance of \$169.20. This did not include donations of \$35 collected in connection with the UAC newsletter. Ray moved and Bob seconded a motion to accept the treasurer's report. The motion passed.

3. Cedar Grove Composting. Daniel Moran reported that Cedar Grove Composting ("CGC") commenced operation in 1988. Reports of odors have been received since 1990 and, currently, are received at unprecedented levels. In 1995, the Puget Sound Air Pollution Control Agency ("PSAPCA") issued notices, so CGC evaluated worldwide technologies to control and contain odors. CGC started to use aerated static piles; with negative pressure on piles, air is pulled down to eliminate uncontrolled and untreated air. In 1996, CGC entered into a "consent decree" to resolve ongoing problems. Meanwhile, CGC was receiving more and more yard waste. In 1997, incoming waste has increased 15 to 20% over 1996.

Dan said we need longer-term, regional solutions. He said the current problems are related to technology and design capacity. Fundamentally, too much is brought to the site. PSAPCA has issued four notices of violation since April, one of which was a nuisance violation. CGC was fined \$490,000 and appealed to the Washington State Pollution Control Hearings Board.

CGC had a permit application pending with DDES for ____ soils; when the Health Department asserted there was a need for a Health Department permit, as well, CGC withdrew its application.

Dan said he could not speak to the issues in negotiation between CGC and PSAPCA.

Leonard asked whether CGC was the only landfill of this type around here. Dan said CGC's operation is probably the largest of its type in the nation. The next largest was Northwest Cascade, in Pierce County, which was shut down last year.

The four recent notices of violation were: two for violations of the "consent decree"; one was about failure to handle incoming materials within eight hours of receipt; and one was a public nuisance finding, after an inspector confirmed the odors from the site impacted the enjoyment of life and property.

Greg said the absentee rate at Maple Hills School is not significantly greater due to CGC. He said the EPA is aware of molds in the air and says they are not different than others.

Someone in the audience reported that CGC odors were observed near the Renton Airport for three days recently. Greg said the "zone of influence" has been greater for the last 18 months or so, reaching six, seven, eight miles.

The preferred approach of King County government is to recycle. If CGC lacks sufficient capacity, then materials should go to other, smaller facilities in King County and adjacent counties or have emergency measures to exempt yard waste from being treated as regular waste or garbage.

Someone in the audience asked what has changed at CGC in the last 18 months. Dan said that current investigations have identified 15 major and minor sources of odors at CGC, including ponds, ten-week old

debris, fresh debris, and failure to use air scrubbers. He said that, as odors move throughout the community, they change. The problem is to get a representative sample of an odor with 15 sources. He said the focus has been on management practices and the quantity of waste. He said the process of reclamation from primary to secondary, done at four weeks, is odorous. He noted that total volume at the site is down as more material is processed more rapidly.

Someone in the audience asked why King County would issue a permit to a company causing this much distress in the community, noting she had to leave home for three hours Sunday because of sinus trouble and asthma and that she was starting a class suit. Everett said, because of a pending suit, none of the speakers could answer her question.

A member of the audience from Maple Hills said the children get off of school buses holding their noses.

A woman in the Lake McDonald-Lake Kathleen area said asthma was a problem, she throws up, can't have barbecues, and her daughter refuses to build a home on the lot next door.

Someone in the audience, who lives on 159th, on the backside of CGC, said, late at night, he can hear beepers going off, sometimes as late as midnight, then smells odors the next morning. He noted the movement of material to Stoneway. Dan said that finished compost is unregulated, so material can be moved to Stoneway, 1/4th mile west of CGC, to be sold to nurseries and the public. He said that, as recently as Sunday, a complaint was received about noise at the site, followed by odors. Between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. shredding can be done. From 7 p.m. until 11 p.m. secondary operations are allowed, including screening, repair of environmental control equipment, and limited acceptance of material. He said there should be no back-up beeper noise after 11 p.m.

Dan said PSAPCA is the primary agency to handle odor problems and the Health Department regulates CGC's hours of operation, to call himself, (206) 296-4575, or Greg, (206) 296-0189, to register a complaint.

Everett said he would advertise the numbers and send them to all who signed in at the meeting. About 50% of the audience reads the South County Journal, one person reads the Issaquah Journal, five to seven read the Seattle Post-Intelligencer. Someone said that it takes 20 minutes on the phone to lodge a complaint.

4. Cedar Hills Regional Landfill. This Thursday is the kickoff meeting for the comprehensive plan. The "stakeholders" are county and suburban governments, commercial haulers, and labor unions. Now there is competition from private sector haulers, so the county government is evaluating private ownership of solid waste handling. The county government wants to ensure that there is a good source of revenue to maintain the landfill after it is closed. It also wants to ensure that rates for garbage remain stable.

Everett noted that the county government does not include as "stakeholders" citizens who live in unincorporated areas and self-haulers. About one-third of the audience indicated they are self-haulers. Ann said that the county government represents unincorporated areas, a comment met with widespread expressions of disbelief by the audience. Everett said we are the hosts to the landfill. Bob noted that we have no power, so the landfill was pushed on us. He added that it is already filled beyond its design.

Someone in attendance asked when the landfill will be filled. Ann said the projected time of closure is 2014. Everett said the closing date was pushed to a later date because Seattle pulled out. Pat asked whether the county will keep the transfer stations open. Ann said the matter was being looked at, saying it depends on tonnage. Someone in the audience said that the Factoria station closes at 5 p.m. on weekends, which he said was too early.

Someone in the audience asked whether the landfill plans to expand. Everett said yes, it was one of four options under consideration, noting the final EIS was to be issued at the end of August.

5. UAC Newsletter. Jack read his proposed resolution: Whereas the first issue of the Four Creeks UAC Newsletter has been successfully published; whereas much time and effort was required to produce this

newsletter; whereas the excellence of the result was due to the work of J. Patrick Spencer; THEREFORE be it resolved that J. Patrick Spencer be honored and commended by this Council for a job well done. It passed unanimously. 9,600 copies of the newsletter were sent. Everett thanked Ron Sims for the printing, DDES for the mailing list, and Brian Derdowski, who paid for the postage.

6. Election. Everett encouraged people attending the meeting to run for UAC positions.

7. Transfer of Development Rights Program. Our comments about the Transfer of Development Rights Program ("TDR") are due on Thursday. The program is to discourage development of rural land by selling the rights. Everett said that, at one time our area was considered as a receiving area in the TDR. Soos Creek is still a receiving area. Even with the TDR, one can still utilize the normal re-zoning process with no extra payment for development rights. Everett asked for comments by the UAC members. Ray said that, since we are not affected by the program, we have nothing to gain or lose. Pat said we should not lose sight of the goal, to preserve 20- and 40-acres sites. He said he tends to favor the farmland preservation done in the 1970's, noting there were problems in the details of the TDR. Everett asked if the UAC wanted to make a comment to the effect that, for the TDR to work, the county must become less flexible than it is, creating an incentive to use the TDR. Ray said the county government has the right to control zoning, and it would not be surrendered. Everett concluded the UAC did not want to comment about the TDR.

8. Newcastle Annexation. Pat noted Newcastle plans to annex 40 acres and provided a copy of the letter he wrote.

9. Miscellaneous Matters. Everett read off three or four pending matters in our area, short plats and communication towers. Leonard noted construction of the tower at the gas station on the Renton-Issaquah Road [approved on July 31st] was already completed.

Someone said there was to be new access to Maple Hills to facilitate development. Everett said we can still have projects eliminated from the Transportation Needs Report Summary.

Someone in attendance said 148th and Sunset needs a stoplight because there are many accidents there. Rich said the Y intersection into Maple Valley needs to be changed.

The meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathryn J. Kaluzny, Secretary