

PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1 OF CLALLAM COUNTY
MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION OF
THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
June 24, 2009

A work session of the Board of Commissioners of Public Utility District No. 1 of Clallam County was held at the Port Angeles Office, 2431 East Highway 101, on the above date commencing at 9 a.m. The purpose of the work session was to discuss the Carlsborg Sewer Project, the recommendations of the Consultant, and the public response received at the public meeting of June 18.

Commissioners present were: W.E. Purser, President; Hugh Haffner, Vice President; Ted E. Simpson, Jr., Secretary

Staff present: Doug Nass, General Manager; Nicole Clark, Executive Assistant; Mike Kitz, Water and Wastewater Systems Superintendent; Tom Martin, Water and Wastewater Systems Assistant Superintendent; Dennis Shaw, General Superintendent

Others present: Carol Creasey, Clallam County Environmental Planner; Jim Jones, Clallam County Administrator; Mike Chapman, Commissioner Clallam County; John Wilson, BHC Consulting; Bob Wheeler, Triangle Associates

The public meeting on the Carlsborg Sewer Project was held on June 18 at Greywolf Elementary in Carlsborg. There were 75 to 100 members of the public present; many from the Parkwood development. The majority of those who voiced any comments were not in support of the project. There were some who expressed that they might support it, but would need to know the cost in order to decide.

The consensus from those present at the work session was that there should not be another public meeting until all available funding sources have been identified so that the cost to the rate payers is minimized and an accurate cost can be identified. General Manager Nass said that of all the current District priority projects, the Carlsborg Sewer Project is the one that most needs funding since it cannot go forward without it. There was agreement that a considerable amount of public education needs to go out about the value of the Urban Growth District (UGA) and the ramifications to the area if the UGA status is removed. The Growth Hearings Board would return the area to pre-1990 R-5 zoning and many property owners would find themselves unable to develop their land. Existing residences and buildings on properties, if identified as nonconforming, may be moved out of Limited Area of More Intense Rural Development (LAMIRD) status and would be at risk if they were more than 50 percent destroyed as they would not be allowed to rebuild. Property values would be affected and existing septic systems would be subject to new regulations for inspection. A failed system might not be able to be replaced if it were on a non-conforming property. Water and Wastewater Systems Assistant Superintendent Tom Martin said that it is important that area residents understand that the matter is one of "pay now or pay later." Residents may believe that their septic systems are operating fine if they see no visible signs of trouble but for the purposes of state regulations and groundwater contamination, they might not pass inspection. There have been septic workshops held recently to educate the public but they have been sparsely attended. The Carlsborg Sewer Project is needed just to maintain the UGA in its current state. Mike Chapman said that the County's position is in support of the UGA and that a lot of time and money has been spent in defending its status. The County has an October deadline to show a sewer facilities and funding plan for the entire UGA in the next 20 years. He said that as the policy makers, the County and District now need to take the consultant's preview draft plan and craft something to take back to the public that is a better fit for our community.

Commissioner Purser was concerned about the ability to pursue funding applications without a commitment to the project. General Manager Nass suggested that the County and District could pass a resolution of intent, with a contingency of moving forward based on funding availability. Jim Jones offered that the County could take the lead on grant writing work as its area of expertise while the District focused on the utility and technical side of the plan. General Manager Nass said that the facilities plan will need to be completed including the archeological, biological, hydrological and NEPA work in order to apply for funding. Mike Chapman asked that County and District staff work together with the consultant to develop the next scope of work for completing the draft facilities plan and bring the information for approval. Jim Jones asked to see a proposal for completing the plan at different cost levels along with associated levels of risk for approval or denial of grant funds. Some grant opportunities have deadlines sooner than we could produce a fully satisfactorily complete plan. In these cases, the applications will need to be submitted, and some entities may allow for the application to be updated as new information becomes available. The work session recessed at 11:30 a.m.