

Metropolitan Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee

March 11, 2016 - 11:15 a.m. to 1:35 p.m.
King Street Center 8th Floor Conference Room

Meeting Minutes

<u>Members</u>	
Joan Nelson	<i>Auburn</i>
Bill Peloza	<i>Auburn</i>
Alison Bennett	<i>Bellevue</i>
Susan Fife-Ferris	<i>Bellevue</i>
Sabrina Combs	<i>Bothell</i>
Austin Bell	<i>Burien</i>
Brian Roberts	<i>Burien</i>
Barre Seibert	<i>Clyde Hill</i>
Laura Techico	<i>Des Moines</i>
Chris Searcy	<i>Enumclaw</i>
Rob Van Orsow	<i>Federal Way</i>
Jenna Higgins	<i>Kirkland</i>
John MacGillivray	<i>Kirkland</i>
Penny Sweet	<i>Kirkland</i>
Phillippa Kassover	<i>Lake Forest Park</i>
Diana Pistoll	<i>Maple Valley</i>
Carol Simpson	<i>Newcastle</i>
Jerallyn Roetemeyer	<i>Redmond</i>
Linda Knight	<i>Renton</i>
Beth Goldberg	<i>Sammamish</i>
Will Appleton	<i>SeaTac</i>
Bernie Talmas	<i>Woodinville</i>
Paula Waters	<i>Woodinville</i>

<u>King County Staff</u>
Pam Badger, SWD staff
Jamey Barker, SWD staff
Anna Kegel, SWD staff
Jeff Gaisford, SWD staff
Michael Huddleston, Council staff
Beth Humphreys, SWD staff
Eric Johnson, SWD staff
Kevin Kiernan, SWD staff
Karen May, SWD staff
Laila McClinton, SWD staff
Pat McLaughlin, SWD staff
Meg Moorehead, SWD staff
Mike Reed, Council staff
Olivia Robinson, SWD staff
Christie True, SWD staff
Bryn Vander Stoep, Council staff
Diane Yates, SWD staff

<u>Guests</u>
Eberley Barragan, Redmond
Doreen Booth, Sound Cities Association
Brandon Buchanan, Woodinville
Joe Casalini, Republic Services
David Della, Waste Management
Kelly Ferron, Recology CleanScapes
Karl Hufnagel, Parametrix
Kellye Mazzoli, Woodinville
Megan McCain, Recology CleanScapes
Laura Moser, Waste Management
Ian Sutton, Parametrix

Minutes & Agenda Review

The February minutes were approved as written.

Updates

SWD

Pat D. McLaughlin invited MSMWAC to the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill 50th Anniversary Celebration. The celebration will take place on Saturday, April 23 from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Guests will get a chance to tour the landfill, hear from division and county leadership, and enjoy light refreshments and informative displays. Please RSVP for the event through Anna Kegel (formerly Fleming) at 206-477-1693 or Anna.Kegel@kingcounty.gov.

SWD recently hosted two well-attended open houses on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the South County Recycling and Transfer Station. The division is now reviewing public comments to ensure the EIS reflects concerns expressed. The final EIS will likely be issued in October.

Co-sponsored by SWD and Seattle Public Utilities, the 2016 [Threadcycle](#) campaign launched on March 1 and will run through May. The campaign educates residents that damaged clothes are no longer garbage. This year's campaign will include transit ads, Google and Facebook ads, promotion by cities in King County, earned media, and social media. Threadcycle collection partners are Big Brothers Big Sisters Puget Sound, Seattle Goodwill, Goodwill of the Olympics and Rainier Region, Northwest Center, The Salvation Army, SightConnection, TexGreen, USAgain, and Value Village.

SWD's [Food: Too Good To Waste](#) (FTGTW) program has been nominated for a Sustainability Leadership Award from Sustainable Seattle in the category of "Government, Non-Profit and Community Organizations: Communicating for Change." FTGTW outreach materials continue to receive attention from around the globe. SWD recently received an inquiry from Australia about the program's 2015 challenge campaign. The town of Mansfield, Connecticut recently redesigned their website to incorporate much of the program's content, acknowledging SWD as the source. Staff from Dakota County, Minnesota requested permission to reproduce the program's popular Fruit and Vegetable Storage Guide in their outreach.

The pilot recycling program for plastic wrap and bags, polystyrene blocks and coolers resumed March 9 at the Shoreline Recycling and Transfer Station. The pilot was temporarily stopped in early January due to logistical issues. The division has now contracted with R&D Recycling in Tacoma to provide transportation of these materials from Shoreline to the recycling facility in Kent. After the pilot program has been revised as needed, the division will expand promotion of the program and will consider accepting these materials at other stations.

To thank him for his many years of service as MSWMAC chair, SWD presented Bill Peloza with a mattress-themed cake, representing his efforts to remove mattresses from the waste stream.

State Legislation

The division is paying attention the following bills in the Legislature:

- Senate Bill 6605 "Ensuring that solid waste management requirements prevent the spread of disease, plant pathogens, and pests"

This bill passed both houses and was signed on March 8 by the President of the Senate. It aims to address composting and possible apple maggot contamination and other pests from

Seattle compost heading over to Eastern WA. It requires the Washington State Department of Agriculture to review all solid waste comprehensive and building plans. If passed, an agricultural representative would need to be included in the Solid Waste Advisory Committee. It is currently on Governor Inslee's desk awaiting signature.

- Direction to the State Auditor in the Supplemental Budget

A section in all versions of the Supplemental Budget directs the State Auditor to investigate whether local governments have combined fees for commercial solid waste and source-separated recyclable materials collection. The Auditor will be reviewing if these cities are imposing a solid waste tax on recycling, which is in violation of RCW 82.18.010.

- House Bill 1571

The paint product stewardship bill has died. Peloza expressed his deep disappointment that no action was taken by the Senate Committee on Energy, Environment, and Telecommunications. Chair Penny Sweet noted that MSWMAC members can contact committee chair Senator Erickson or other members of the committee to express their thoughts.

SWAC

The February SWAC agenda included the Transfer Station Recycling presentation that is on today's MSWMAC agenda. Future agendas may differ because SWAC has concluded its discussion of the transfer system.

Demand Management Subcommittee Results

SWD staff Meg Moorehead gave a report on behalf of the demand management subcommittee. The subcommittee met three times and included participation from Kirkland, Bothell, Bellevue, Woodinville, and Redmond. Minutes from last week's meeting will be made available when they are ready.

The 12-month demand management pilot project will test the demand management strategies identified in the Transfer Plan Report Part 2, which focused on the Northeast sector of the system. The subcommittee recommended that the pilot not be limited to one part of the system and that the strategies should be tested at all six urban transfer stations. Strategies could include extended operating hours, incentive pricing, web-based cameras, and higher minimum fees. Some would require council action and others would need host city approval. The subcommittee recommended not to include a lower regional direct fee, low-cost bulky item collection, or mandatory curbside collection. The pilot will start once Factoria is fully operational, which will likely be in late 2017 or early 2018. The goal is to complete the pilot no later than December 31, 2018. The subcommittee emphasized the importance of testing the strategies and gathering real-life data, respecting permit requirements, testing the effect on recycling rates, and considering the impacts on large institutional self-haulers and small business owners. Moorehead confirmed that the subcommittee did discuss the closure of the Houghton transfer station and that its closure could be included in the scope of the

pilot. She noted the division will be taking into account the input of the subcommittee as it develops the budget request for implementing the demand management pilot.

The subcommittee recommended that MSWMAC engage in a discussion around regional equity and proportional impacts, starting with the existing county equity policies. Topics of discussion could include rates, traffic and transportation impacts, access to service (including drive time and the availability of recycling services), and environmental impacts. McLaughlin asked if MSWMAC would like to add a discussion around regional equity to a future agenda.

Peloza made a motion to follow the recommendation of the subcommittee and add this item to a future agenda. Barre Seibert seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

In response to a question from Alison Bennett, Moorehead confirmed that the division will provide regular updates to MSWMAC as the pilot is developed.

Transfer Station Recycling: Presentation

SWD staff Eric Johnson gave a [presentation on transfer station recycling and resource recovery](#).

Comments included:

- Susan Fife-Ferris asked if cardboard is included in commingled recycling at transfer stations. Johnson explained that cardboard is collected separately with the exception of Vashon where it is collected with the commingled recycling.
- Fife-Ferris asked about contamination associated with compacting commingled recyclables at transfer stations. Johnson explained that the division has not seen an increase in contamination due to compaction. He noted that the University of Washington also uses compactors for commingled recyclables and that this practice is increasingly common.
- In response to a question from Diana Pistoll, Johnson explained that all recyclables go to Republic Services' material recycling facility in SODO.
- Jerallyn Roetemeyer asked what the additional staff at Shoreline and Bow Lake will be doing. Johnson stated that each station will be different and that processes will evolve. Staff at Shoreline will spend some of their time directing high-value loads to a sorting area to be unloaded and then operating equipment to separate materials. If there are not a lot of high-value loads, staff will assist customers in the self-haul unloading areas in separating out recyclables.
- Peloza thanked Johnson, Jeff Gaisford, and other King County staff for their efforts and flexibility. He was pleased to hear the division will be targeting additional materials for diversion, including mattresses and scrap tires.
- Brian Roberts asked if low commodity prices have had any impact on the recycling programs at transfer stations. Johnson explained that thanks to the tonnage increase, the division has not lost any revenue despite lower commodity prices. Metal has lost the most value, cardboard has remained fairly stable, and wood never had rebate value. Wood was selected for resource recovery because of the large volumes coming into transfer stations – it is beneficially reused as a soil amendment and also saves landfill space.

Special Waste: Presentation

SWD staff Pam Badger gave a [presentation on special waste](#). She described some of the services provided by the division's Special Waste Unit, including special waste management at transfer stations, waste clearances and waste escorts at the landfill, the Community Cleanup Assistance Program (CCAP), and the Junk Vehicle Program.

Comments included:

- Linda Knight pointed out that some of the waste accepted at Cedar Hills is food waste, such as expired coffee or recalled Cheerios. Badger confirmed that the Special Waste Unit does work with other staff in the recycling section to ensure that as much as possible is recycled or composted. She explained that all alternatives have often been exhausted by the time the Special Waste Unit is contacted. FTGTW program manager Karen May added that companies are sometimes required to landfill materials for insurance purposes, but that she would like to explore that area more.
- Knight asked if the division tracks where requests for disposal vouchers come from. Badger said that more requests tend to come from the south and east parts of the county.
- In response to a question from Will Appleton, Badger explained that vouchers are typically issued within a day or two of the time they are requested. They are valid for 45 days.
- Joan Nelson noted that the City of Auburn participates in SWD's Community Cleanup Assistance Program, adding that staff is very responsive. She explained that it is intended for low-income people who experience illegal dumping.
- In response to a question from Appleton, Badger explained that junk vehicles are taken to a wrecking yard, not to SWD facilities. (Note: SWD provides paperwork, but does not haul junk vehicles – it is the resident's responsibility to have the vehicle hauled to a wrecking yard for recycling)
- Peloza asked if investigations occur when identifying information is found at illegal dump sites. Badger explained that there is a state law that allows one to charge a certain fee per yard of material illegally dumped if three pieces of identification are found. Most residents, however, prefer to have the materials immediately removed.
- Pistoll asked what vector waste and sewer grit is. Badger explained that vector waste is typically found in catch basins - after the water is removed, the division accepts the solids for disposal. The division also receives a lot of vector waste from car washes. Sewer grit refers to materials collected from the grit filters at the entry point of the sewage treatment plant.

Food Waste Prevention Tool Kit: Presentation

SWD staff Karen May gave a [presentation on the Food Waste Prevention](#), which is currently being developed.

The toolkit traces its origins to the County Executive's [Local Food Initiative](#), launched in 2014. Reducing wholesome food waste is one of the strategies that supports the development of a sustainable and resilient local food economy. May noted that 177,000 tons of food waste

from commercial businesses was disposed at Cedar Hills in 2014. The division wants to keep food waste out of the landfill for several reasons: to move towards Zero Waste of Resources through food waste prevention, to extend the life of the landfill, to give food waste a second life through composting, as well as to address climate change.

The county is aiming to reduce countywide greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80 percent by 2050. The [Strategic Climate Action Plan](#) reports that the emissions in King County resulting from farm-to-plate food consumption are second only to the emissions from personal transportation. Residents are encouraged to prevent food waste through the FTGTW program and to compost their waste through curbside collection or backyard composting. SWD is focusing on the commercial sector with the development of the Food Waste Prevention Toolkit. The booklet will provide helpful “how to get started” tips and local resources for food waste prevention, rescue, and processing.

Comments included:

- May confirmed that the toolkit is intended for any food-producing business, which could include hospitals, cafeterias, grocery stores, restaurants, etc.
- Beth Goldberg asked how a business would decide between turning their food waste into compost versus fertilizer. May said it likely depends on waste volume, type of waste, and expenses. Gaisford added that [WISErg](#) harvesters are located on site and often used by grocery stores.
- Sweet asked about the size of the launch of the toolkit. May hopes for an extensive launch and welcomes suggestions for promoting the toolkit. Gaisford added that the Executive’s Local Food Initiative group includes representatives from restaurants, farms, and other communities and that the toolkit will be promoted through this existing group.
- Phillippa Kassover asked how cities can participate in the launch. May will provide more information about how cities can help promote the toolkit.
- May confirmed that there will be opportunities for cross-pollination between SWD’s residential and commercial sector outreach programs.
- Knight mentioned the [Just Eat It](#) film that brought to light policies in Canada and the U.S. that protect businesses from legal action arising from donated food. May confirmed that the [Good Samaritan Food Donation Act](#) exists, and that perhaps insurance companies are behind the curve. Kiernan noted that a significant amount of the food waste buried in the landfill through Waste Clearances is truly rotten and packaged.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.