

working for clean rivers

CLARIFIER

FEBRUARY
2013

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Message From The Director



This week, Environmental Services submitted its requested FY 2013-14 budget to the City Budget Office. As you know, Mayor Hales directed all city bureaus to submit proposals that are 90% of the current budget. That, of course, means that we must propose a 10% cut in our current spending.

The directive to reduce spending means the Bureau Leadership Team has had to make difficult decisions about possible cuts in Environmental Services positions and programs. Every bureau work group is affected by those proposed cuts.

Submitting the requested budget this week is just a step in the budget process. There will be several opportunities for us to discuss budget matters with the Mayor and the City Council before the Mayor releases his proposed budget this spring. I intend to be a strong advocate for important bureau programs and positions, but the reality is some of our identified cuts may not be restored.

The next few months will be challenging for all of us. I never fail to be impressed by the energy, skill and expertise that Environmental Services employees bring to their jobs. I want you to know that I believe strongly in our mission and I have the utmost admiration for the valuable work all of you do.

Dean C. Mauris



ASFO Satisfaction

Portland has completed the last legal requirement in the 20-year CSO control program. Dean Marriott briefed the Portland City Council last week on the program's successful completion.

Environmental Services completed CSO construction and activated the Willamette River tunnel system before the state-mandated deadline of December 1, 2011. The ASFO, the bureau's legal agreement with the Department of

Environmental Quality, required a final report twelve months after the deadline that demonstrates that CSO controls work and meet DEQ requirements. BES submitted the final compliance report in December 2012. You can review it at www.portlandoregon.gov/bes/article/427413.



Legislative Liaison

The 2013 Oregon Legislative Session began this week and, of course, the main focus is the budget. The Governor's recommended budget includes increased funding for the natural resource agencies on which we depend, but the Legislature has also asked each department to offer up 15% cuts to their lottery and general fund budgets. The bureau has worked with the Portland's Governmental Relations staff to make sure they understand how important the work of these agencies is to us, and city lobbyists are working on our behalf.

Aside from the budget, we expect many bills will be introduced that relate to our work. The bureau has a process to gather and provide information to Governmental Relations. Our legislative liaison, Alice Brawley-Chesworth, reviews bills and contacts bureau experts before passing a summary along to Governmental Relations and answering their questions. This system helps guarantee that the bureau has a consistent, cohesive position on bills. Our bureau is so varied, with so many interests, that it's especially important that we maintain this one point of contact so that the interests of all bureau groups are adequately represented.

What does this mean for you?

- If Alice contacts you about a bill, please read the bill carefully and reply as quickly and thoroughly as you can.
- If you are contacted by anyone outside the bureau for your professional opinion as a bureau employee about a bill, contact Alice before providing any information.
- If you are asked to testify about a bill in Salem or do any lobbying as a representative of the City, contact Alice. Coordination with Governmental Relations is vital!



Stewardship Grants

Environmental Services is inviting proposals for community-based projects that benefit neighborhoods and improve watershed health in Portland. The Community Watershed Stewardship Program (CWSP) provides grants of up to \$10,000, subject to 2013-2014 budget approval. Applications are due by Friday, March 29.

Since 1999, CWSP has granted nearly \$1 million to 213 projects. CWSP funds have been matched by \$3.6 million in community support through donations of services, materials and volunteer time. Over 43,000 people have donated 325,000 volunteer hours, planted 147,000 native plants and trees, restored over 190 acres of riparian and upland habitat, and enhanced over 10 miles of streams.

More information and application forms are available at www.portlandoregon.gov/bes/stewardship.



Planting Day for Our Happy Block (2011-12 project)



Division Streetscape Work Starts Soon

Construction starts this spring on the Division Streetscape Project. The project, a partnership between Environmental Services and the Portland Bureau of Transportation, will take about 18 months to complete. There will be streetscape, stormwater management, and sewer system improvements on SE Division from SE 11th Avenue to SE Cesar Chavez Boulevard.

New green infrastructure will manage stormwater runoff from streets and improve watershed health. Replacing aging sewer lines and manholes will relieve sewer backups and increase sewer system reliability. Environmental Services will construct 55 green street facilities, plant 124 street trees, replace over 4,900 feet of sewer pipe in poor condition, and replace 32 manholes.



Additional green infrastructure coming to Division Street

Streetscape improvements will increase safety, access, and visibility for pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit users, improve traffic operations through the corridor and provide on-street parking. Project information, maps and construction schedules are posted at www.portlandoregon.gov/bes/streetscape.



Art Loving Volunteers Needed

The Art Deco Committee is looking for new energy. For over 20 years, the employee committee has scheduled events to raise funds that help purchase artwork displayed in buildings where BES staff work.

Art Deco is responsible for most of the artwork you see on the walls or shelves of your workplace. The committee is looking for new members who have an interest in organizing events like candy sales, photo contests and other great ideas to raise money. Committee members then scour art sales and events to purchase inexpensive artwork for our buildings.

With the new treatment plant engineering building opening later this year, we have more space to fill with art. If Art Deco sounds worthwhile and fun to you, please contact Brett Hulstrom at 3-7807 or brett.hulstrom@portlandoregon.gov for more information.



Letterhead Changes

This week, Mayor Hales became the Commissioner-in-charge of Environmental Services and all other city bureaus while the Mayor and City Council develop the city's FY 2013-2014 budget.

The Communications Division revised bureau letterhead templates to show that the Mayor is acting as our Commissioner-in-charge. The new templates are available now in BES Public Folders/ Letterheads. The folder also contains the document "Please read about letterhead" which contains instructions and tips for letterhead use. Please use the revised templates and be careful not to cut and paste new text into old letterhead templates.

New Templates in BES Public Folders

- Bureau letterhead
- CBWTP letterhead
- TCWTP letterhead
- WPCL letterhead
- MTL letterhead
- BES-BDS letterhead

★ New Stars



The Environmental Services Recognition Committee circulates eight Shining Star Awards throughout the bureau. Employees give them to co-workers to recognize outstanding achievement and notable performance on the job. Recipients display the Shining Star on their desk for two months, then pass it on.

The Shining Star acknowledges achievements and good work that might otherwise go unnoticed in a bureau as large as BES. When it's time to pass on your Shining Star, consider employees in all groups, as well as your own work team or group.

Here is a list of new Shining Stars.

Andrew Knight	Shining Star # 1	to Rob George
Jennifer Karps	Shining Star # 2	to Matt Burlin
Mark Chang	Shining Star # 3	to Tina Wilson
Colleen Harold	Shining Star # 4	to Chuck Crawley
Colleen Mitchell	Shining Star # 5	to Marc Peters
Chris Collett	Shining Star # 6	to Aimee Dexter
Duane Linnertz	Shining Star # 7	to Peter Abrams
Randy Hess	Shining Star # 8	to Mary King

Read more about this awards program at www.portlandoregon.gov/bes/stars

Wellness Tip

Many studies indicate that social connections through family, friends or with companion animals can improve health and prolong life. Studies show that people who get out and spend more time with others during cold and flu season don't get sick as often as people who choose to be alone.

Learn more about your coworkers on the BES intranet at TEAM BES.

Read about your teammates and review past profiles on the BES intranet at www.portlandonline.com/bes/teambes.

Contact your PEERs

PEERs are specially trained Environmental Services staff volunteers who are available to offer bureau employees support, guidance and referral. [Click here to learn more or to contact a PEER volunteer.](#)



ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
CITY OF PORTLAND
working for clean rivers



Our Mission

Environmental Services serves the Portland community by protecting public health, water quality and the environment.

We provide sewage and stormwater collection and treatment services to accommodate Portland's current and future needs.

We protect the quality of surface and ground waters and conduct activities that plan and promote healthy ecosystems in our watersheds.

Our Vision

To be recognized as a trusted service provider and innovative environmental leader through a demonstrated commitment to clean rivers, healthy watersheds and our community.

Environmental Services: www.portlandoregon.gov/bes
Dan Saltzman, Commissioner Dean Marriott, Director

Produced electronically OD 2013