

**King County Solid Waste Advisory Committee
September 15, 2017 - 9:00 a.m. to 11:25 a.m.
King Street Center 8th Floor Conference Center**

Final Meeting Minutes

Members Present	King County Staff	Others
April Atwood – Vice Chair	Jamey Barker	Cynthia Foley, Sound Cities Association
Elly Bunzendahl	Jenny Devlin	Karl Hufnagel, Parametrix
Joe Casalini	Beth Humphreys	Heather Trim, Zero Waste Washington
Gib Dammann	Morgan John	
Karen Dawson	Ross Marzolf	
Jean Garber	Pat McLaughlin	
Kim Kaminski	Meg Moorehead	
Kevin Kelly – Chair	Yolanda Pon	
Keith Livingston	Terra Rose	
Barbara Ristau		
Stephen Strader		
Penny Sweet		

Election of Chair and Vice Chair

After calling the meeting to order, Chair Jean Garber called for the election of the new Chair and Vice Chair of SWAC. Barbara Ristau nominated Kevin Kelly for Chair and Kim Kaminski seconded the nomination. Joe Casalini nominated himself for Chair. Through a count of secret ballots, Kelly won the position.

Penny Sweet then nominated Joe Casalini for Vice Chair and Ristau nominated April Atwood. Through a count of secret ballots, Atwood won the position. The new Chair and Vice Chair took their positions for the duration of the meeting following farewell comments by Garber and thanks and well wishes from various members and SWD staff.

Minutes:

There were three requested minor edits to the August SWAC minutes by Jean Garber, Gib Dammann, and Kim Kaminski. The edits were approved, then minutes were unanimously approved.

Updates

SOLID WASTE DIVISION (SWD)

Regional Organics

SWD Director Pat McLaughlin and other SWD staff have been meeting with local haulers and processors to discuss solutions to a concerning lack of system capacity to manage organic material diverted from the landfill.

Waste to Energy Study

The final report of the Waste to Energy study by Normandeau Associates, is expected to be completed and available for review when the draft Comp Plan is ready for review by the advisory committees on September 29. The study is an important component of the biggest policy decision the final Comp Plan must make: the division's long term disposal method. SWD is prepared to make a presentation about the study to the advisory committees at the October meetings. This study will be presented alongside other well-researched long-term waste disposal options to provide the public and policy makers a complete picture of the options available so the decision outlined in the final Comp Plan is the best option for the county.

The public comment period for the draft Comp Plan is currently scheduled to last between December 11 and February 9. SWAC members will have the opportunity to provide input on disposal and other Comp Plan content during committee discussions this Fall and again during public review in December into February.

Demand Management Legislation

The County Executive has transmitted a recommendation to County Council to cancel the Demand Management study and begin siting a new Northeast Transfer Station. Council proceedings on the legislation will be open to the public on September 27 at 9:30 a.m. Then, the Bellevue City Council will have until October 31 to sign an Interlocal Agreement with SWD to continue participation in the regional disposal system, otherwise the Demand Management study must resume.

Factoria Recycling and Transfer Station Opening

The Opening Celebration of the new Factoria Recycling and Transfer Station will occur on October 23 at 10:00 a.m. Guided walking tours of the facility will begin after speeches by dignitaries and an opening ceremony. Speakers include County Executive Dow Constantine, County Councilmember Claudia Balducci, City of Bellevue Mayor John Stokes, and SWD Director Pat McLaughlin.

Waste Acceptance Policy

The next phase of the new Waste Acceptance Policy goes into effect this week. The phase restricts disposal of sharps, ballast lighting, tanks for compressed gas. The next phase of restrictions begins on January 1 when self-haulers will be asked to use available on-site recycling services for any recyclable materials they bring to dispose. SWD staff will be on hand at every facility offering recycling services to offer education and assistance. When it is possible to identify transfer station customers who are not following the new policies, letters with information about the new policy will be mailed to encourage compliance.

The Next SWAC Meeting

SWAC voted to schedule the October meeting for October 20 9:30 – 12:30, adding an extra hour at the end of the meeting for further draft Comp Plan discussion. SWAC members are also invited to attend the October MSMWAC meeting to hear the discussion there and ask questions. To avoid "*word-smithing* by committee", SWAC members are invited to phone and/or email SWD to discuss suggested grammatical edits with a reminder that proposed changes to policies will need to be reserved for an advisory committee meeting.

Chair Kelly requested SWD send an email to SWAC detailing a calendar of dates important to SWAC members.

MSWMAC Update

MSWMAC Chair Penny Sweet announced there was no September MSWMAC meeting scheduled so there are no MSWMAC updates to share.

Anaerobic Digestion Presentation

Morgan John, SWD staff, presented on research of potential anaerobic digestion (AD) options should SWD decide to pursue AD management of organic waste. SWD hired HDR Engineering to perform the research and write the study. AD is an appealing option in that it compresses the volume of waste, reduces problems associated with putrescence, and generates biogas – a renewable energy with revenue benefits; however, AD is a finicky technology. An AD solution must be carefully crafted to match feedstock and pre-processing systems.

Per a recent waste characterization study of SWD's municipal solid waste (MSW) stream, 52 percent of what is disposed is organic material: 20 percent is food waste, 17 percent is wood and yard waste, and 15 percent is other organic waste such as textiles, leather, and animal waste and carcasses.

Currently, there are several long-standing privately-owned companies handling source-separated organics (SSO, wherein customers keep organic waste out of the MSW stream prior to collection). These companies receive food and yard waste from commercial, industrial, and residential providers and are already doing a good job despite capacity constraints and market-demand for their end-products.

The AD study describes the two different systems handling organic waste in King County – the private sector handling SSO; and SWD handling organics that are mixed with MSW. While the study describes that private sector system, its material, and possible private-sector AD solutions, it does not suggest that SWD take any SSO to use in a public-sector AD solution. The study's recommendations leave these systems intact wherein the private sector might add AD to their SSO processing, while SWD focuses on managing food waste mixed with MSW through potential partnerships and technology capabilities.

The study identified several local AD pilot programs currently underway or recently completed. Each of those pilot programs provided additional useful information on the applicability of AD, issues arising from the quality of the feedstock, and the performance of various technologies.

John noted three key themes the division must be mindful of when considering potential partnerships; namely that local entities currently handling organics remain focused on their core business lines be it creating compost or treating wastewater solids, typically they are protective of the source and quality of their feedstocks, and they are reluctant to pursue AD facility development.

Joe Casalini noted it ought to be easy to determine whom is mixing food waste with MSW when commercial haulers visit transfer stations; each hauler follows a route on any given day and it is possible to identify which small businesses, for example, on a route would be a likely source for large amounts of food waste co-mingled with MSW. He suggested sending a letter to small businesses as a way of education.

Keith Livingston asked about odors emanating from small digesters, such as those from Impact BioEnergy Inc. John explained they are enclosed systems and do not seem to emit odors, unlike the AD system tried at the Pike Place Market to manage food waste from 19 nearby sources; which had to shut down due to odor issues. Kelly concurred, the Impact BioEnergy systems are odorless. Karen Dawson noted the food waste digester that was at the Pike Place Market was a different system than the Impact BioEnergy system, and typically the act of composting neutralizes odors from decomposing organic materials. Gib Dammann said of the residential food waste AD system on Vashon Island: the smellier the material, the better the gas production but that mixing anaerobic digested material with material that is aerobically digested may alleviate some odor issues.

Karen Dawson noted jurisdictions ought to be using locally made compost in their projects. Kelly noted farmers in eastern Washington are a ready market for compost except for the issue of contamination; farmers cannot use something that has 1 percent contamination.

John presented two types of AD systems –“Dry AD” which uses a drier feedstock that is “stackable” in a bunker; and “Wet AD” which digests a liquid slurry in an enclosed tank. Each type can be used with a variety of feedstocks; each requires particular preparation and decontamination. In both cases there are complicated issues such as the importance of pre-processing – removing as many contaminants as possible, the costs of maintaining and cleaning equipment, and finding markets for the end-products. Separating organic material from MSW is a costly, unproven, and complex challenge at this point in time.

Elly Bunzendahl asked if anyone was working with bag manufacturers because they are responsible for a lot of the plastic that ends up in compost. Dawson noted that the topic will be discussed at length at an upcoming Zero Waste Washington conference on plastics. She also noted that while no one likes plastic in their compost, it is harmless. She reports the City of Seattle is working with manufacturers of green produce bags to get them to not be green since consumers typically think green plastic bags mean they are compostable. Kelly noted that there is a difference between the terms *biodegradable* and *compostable*; anything can be eventually biodegradable, but not everything can be compostable, which is the important term to look for when shopping for packaging that will decay.

John reports that HDR prepared numerous different AD scenarios for SWD to consider. HDR then prepared a report detailing economic analysis and greenhouse gas impacts of three selected scenarios. The scenarios include: 8 small, dispersed, on-site digestion units; AD at a wastewater treatment digester; and a dedicated digester at a SWD facility capable of diverting a certain tonnage per year from the landfill. HDR prepared economic and greenhouse gas analyses for each scenario including capital and operating costs. Casalini said it would be helpful

to see a table showing the costs per ton. Stephen Stradler said it would be useful to see how much revenue could be achieved under each scenario. John said that information it is in the final report which will soon be posted on SWD's website.

John concluded his presentation on a discouraging note: processing the organic fraction of MSW is too costly, complex, and experimental for SWD to pursue at this time.

Dammann suggested King County have restaurants make a fourth waste bin available for consumers to put food waste. Kelly did not think that idea would get around contamination issues. Dammann noted that Vashon's food waste AD project kept seven tons out of the waste stream without even trying.

Open Forum

Stradler saw a truck on his way to the meeting with a sign that said "Styrofoam is the new green" and he wondered if there was something new he had not heard about. Pat McLaughlin said he will include an update on Styrofoam when the September minutes are distributed.

Heather Trim announced Zero Waste WA is [hosting a Plastics Summit on September 25](#) in Tukwila. Tickets are available at [Brown Paper Tickets](#).