

# Metropolitan Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee

April 10, 2015 - 11:15 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
King Street Center 8<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room

## Meeting Minutes

<b><u>Members</u></b>	
Bill Pelosa, Chair	<i>Auburn</i>
Joan Nelson	<i>Auburn</i>
Susan Fife-Ferris	<i>Bellevue</i>
Joyce Nichols	<i>Bellevue</i>
Sabrina Combs	<i>Bothell</i>
Brian Roberts	<i>Burien</i>
Barre Seibert	<i>Clyde Hill</i>
Chris Searcy	<i>Enumclaw</i>
Rob Van Orsow	<i>Federal Way</i>
Gina Hungerford	<i>Kent</i>
Jenna Higgins	<i>Kirkland</i>
Mary Jane Goss	<i>Lake Forest Park</i>
Diana Pistoll	<i>Maple Valley</i>
Carol Simpson	<i>Newcastle</i>
Stacia Jenkins	<i>Normandy Park</i>
Jerallyn Roetemeyer	<i>Redmond</i>
Gary Schimek	<i>Redmond</i>
Linda Knight	<i>Renton</i>
Beth Goldberg	<i>Sammamish</i>
Chris Eggen, Vice Chair	<i>Shoreline</i>
Rika Cecil	<i>Shoreline</i>
Uki Dele	<i>Shoreline</i>
Paula Waters	<i>Woodinville</i>
Zach Schmitz	<i>Woodinville</i>

<b><u>King County Staff</u></b>
Alejandra Calderon, SWD Staff
Anna Fleming, SWD Staff
Jeff Gaisford, SWD Recycling & Environmental Services Manager
Beth Humphreys, SWD Staff
Kevin Kiernan, SWD Assistant Director
Josh Marx, SWD Staff
Laila McClinton, SWD Staff
Bill Reed, SWD Staff
Diane Yates, SWD Staff

<b><u>Guests</u></b>
Lyset Cadena, SCA
David Della, Waste Management
Kevin Kelly, Recology CleanScapes
Ben Thompson, Auditor's office

## **Minutes & Agenda Review**

The March minutes were approved as written.

## **Updates**

### SWD

The 7<sup>th</sup> floor of King Street Center is being reconfigured over the course of the next few months. SWD staff will be moving in stages to temporary spaces on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, and then eventually back to the 7<sup>th</sup> floor. Please continue to come to the reception desk on the 7<sup>th</sup> floor.

The King County Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) facilities received a “Leader in Sustainability” award from Call2Recycle for the large number of recyclable batteries and cell phones collected in 2014. The Factoria and Wastemobile facilities received more than 10,000 pounds of recyclable batteries and cell phones that may have otherwise ended up in the garbage and represented a 77 percent increase in pounds collected in 2013.

[Threadcycle](#), a new campaign that educates residents that they can give all their unwanted clothes, shoes, and linens for reuse or recycling, launched on March 1 and will run through June 1. A collaboration between SWD and Seattle Public Utilities, Threadcycle 2015 is a partnership with Big Brothers /Big Sisters of Puget Sound, i:co, Seattle Goodwill, Northwest Center, Salvation Army, Sight Connection, TexGreen, Value Village, and USAgain. Partners promote the campaign message through a wide variety of communications tools.

SWD’s consultant team Colehour + Cohen received a Totem Award from the Public Relations Society of America for the 2014 Compost Days Big Garden Give campaign. The campaign was also awarded “Best in Show,” beating Boeing, Microsoft, and other major company campaigns. The campaign’s addition of a compost drive to raise compost donations to support community gardens that help feed the hungry was one of the reasons it was a standout success.

On April 1, SWD’s Facility Engineering and Science Unit submitted 2014 annual reports for the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill and the Vashon Island Closed Landfill to King County and City of Seattle Public Health and the Washington State Department of Ecology. The reports summarize environmental monitoring at both landfills, disposal fees, tonnage received, as well as remaining capacity for Cedar Hills. They will be available on the division’s website shortly.

Work continues in Bellevue to replace the old Factoria Transfer Station. At the end of March, the foundation of the new transfer building was more than 50 percent complete, a 1.1 million-gallon underground stormwater vault was nearly finished, and the temporary shoring wall between the existing station and the new site was completed. Site preparation work, including grading and leveling, is partially complete and will continue.

A revised site development plan is being developed with the intention of extending the useful life of the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill beyond the year 2040. Its current projected useful life is 2030. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will also be developed. The division expects to select consultants and execute the contract in July, with a preliminary report coming out in October. The project is expected to be complete by the end of 2016.

Discussions continue between the county and the City of Algona regarding the South County Recycling and Transfer Station.

At the request of a member, the City of Bellevue shared an update. In 2013, the Bellevue City Council chose not to sign the Amended and Restated ILA based on information available at that time. The City has continued to participate in the planning process and, as host city of the Factoria Transfer Station, has enjoyed a very good relationship with the division. The new

Factoria Recycling & Transfer Station is being constructed on the same site as the current station and the adjacent division-owned Eastgate property could be surplus after construction is complete. The City of Bellevue has had a long-standing interest in purchasing the Eastgate property and may also be open to discussing signing on to the Amended and Restated ILA.

#### SWAC

MSWMAC Vice Chair and SWAC applicant Chris Eggen provided a brief overview of the March SWAC meeting, which included lively discussion around the Collection and Processing Chapter of the Comp Plan. Comments included:

- Provide a lot of education for the public before mandates are applied.
- The adoption of common approaches to collection would make education efforts more effective.
- High recycling rates do not necessarily imply low levels of waste disposal.
- Enforcing bans and mandates can be difficult.

#### State Legislation

The paint product stewardship bill (HB 1571) did not pass out of the Senate Committee on Energy, Environment and Telecommunications last week, and is effectively dead this year. The bill will be reintroduced next year, first in the Senate. At the request of a member, a list of the Senate committee members will be shared with MSWMAC.

#### **Draft Transfer Plan Review Report: Review/Discussion**

SWD Assistant Director Kevin Kiernan provided a briefing of the [Transfer Plan Review Part 2 Draft Report](#). The [presentation](#) is available on the division's website. The main finding of the report is that there are viable alternatives to building a Northeast transfer station. Discussion included:

- In response to a question about the timeline, Kiernan explained that Houghton is currently scheduled to close by 2023, meaning policy decisions would need to be made on the transfer system before then.
- When asked if there will be a need to revisit the transfer plan again, Kiernan said that plans are based on a set of assumptions and that there is always the possibility of needing to revisit them.
- On page 24 of the report, a member suggested replacing "mandatory curbside garbage collection" with "mandatory curbside collection of garbage, recyclables, and compost."
- One of the potential mitigation strategies is peak pricing, which, as Kiernan explained, could mean varying pricing by location, user, or time of day.
- Kiernan confirmed that if differential pricing were recommended, the financial policies would need to be changed.
- A member noted that the self-haul category includes more than the "weekend warriors." Self-haul customers include large companies, school districts, colleges, cities, and any entity that is not one of the three main commercial haulers.

- A member commented that the “viable options” outlined may not prove to be truly viable in two or three years. To that end, a timeline that includes benchmarks and key dates is requested.
- A member noted that the current draft Comp Plan was developed over the course of eight years, and the county is still operating under the 2001 plan. It is important to ensure the new Comp Plan is valid for a very long time.
- A member commented that discussion of mandates and bans is important, but may not be appropriate to have on a county-wide basis.
- Kiernan confirmed that in addition to city efforts, action in unincorporated King County is necessary to increase diversion rates countywide.
- A member suggested making it more evident in the Executive Summary that all concepts were reviewed with and without the closure of the Renton Transfer Station.
- Kiernan explained that the review focused strictly on transfer station utilization, and how to distribute utilization. Costs to cities and to the environment have not been quantified and taken into consideration in this draft report. Haulers have been consulted regarding cost impacts, but the information is more qualitative than quantitative. Future steps will require an environmental review.
- In light of the potential impacts to Factoria outlined in the report, a member suggested that a separate queue be reserved for the residents of the City of Bellevue, which hosts the Factoria transfer station.
- Concerns about not having an equitable rate structure were expressed.
- Concerns about decreased convenience and increased costs for residents were expressed.
- Kiernan noted that issues exist with any approach, including building a Northeast station.
- Concerns about not having environmental impacts be a part of the initial analysis were expressed.
- Kiernan noted that the timing is partly driven by the council proviso.
- Kiernan explained that the savings due to not incurring capital expenditures as well as the costs of increasing service would be equally distributed. Collection costs, however, would not be equally distributed.
- A member noted that the draft report states that not building a Northeast station would mean resource recovery constraints at Shoreline, and an estimated overall reduction in the recycling rate potential of about one and one-half percent (page 26). This means the landfill could reach capacity earlier than projected. The member asked if it was possible to quantify the cost associated with the landfill’s early closure. Kiernan explained that the next lowest cost disposal alternative would most likely cost \$12-14 per ton more, so the cost could be quantified by looking at a couple months of tonnage.
- A member suggested using “discounted” rather than “peak” pricing in order to attract customers rather than discourage them.
- A member recommended consolidating all financial data into one or two tables in the final report. Converting operating costs, capital costs, and bonding costs to fit a 20-year timeframe would be helpful so that it is easy to grasp what the true costs are and how they will be distributed to ratepayers. Being able to identify the financial impacts for cities that may be affected would also be beneficial.

- A member suggested including a statement about any potential impacts on the county's emergency response capacity.
- Cities are asked to provide their input by April 29. The division will transmit the final report along with feedback from stakeholders to council on June 30.
- The draft Comp Plan is expected to be ready for review in early 2017, and will include the Transfer Plan. Prior to implementing any changes, an environmental review will be completed.

### **Roadmap to 70 % Recycling: Discussion**

Eggen provided a brief overview of the 70 percent recycling subcommittee meeting in March. Data on various measures to help the region achieve its 70 percent goal was presented and measures were discussed.

Kiernan shared a message from the SWD Director, emphasizing the urgency of collaborating on key regional policy decisions. The longer decisions are delayed, the fewer options will be left and the more difficult decisions will become.

SWD Recycling & Environmental Services Manager Jeff Gaisford invited MSWMAC to provide direction to guide the 70 percent subcommittee's next steps. In his [presentation](#), Gaisford reviewed the five guiding principles for the roadmap, presented background information on the county's generators and what has been done to date, and asked the committee whether the region should pursue the path of collective action or individualized action. Information presented included:

- The Top 12 (by weight) Recyclable Materials Disposed at Cedar Hills, the largest of which is food and food-soiled paper
- What has been done to date for each generator type (single-family, multi-family, non-residential, and self-haul) in the categories of collection infrastructure, education, incentives, policies, and product stewardship to achieve a 52% recycling rate
- The amount of diversion needed to reach 70 percent for each generator type, including the needed reduction in tons of each generator's top readily recyclable materials
- A list of collective actions that could be taken to reach 70 percent, sorted from greatest to smallest impact. Numbers are based on the county's experience, as well as that of other cities. For example, Seattle assumed a 90 percent capture rate for its food waste. Based on this information, the county assumed a conservative 80 percent capture rate to calculate the potential impact of mandatory food separation.
- An individualized action plan, where cities and the county would each implement strategies to increase recycling. By 2020, the city and unincorporated single family recycling rate would need to be at 61 percent. If the rate were less than 61 percent, mandatory separation or incentive-based disposal fees would be pursued.

Discussion included:

- Gaisford noted that cities with comparable food scrap recycling programs capture a higher percentage if they have mandates.

- Gaisford explained that the unincorporated areas and some cities itemize the cost of recycling on their customer statements while others do not, but it is a cost regardless of whether or not it is itemized.
- A member noted that the graphs give the impression that each generator type is already recycling at 52 percent, which is not accurate.
- When asked about mandatory collection, Gaisford stated that while mandatory collection does not appear to be directly correlated with increased recycling rates, it may be worth looking into whether or not any cities have data to share to encourage mandatory collection.
- A member commented that mandatory collection is not the solution to everything; there will always be people who want to self-haul, including cities, schools, and large companies.
- Gaisford explained that cities could institute mandatory curbside separation of food for commercial generators, but the infrastructure would need to be in place to make this possible. The county could also institute bans at transfer stations, but this presents the dilemma of what to do when the trucks arrive with banned materials.
- A member noted that city councils are not always motivated to tackle recycling and waste diversion on their own. The county may need to support cities in their efforts regardless of the path taken.
- A member commented that a webpage or online forum to share ideas can be beneficial for smaller cities that have limited staffing. This would allow cities to share the work and the benefits of initiatives.
- A member noted that while each city has unique circumstances, the more consistency in rules and programs, the more effective the outreach will be.
- A member commented that the draft report states that a ten percent reduction in recycling results in a 33 percent increase in tonnage. Concern was expressed about not making contingency plans if a 70 percent recycling rate is not reached.

### **2015 Work Plan: Review**

Action on the ILA budget proviso was added to the agenda for May. Emails were sent to the 32 cities that signed the Amended and Restated ILA asking for responses. Four cities have responded so far that they don't have any ILA changes to propose. In May, all the responses will be presented.

The division is also hoping MSMWAC will take action on the draft transfer plan report at its August meeting. The deadline to submit comments on the transfer plan is April 29.

Comments on the roadmap to 70 percent would be helpful before April 20, so that the subcommittee can determine what to bring back in May.

The work plan will be revised to show that presentation and discussion of the Comp Plan will extend beyond August 2015.

### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.