Metropolitan Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee

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

Meeting Minutes

Members	
Diana Quinn	*Algona*
Joan Nelson	*Auburn*
Bill Peloza	*Auburn*
Susan Fife-Ferris	*Bellevue*
Sabrina Combs	*Bothell*
Austin Bell	*Burien*
Brian Roberts	*Burien*
Barre Seibert	*Clyde Hill*
Chris Searcy	*Enumclaw*
Gina Hungerford	*Kent*
Jenna Higgins	*Kirkland*
John MacGillivray	*Kirkland*
Penny Sweet	*Kirkland*
Phillippa Kassover	*Lake Forest Park*
Diana Pistoll	*Maple Valley*
Carol Simpson	*Newcastle*
Beth Goldberg	*Sammamish*
Will Appleton	*SeaTac*
Uki Dele	*Shoreline*
Frank Iriarte	*Tukwila*
Kellye Mazzoli	*Woodinville*

King County Staff
Beth Humphreys, SWD staff
Anna Kegel, SWD staff
Laila McClinton, SWD staff
Pat McLaughlin, SWD staff
Meg Moorehead, SWD staff
Mike Reed, Council staff
Olivia Robinson, SWD staff
Lisa Sepanski, SWD staff
Christie True, DNRP
Taylor Watson, LHWMP staff

Guests
Eberley Barragan, Redmond
David Della, Waste Management
Kelly Ferron, Recology CleanScapes
Megan McCain, Recology CleanScapes
Michelle Metzler, Waste Management
Curtis Whitman, Bothell

Minutes & Agenda Review

The March minutes were approved as written.

Updates

SWD

On March 16, the topic of the SWD EcoConsumer segment on KOMO 4 was spring cleaning. EcoConsumer Tom Watson showed how to reduce clutter in the home and office.

Gina Hungerford added that Watson has also been promoting community repair events in Kent, Federal Way and Renton that have been very well-received.

SWD's Green Schools program seeks to enhance resource conservation practices and environmental stewardship education in schools and school districts. The program saw 21

new schools sign up this school year. Of the 21 new schools, 13 are from the Auburn, Federal Way, Highline, and Renton school districts, which are among the most diverse districts in the country.

In response to the Request for Proposals for the Food Waste Incentives: Non-Residential Target, SWD has awarded five grants (each roughly $30,000) for projects designed to reduce commercial food waste in King County. Awardees include the City of Auburn, Cedar Grove Compositing, GreenBalance Energy Marketing, and Impact Bioenergy. Grant agreements are currently being negotiated.

SWD has made progress in its line of business planning and is on schedule to transmit a plan to the King County Executive in June. SWD hopes to present the preliminary Business Plan recommendations to MSWMAC in May and June for feedback.

Beth Goldberg asked if the Business Plan would include projected rate changes. McLaughlin noted that SWD has not increased its rate since 2012 and anticipates that a rate adjustment will be necessary. Line of Business Planning will inform the rate study that is being conducted. The transmittal schedule will also be shared with MSWMAC in May.

SWD is proposing MSWMAC and SWAC's annual joint meeting be held on July 8. In addition, in August, SWD is proposing a tour of the new Factoria Recycling and Transfer Station in place of its regular meeting. In November, because MSWMAC's regular meeting falls on Veteran's Day, SWD is proposing another joint meeting with SWAC on November 18. Members have expressed interest in recognizing Kevin Kiernan before he retires, so recognition can be part of the November meeting.

State Legislation

The State Legislature session adjourned. The following pieces of legislation will have an impact on SWD:

- The Governor signed into law Senate Bill 6605 on March 31. This bill is focused on addressing issues around organics moving from an area under quarantine for pests to one that is not under quarantine. The biggest effect on SWD will be the addition of an agricultural representative to SWAC.
- Cities expressed concerns regarding the direction in the Supplemental Budget to the State Auditor to review bundled rates for commercial solid waste and recyclable materials collection. The State Auditor's office has accepted SWD's invitation to attend an upcoming MSWMAC meeting. They are not currently planning to make this an immediate audit item and will attend the May meeting to discuss the issue and learn about the potential impacts of bundling rates. Cities are encouraged to have representatives attend the May meeting to provide feedback to the Auditor's office.

SWAC

Joan Nelson provided the SWAC update. The March SWAC agenda included an update on the work of the demand management subcommittee. SWAC requested a follow-up presentation on demand management around the same time the budget is delivered. SWAC also heard a presentation on SWD's Special Waste program, its Food Waste Prevention Toolkit, and its Destination Zero Waste pilot program.

Comp Plan: Regional Equity: Discussion

SWD staff Meg Moorehead led a discussion on regional equity in the King County Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan (Comp Plan). Moorehead oriented the discussion around the county's existing regional equity policies. She asked members if the existing county equity policies are adequate for guiding decision-making around the transfer system. She noted that the policies fall into three categories: impacts to host communities, access to services, and the overarching category of impacts on low-income communities, people of color, and people with limited English-speaking abilities.

Comments included:

- Chris Searcy asked members to identify the issues that may not have been adequately addressed in the Transfer Plan.
- Kellye Mazzoli restated Woodinville's concern that the city is already hosting several large-scale regional facilities including the Brightwater facility and a recycling center.
- Susan Fife-Ferris shared the concern that not building a Northeast transfer station could result in longer drive times and decrease access to services. She noted that the subcommittee is asking if the demand management strategies under consideration defy county equity policies.
- Jenna Higgins underlined a statement from the Comp Plan that speaks to equitable access to services: "Fair distribution of transfer facilities and division resources, such as the community litter cleanup, school education, and green building programs, helps ensure that everyone has access to services that create safer and healthier communities."
- Sabrina Combs noted that the City of Bothell is situated on the border of King and Snohomish counties. Because of traffic congestion, customers from Bothell may elect to drive to a facility outside the King County system. She added that illegal dumping can become an issue when facilities are not easy to access. Combs noted that facilities do not all need to look the same, but citizens should have service options.
- Fife-Ferris noted that if the Factoria transfer station ends up receiving all the waste from Northeast King County, this is a problem with respect to the county's equity policies, because the transfer station is located in a low-income and diverse community.
- Moorehead noted F-228 of the King County Comprehensive Plan, which states that "King County should strive to site essential public facilities equitably so that no racial, cultural, or socio-economic group is unduly impacted by essential public facility siting

or expansion decisions. No single community should absorb an inequitable share of these facilities…"

- Barre Seibert stated that it is impossible for all residents to have equal access to the same services. He added that the policies do not seem to cover environmental impacts. Moorehead noted that environmental impacts are addressed in several places. For example, county-wide planning policy PF-13 references "environmental justice principles." Christie True added that there are many sections of the Comp Plan that address environmental impacts, and the policies compiled for today's discussion are equity-related ones.
- Moorehead noted that while some residents may regard their proximity to a solid waste facility negatively, it also means they have easier access to the services provided.
- Moorehead observed that the existing policies address most general equity concerns, but may not address specific concerns raised by the subcommittee, which include traffic at stations, regional traffic impacts, rates, drive time, illegal dumping, etc.
- Peloza suggested researching equity and social justice (ESJ) policies in other major metropolitan areas.
- Fife-Ferris made the distinction between equity and equality. An equitable system treats people as fairly as possible and provides as much access as is possible and reasonable. She added that she does not believe it is necessary to research ESJ policies in other regions and that the current King County policies provide good guidance. She noted that the county needs equitable distribution of both transfer and recycling services and that services could be offered in a number of ways. She asserted that F-226 of the King County Comprehensive Plan flies in the face of closing Houghton if a reasonable alternative has not been identified.
- Carol Simpson expressed concerns about demand management strategies to mitigate traffic at Factoria. She also expressed concerns about Renton closing in 2019 or 2020, which is the same time that the City of Newcastle receives bids for its hauler contract.
- In response to Simpson, McLaughlin noted that while Factoria will open in its first phase next month, the station will not be completed until the end of 2017, which is when SWD will begin real-world testing of the demand management strategies that have been modeled. Through this work, SWD will seek to develop a strong and informed recommendation to present to policy makers. McLaughlin also noted that Renton's closure date is not certain. The adopted Comp Plan calls for the closure of Renton and Houghton when replacement capacity is available.
- Goldberg noted that there do not seem to be any significant issues with the policies, but the question before MSWMAC is, "how do you apply the policies to the transfer system decisions that are before us?"
- Searcy agreed that the current policies are strong and would work well if the question was not *if* a transfer station should be built, but *where* a transfer station should be built. Moorehead pointed out that F-230 of the King County Comprehensive Plan requires evaluation of alternatives before siting any station.
- Fife-Ferris suggested that a list of discrepancies between the demand management strategies identified and King County equity policies would be helpful to MSWMAC.

McLaughlin stated that the Transfer Plan and the demand management recommendations are consistent with King County equity policies. However, SWD acknowledges the concerns expressed by the cities. McLaughlin reiterated that the demand management strategies modeled will be tested. At this stage, SWD does not have any information that suggests there is a conflict between the transfer system recommendations and King County environmental and ESJ policies.

- Fife-Ferris stated that there are equity issues that need to be addressed, especially if a Northeast transfer station is not built.
- Moorehead noted that while the committee and subcommittee discussions around equity did not produce any new policy language, the discussions have been productive and have made city concerns clearer to SWD. SWD will use the King County equity policies identified in future discussions.

NW Product Stewardship Council: Presentation

SWD staff Lisa Sepanski gave a presentation on the Northwest Product Stewardship Council (NWPSC), which serves as a think tank for product stewardship policy in the region. The State of Washington has two product stewardship programs: one for electronics like computers, monitors, and televisions, and another for mercury-containing fluorescent lamps. Sepanski also described the NWPSC's work to get the Legislature to pass a paint stewardship bill.

Comments included:

- Peloza expressed his disappointment that the Legislature did not pass the paint stewardship bill this year as well as his commitment to be an advocate in the future.
- In response to a request from Diana Pistoll, Sepanski directed cities to sample support materials on the NWPSC website.
- Sepanski noted the Association of Washington Cities supported the paint product stewardship bill in 2014 and will need to hear that cities support passage of a bill in the future.

Secure Medicine Return: Presentation

Local Hazardous Waste Management Program (LHWMP) staff Taylor Watson gave a presentation on secure medicine return program, which will be operational this summer. More information is available at https://kingcountysecuremedicinereturn.org.

Comments included:

- Peloza applauded King County for its efforts to establish a secure medicine return program.
- Watson confirmed that cities should encourage their pharmacies or law enforcement offices to contact LHWMP to set up a collection site in their city.
- Fife-Ferris commended the county's efforts, highlighting the importance of keeping storm and surface water free of chemicals.

- Watson explained that while prescription containers are preferred, medicines are accepted in any container.
- Nelson underlined the need for more education about proper sharps disposal.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.