

Drainage District Discussed at Presidents' Meeting

by Beverly Browne, Editor

Annexation of South Bay to the North Bay Drainage District was the topic of a panel discussion at the Bay Club in February. Speakers were Walter Cairns, Commissioner of the Drainage District; Nancy Lockett, Civil Engineer for Gray and Osborne; Jim Pearson, Project Engineer for Jefferson County Department of Public Works; and Pat Pearson, Water Quality Agent from Washington State University. The objective of the meeting was to provide information about the Drainage District to aid decisions about whether the South Bay should become a member.

Association presidents and other attendees learned that the Port Ludlow Drainage District (PLDD) was the result of a 1999 petition of the Ludlow Maintenance Commission (LMC) Board. Trustees and residents were concerned about drainage problems in North Bay related to handling storm water runoff with drainage ditches and culverts. The vote and formation took place in 2000 with the encouragement of Jefferson County.

The District has a Board of three elected officers who serve for a term of six years each. The terms are staggered so that one commissioner is elected every two years. If South Bay elects to join the District, a commissioner would represent it. The District has a number of powers, most importantly the ability to engage in drainage, storm water, and surface water control and construct and maintain projects that offer further control.

Residents are assessed for the operation according to District. Assessments are based on the ratio of benefit that households in the zone obtain and on the amount of impervious surface represented. The real property that receives greater benefit or uses more of the resources pays a greater proportion of the cost. Special assessments may be levied to pay for construction, repair or maintenance of facilities and operations. The District also has the ability to acquire loans, which it has done in the past. The Seattle engineering firm of Gray and Osborne is hired for larger projects and storm water monitoring.

The South Bay has a somewhat different situation than in North Bay because the system is newer. By the time South Bay was developed, regulations had changed and tightened. The newer system relies on detention ponds that allow filtering and settling before water runs into the Bay. During the question-and-answer session, some attendees expressed disbelief in the advantages of joining the PLDD given that drainage issues in South Bay do not approach the severity of the earlier development. Others noted that changes in regulatory conditions could change that situation.

Head-on Collision Impacts Local Recycling

by Steve Failla, PLVC Recycling Chair

Conrad Dickey, the Skookum Recycling truck driver, was seriously injured on February 10 in a head-on collision with a gravel truck on Highway 101 during a snowstorm. At this writing he is in Harborview Hospital and will likely survive but probably will never be able to work again. Conrad, his wife Stephanie, and 11-year-old daughter are Port Hadlock residents.

This accident had a very detrimental effect on our recycling program in Port Ludlow. The Skookum truck was totaled and the change-out bin for cardboard was destroyed. Skookum is attempting to replace both as soon as possible. Fortunately Skookum and Murray Disposal help each other out. Since Murray has two trucks, whenever they have one available, they will pick up at Skookum's sites. So at the best, our pickup service is intermittent, and no cardboard bin is on site at times.

Everyone Can Help:

- Leave absolutely nothing on the ground. Let us not repeat our year-end performance, which not only was disgraceful, but drastically slowed down the pick-up process.
- If the bin is full, take your recyclables home and try again.
- Break down all cardboard. One unflattened box will take the room of ten or more flattened ones.
- Flatten all of your plastic bottles underfoot and put the caps in your garbage since they are not recyclable.
- Flatten beverage cans. Likewise, many tin cans can be opened at both ends then flattened.
- If you are going to Port Townsend or Poulsbo, take your recyclables with you.
- As a last alternative, you might have to put some recyclables in your garbage.

Conrad has been a good and reliable driver, serving Port Ludlow and Skookum's other communities. He and his family will be in for some very difficult financial times. If you feel inclined to help his family, you can write a tax-deductible check to Skookum, Inc., a 501(c)(3) corporation with the notation "Conrad Dickey Fund." Mail to Skookum, Inc., P.O. Box 1159, Port Townsend, WA 98368.

Thank you for both your recycling help and your contributions to Conrad and his family.