

THE SECOND FORUM

TO ADDRESS ILLEGAL DUMPING & LITTERING IN ISLAND COUNTY

Sponsored by: **The Island County Environmental Health Assessment Team (EHAT)**

Date: Tuesday, October 26, 2004

Time: 8:00am – 10:00am

Location: Coupeville Recreation Hall, Coupeville, WA

Present: Steve Almon (Chief of Police-OH), Terri Arnold (Island County Parks), Greg Banks (IC Prosecutor), Michael Barenburg (Environmental Health Dept), Steve Bebee (City of Oak Harbor), Commissioner Bill Byrd, Lori Clark (Environmental Health Dept), Patty Cohen (Mayor of Oak Harbor), Nancy Conard (Mayor of Coupeville), Nancy Farnsworth (EHAT Staff), Janet Hall (WSU Waste Wise), Keith Higman (Environmental Health Director), Matt Kukuk (Island County Planning Dept), Mark Lathrop (EHAT), Commissioner Mac McDowell, Marshall Lenny Marlborough (Coupeville Marshall, Meth Action Team), Tim McDonald (ICHHD Director), Laurie Mosolino (EHAT), Jim Patton (EHAT), Marie Piper (EHAT), Linda Rhodes (EHAT), Reece Rose (EHAT), WGH Commissioner Barbara Saugen, Celine Servatius (EHAT Staff), Don Souza (District Mgr- Island County Recycling), Chris Spencer (IC Planning/Enforcement)

Excused: Paul Brewer (Navy Recycling), Dave and Jill Campbell (Island Recycling), Commissioner Mike Shelton

Call to Order: Mayor Nancy Conard chaired meeting, and called to order the scheduled meeting on Illegal Dumping in Island County at 8:07am.

Agenda Items:

1. Opening Remarks, Purpose of Forum, and Review of Packet Contents

- a) Mayor Nancy Conard chaired the meeting. Everyone was welcomed and thanked for attending.
- b) The purpose of the forum is to establish an action plan of solutions, to address illegal dumping and littering in Island County.

- c) A brief summary of the first Forum was given. They met on July 20, 2004, and the members identified 3 areas as barriers to properly disposing of waste. The areas to address interventions are: Education, Economics, and Enforcement.
- d) Celine Servatius briefly reviewed the handouts provided.

2. Introductions

- a) Attendees briefly introduced themselves, including their name and organization they represented.

3. Problem Statement: EHAT presentation of local solid waste data

- a) EHAT member Linda Rhodes presented PowerPoint a review of illegal dumping data obtained from the Health Department.
- b) Attendees were provided a handout of the slide presentation, which showed trends of solid waste in the county.
- c) Presentation discussed the data findings, and noted that solid waste trends show an increase in illegal dumping of automotive, household, disease vector, appliances, and construction/ demolition items.

4. Quick Review of Gaps and Barriers Identified in First Forum

- a) The 3 categories identified in the first forum as “barriers” to doing the “right thing” with solid waste in county were: Education, Economics, Enforcement.

5. Break into small groups (Education, Enforcement, Economics) to identify potential solutions partnerships using structured brainstorming exercise

- a) The forum members broke up into three groups to address individual issue that they wanted to seek solutions.
- b) Brainstorming session/15 minutes: write down all the ideas, no discussing at this point, all suggestions are written down.
- c) Discussion sessions/8 minutes: Discuss ideas; briefly explain ideas to other group members if some ideas require clarification. Group members choose the top three ideas to present for solution to entire forum.

6. Small groups report to larger group of their suggested solutions (Top 3 ideas should be realistic and sustainable)

- a) Each group chose an individual to report their findings to the forum members.
- b) The individual groups presented their top 3 potential interventions for Education, Economics, and Enforcement.

7. Build consensus about what we can implement now to make a difference in this issue

- a) The Forum members discussed the presentations, and established a draft action plan to address the 3 barriers to illegal dumping and littering in Island County.
- b) **The Draft Action Plan** includes 3 potential solutions for each barrier in Education, Economics, Enforcement.
- c) **EDUCATION:**

1) Develop a method to allow reporting of illegal dumping and littering

- a) Provide information to public and answer questions about how to properly dispose of waste and resources that are available (education component).
- b) Offer Local Hotline Number
- c) Develop a website to report or get information.

2) Adopt the “Litter and It Will Hurt” Program Statewide Program with bags and stickers, involves letters from State Patrol.

3) Outreach – Education Program involving:

- a) Provide education to Schools, Low Income families, Festivals, Food Banks
- b) Landfill Programs (“secure a load”, etc.)
- c) Use media to inform and educate: Broadcasting cable channel, Newspaper
- d) Educate absentee Landowners (encourage them to reduce accessibility to their property)
- e) Start a County-wide Campaign Theme

d) **ECONOMIC/COST:**

- 1) Streamline legislative authority to allow creation of an “illegal dumping fund” (similar to

Skagit County model) and funds collected would be designated for dumping clean-up.

2) Provide Incentives: (Examples)

- a) Surcharge on specific items used for free disposal
- b) Vendor incentives for disposal of replaced products
- c) Oak Harbor: Free Dump Day with 50% of cost absorbed by City of OH and remaining 50% absorbed by Island County
- d) Island County should offer "50% off dump day"
- e) Offer certificate for "free dumping" (dump pass) to each property owner in county that they could use any day of the year...not just only on one day. (The free dump pass could go out with tax stubs each year to property owners.)
- f) Increase availability of litter bags (Maybe work with businesses i.e. fast food restaurants, to offer bags with purchase.
- g) Repay penalties through community service hours (doing "clean-up activities")
- h) Monroe Clean-up Crew (\$250/day for crew of 8) (What about feasibility of using Island County Jail population?)
- i) Educate public on availability of solid waste disposal assistance (i.e. Opportunity Council and Island Disposal)

3) Encourage Service Organizations to help with collection and disposal of waste for economically disadvantaged population.

e) **ENFORCEMENT:**

1) Change the law

- a) Make process administrative vs. judicial (courts)
- b) Increase fines from \$125/day to \$5000
- c) Fines flexible based on seriousness of violation
- d) Fines consistently enforced
- e) Fines collected stay in county

- f) Different fines for dumper vs. innocent property owner
- 2) Streamline process within the Health Department and expand/strengthen enforcement (so that more than 3% of violators receive tickets)
 - a) Issue “warning cards” to properties identified as having solid waste issues
 - b) Use hidden cameras in “hot spots” to identify dumpers
 - c) Use GIS capability to spatially document locations of solid waste violations and “hot spots”
- 3) Implement ‘Litter and It Will Hurt’ program with local hotline number

8. Closing & Adjourn

Mayor Conard thanked forum members for attending and participating.