

# **Metropolitan Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee**

May 8, 2015 - 11:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.

King Street Center 8<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room

## Meeting Minutes

<b>Members</b>		<b>King County Staff</b>
Bill Peloza, Chair	<i>Auburn</i>	Jamey Barker, SWD staff
Alison Bennett	<i>Bellevue</i>	Laura Belt, SWD staff
Susan Fife-Ferris	<i>Bellevue</i>	Alejandra Calderon, SWD staff
Sabrina Combs	<i>Bothell</i>	Jeff Gaisford, SWD Recycling & Environmental Services Manager
Brian Roberts	<i>Burien</i>	Beth Humphreys, SWD Staff
Rob Van Orsow	<i>Federal Way</i>	Josh Marx, SWD Staff
Gina Hungerford	<i>Kent</i>	Laila McClinton, SWD Staff
Jenna Higgins	<i>Kirkland</i>	Pat D. McLaughlin, SWD Director
John MacGillivray	<i>Kirkland</i>	Bill Reed, SWD Staff
Penny Sweet	<i>Kirkland</i>	Mike Reed, Council staff
Mary Jane Goss	<i>Lake Forest Park</i>	Thea Severn, SWD staff
Diana Pistoll	<i>Maple Valley</i>	Diane Yates, SWD staff
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>	
Tom Gut	<i>SeaTac</i>	
Chris Eggen, Vice Chair	<i>Shoreline</i>	
Uki Dele	<i>Shoreline</i>	
Paula Waters	<i>Woodinville</i>	
Zach Schmitz	<i>Woodinville</i>	

## Minutes & Agenda Review

The April minutes were approved as written.

## Updates

### ***Transfer Plan Review Part 2***

Comments were received from:

- 15 cities(update: 17 cities as of May 8): Auburn, Beaux Arts, Bellevue, Bothell, Burien, Clyde Hill, Federal Way, Hunts Point, Kirkland, Lake Forest Park, Medina, Newcastle, North Bend, Redmond, Renton, Sammamish, Yarrow Point
- SWAC Chair Jean Garber
- 5 residents: Auburn resident Marie-Ann Harkness, Auburn property owner Eleanor Brekke, Auburn property owner John Brekke, Auburn resident Bill Boyd; one citizen who wants the Renton TS to remain open unless there are viable alternatives

All comments will be included in a responsiveness summary and included the final report. The final report is due to council on June 30.

### ***ILA Budget Proviso***

As MSWMAC requested at its March meeting, the division sent an email to the mayors and city managers of the 32 cities that are signatory to the Amended and Restated ILA. No one responded with any suggested amendments to the ILA (4 cities in total responded to the email: Bothell, Enumclaw, Newcastle and Renton. They indicated they did not have any amendments to propose). The division will now prepare the proviso report to transmit to council.

### ***Joint Meeting***

Chair Peloza proposed to have a joint meeting with SWAC this year. The committee agreed to have it on MSWMAC's regular July meeting date when the final Transfer Plan Report is discussed.

### ***Tour***

Chair Peloza also asked about a tour this year. The committee was interested in planning the tour on SWAC's July meeting day – July 17. Members will tour Recology/ CleanScapes new MRF. Diane will be in touch with details.

### ***Coordinated Prevention Grants***

The State Legislature has proposed to cut the Coordinated Prevention Grant budget by almost 50% from \$29.6 million to \$15 million. This will affect grants to cities and to the division. Ecology has indicated there is not much hope that the money will be restored.

### ***Earth Day Landfill Tour***

SWD's Earth Day Landfill Tour on Saturday, April 25 was a well-attended and successful event. There was even a waitlist! Thirty-six enthusiastic guests received a [fact sheet](#) about the landfill while Operations Supervisor Scott Barden pointed out the highlights and explained the basic operations of the landfill. Guests included 16 school children, three fire fighters, and a number of other interested citizens and neighbors. They asked questions about the tippers, leachate lagoons, BEW, and the North Flare station. Attendees got a chance to see some wildlife as well, which included deer and eagles.

### ***Green Globes***

DNRP staff nominated Ashley Zanolli, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 10, for a Green Globes award for her work confronting climate change through the West Coast Climate Change and Materials Management Forum. DNRP staff also nominated Tahoma School District, a King County Green Schools Program participant since 2007, for a Green Globe "Leader in Green Schools" award for implementing effective conservation practices district-wide. The nominees received their awards at an April 20 ceremony.

### ***Paint Stewardship Bill status***

Chair Peloza said that he was disappointed that the State legislature failed to pass the paint stewardship legislation. He suggested that MSWMAC send a letter expressing disappointment to the Senate Energy, Environment, and Telecommunications Committee. Vice-chair Eggen suggested that a second letter be sent to the House Environment Committee thanking them for passing the paint stewardship bill.

Motion was made stating that the MSWMAC prepare one letter thanking the House and one to the Senate Environmental Committee expressing disappointment that paint product stewardship bill did not pass and stating support for them to take it up again next year. The letter should list all of the cities on MSWMAC and the Chair and vice-chair will sign it.

***SWAC update:***

MSWMAC and SWAC member Stacia Jenkins gave an update from the April SWAC meeting. She said that SWAC discussed both the Transfer Plan and the Roadmap to 70% Recycling. Most of the discussion focused on County and SWD principles relating to these policy issues. Equity, recycling, rate structure, concerns about ability to meet growth demands, differential rates for Bellevue residents, and impacts on small haulers were discussed. The committee would like to see the costs of traffic, GHG, and other costs that are being shifted from the county to others monetized. There was also discussion about the difficulty for haulers to enforce bans. A suggestion was made to focus efforts on the cities that most need the help in reaching 70% recycling or that have the potential for the most impact.

***Status of Request for Proposals on rate restructure and anaerobic digestion***

A member asked about the status of the rate restructure Request for Proposal (RFP). Planning and Communications Manager Thea Severn said that SWD had received 3 proposals and hope to have a consultant selected within a month.

A member also asked about the status of the pilot Anaerobic Digestion RFP. Severn said that the division is finishing up its internal review and will be sending it out to MSWMAC committee members for review soon.

**Business Planning:**

Solid Waste Division Director Pat D. McLaughlin gave an update on the status of the division's business planning. He said that the Product Champions are in the early stages of discovery as they are developing a ten year business plan that will support a sustainable fee structure. An important step in planning a business is the strategic context. The SWD has refreshed its vision and mission statements to help in determining the strategic context. The division has been talking with MSWMAC about infrastructure through the Transfer Plan review and the Roadmap to 70% Recycling, but it has become clear that we need to solve the bigger policy issues before we can reach other conclusions. As we approach the big policy issues, we need to have guiding principles. King County Cities Collaborative Climate Action Plan signed by a dozen cities includes a 70% recycling rate and the King County Code has established zero waste of resources and has a hierarchy for handling waste. We need to affirm what values we will use to handle the waste and develop more guiding principles. For instance, to what degree will we go to extend the life of Cedar Hills? McLaughlin recommended setting aside time at next month's MSWMAC meeting for the committee to create value statements to help develop the bigger policy issues. He said that he envisions an outcome of statements of intent that complement ones that exist, but go farther to give us guideposts to make the bigger policy decisions.

- One member suggested having breakout sessions

- Another member asked “Are we talking about brainstorming or developing guiding principles and policies? What would the goal of the meeting be?
- In response, McLaughlin said that the purpose would not be to create policy statements. The ultimate outcome would be for the committee to advise on what are the right types of guiding principles when considering the big policy issues.
- A member stated that they are not convinced that coming up with guiding principles or shared values will move us forward in any timely manner or sooner, better or with less chaos. Not supportive of this use of committee time.
- Another member said that the committee keeps getting distracted and going off on tangents. We still have a Comp Plan from 2001 that we are operating under. The committee wants to get a Comp Plan done – want to do whatever it takes to move it forward.
- Another member said that they wholeheartedly agree. We do need to get the Comp Plan adopted. It needs to address the big policy issues
- Another member stated that they would rather just dive in to the discussion rather than having a high level conversation. At least three of the policy questions that are being posed have already been addressed in past drafts of the Comp Plan. Instead of talking about amorphous principles there needs to be costs attached.
- In agreement, another member stated that their city staff does not have enough time to participate in high level conversations. They suggested that if the County has a list of things to consider, then it would be helpful to get a list of discussion items and timeline for completion.
- McLaughlin said that SWD will bring the Comp Plan schedule back. He added that we all want the Comp Plan to be completed.

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

SWD Recycling and Environmental Services Manager Jeff Gaisford gave a brief presentation, asking for input on the Roadmap to 70% Recycling. The presentation and questions can be found [here](#).

#### ***Incentives:***

- Member Simpson said that she conducted a survey and 72% of Newcastle residents say there should be more multi-family recycling – but the city needs guidance on how to change codes, etc.
- Gaisford said that there hasn't been a lot of structure around what grant dollars are focused on.
- A member said that it would have been helpful to have the questions ahead of time.

- Another member stated that a challenge of focusing disposal fees on recycling is that it is hard to get good data.
- A member asked why we are accepting customers from outside the County system if we are concerned about transactional capacity. We should be charging higher rates from them.
- McLaughlin stated that the reason that we allow customers from outside the system is that we don't ask for ID. We could, but we don't. Transactional capacity is not a problem today, but it may be a problem in the future.
- A member said that grants are the lifeblood for many of the jurisdictions – especially the smaller ones. All of the customers are paying into the program, so all should get the benefit. The member said that they remembered that the cities had agreed to have a small pot of money that can be used for special projects. Concerned about reexamining something that was agreed on.
- Gaisford said that the cities helped develop the Zero Waste grant – but it was cut from the 2012 rate proposal. SWD needs to bring it back to the group for consideration.
- A member said that when talking about targeting, we should be talking about sectors. In general, the residential sector does a good job. Multi-family and commercial could do better. Supports an aspirational goal of 70% - but it's how you get there that's at issue.
- Another member agreed that grants are important to the smaller cities. Agree with the fairness perspective. Not supportive of targeting cities that have lower recycling rates.
- Another member agreed that the grants shouldn't be changed. Their city gets a lot of material out of the waste stream at special waste events that are funded by the grants.
- A member stated that they agree with the sectors approach and agree that grants are the lifeblood for many cities, but when a city does the same thing year after year, then maybe they should look to fund those things out of city funds. Previous grants had criteria that they had to meet prior to receiving grant money. The member supports setting some criteria for cities to meet in order to receive grant funding.
- Many stated they would like to revisit the competitive Zero Waste grants. Maybe regionally could work on common goals for some of the grant money.
- Another member agreed with a commercial and multi-family focus – their city needs help to increase recycling. It would help if there were common requirements county-wide. Smaller cities don't have the resources to do a lot. If criteria is developed for grants, that needs to be adjusted before cities do their budgets
- A member stated that they like standards, but they don't like standards that go to the lowest common denominator.
- A member said that there should be a grant planning meeting to share ideas and hear what all the cities are doing. SWD should put the steps in place to plan in advance through a shared, approach.
- Disposal fees – have concerns about goals for lower or higher tip fees. Have lots of questions about how the differential impacts will penalize cities.
- A member stated that the current grant program is on auto-pilot. Not optimized – having some pre-planning and some basic guidelines would be helpful.

- Gaisford stated that the grants are just one vehicle for optimizing the solid waste system. How collection contracts are done – for instance embedding yard waste and organics in fees – is another way. Also, what the County does in the unincorporated areas can improve rates.
- A member suggested that SWD find out what multi-family and commercial recycling is successful, and then work with haulers and property management companies that work with commercial and multi-family to promote similar programs.

***Targets and Timeframes:***

- A member stated that it would be cleaner if we were all moving in the same direction. Changes that would happen county-wide would be easier to accomplish if all cities were doing the same things. Might have to use different resources to get all up to speed though.
- Gaisford suggested that we set a timeframe, for instance the next 5 years, and we focus on multi-family and commercial. Would like to empower each city to make the biggest bang for the buck within their city limits. But, grants could state what region-wide goals need to be focused on. County needs to provide the “menu” (may also have priorities), but would still be up to the city to choose how to achieve or what items to work on. Cities may not all be exactly the same on how to get there, but may all arrive at the same time
- Need to develop a system/process for the cities to collaborate and to find out what everyone is doing – do a survey, meet or however to find where each city is. May learn that some cities already have information that can be shared.

***Is 70% recycling the right measure:***

- A member said that the 70% recycling goal is a great aspirational goal. We should be looking for ways to achieve it, but it shouldn't be relied upon to make an important decision like siting a new transfer station. Some sectors are approaching that goal, but others need a lot of help. Develop a toolkit to help cities. State Plan set a 50% aspirational goal back in the late 80s and still hasn't attained it.
- Should have other metrics – including goals for waste reduction and recycling.
- Don't believe we'll reach a 70% recycling goal.
- Two practical problems. Waste disposal and the cost of it. Want to limit it because of the costs. Haven't touched on resource recovery. Aspirational recycling goal will move towards the practical goals.
- A member stated that they would advocate for the per capita waste generation goal. But the 70% recycling goal is something that the public can understand. Agree that it shouldn't drive some of the big policy decisions, however.
- Thea Severn, Planning and Communications manager, stated that the Draft Comprehensive Plan has a 55% recycling goal, a per capita disposal goal, a per capita waste generation goal, and a few others.
- McLaughlin stated that the committee didn't talk about resource recovery but needs to. Efforts should be at preventing waste and diverting it as early in the system as possible. Until we get better traction, we need to expand our ability to divert materials as early as possible.

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

If you have any comments, please bring it up with Diane so she can bring it back to the committee.

### **Public Comment**

Doreen Booth of the Sound Cities Association announced that at six o'clock on May 6 before the SCA meeting, the division and the haulers gave a presentation on the Road to 70%