

Metropolitan Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee

June 10, 2016 - 11:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.
King Street Center 8th Floor Conference Room

Meeting Minutes

<u>Members</u>	
Joan Nelson	<i>Auburn</i>
Bill Peloza	<i>Auburn</i>
Allison 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>
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>
Diana Pistoll	<i>Maple Valley</i>
Jason Kintner	<i>Mercer Island</i>
Jonathan Chicquette	<i>Normandy Park</i>
Susan West	<i>Normandy Park</i>
Jerallyn Roetemeyer	<i>Redmond</i>
Linda Knight	<i>Renton</i>
Rika Cecil	<i>Shoreline</i>
Kellye Mazzoli	<i>Woodinville</i>
Bernie Talmas	<i>Woodinville</i>

<u>King County Staff</u>
Jamey Barker, SWD staff
Kris Beatty, SWD staff
Jeff Gaisford, SWD staff
Matthew Hobson, SWD staff
Beth Humphreys, SWD staff
Anna Kegel, SWD staff
Kevin Kiernan, SWD staff
Laila McClinton, SWD staff
Meg Moorehead, SWD staff
Mike Reed, Council staff
Olivia Robinson, SWD staff
Kim Van Ekstrom, SWD staff
Bryn Vander Stoep, Council staff
<u>Guests</u>
Ty Baird, City of Kirkland
David Della, Waste Management
Katie Kuciemba, Sound Cities Association
Megan McCain, Recology CleanScapes
Michael Shrader, City of Bellevue
Jeff Wagner, Republic Services

Minutes & Agenda Review

The following sentence was removed from the May minutes: "Fife-Ferris commented that in general recyclables aren't taxed, but embedding rates causes recyclables to be taxed." The May minutes were approved as amended.

Updates

SWD

In late May, SWD received a tractor trailer retrofitted to run on compressed natural gas (CNG). This truck will be used as part of a pilot program to study the potential of using CNG-powered vehicles for its fleet. A potential outcome of this pilot could result in SWD being able to fuel its trucks from gas captured at the landfill.

Last week, King County GreenTools hosted three events featuring Island Press Author Mike Lydon. The author visits provided hands-on technical trainings led by national thought leaders on issues of the built environment and climate preparedness. About 150 people were reached.

The first “Destination Zero Waste” tour of the Bow Lake Recycling and Transfer station took place on June 7. Eighty-six 5th graders from Millennium Elementary school attended, along with eight teachers and chaperones. SWD provided buses to transport the participants to the station where they toured the facility and learned about waste and recycling, as well as, career opportunities at SWD. SWD looks forward to offering this opportunity to more students as a part of its Equity and Social Justice efforts.

Bill Peloza requested updates on the landfill gas-to-energy facility at the Cedar Hills landfill at future MSWMAC meetings.

SWAC

Joan Nelson gave an update on the May SWAC meeting, which included a presentation on the Regional Code Collaboration efforts around green building, the preliminary rate plan for 2017-2018, and the recent electronics recycling issue with Total Reclaim.

Rate Proposal: Presentation (continued from May meeting)

Meg Moorehead continued her presentation on [the preliminary rate proposal recommendations](#) and requested input from MSMWAC. She clarified that the longer-term Line of Business plan recommendations outlined at the last meeting do *not* impact the rate proposal. These include the unincorporated area recycling service changes and the development of the Cedar Hills landfill beyond Area 8.

Comments included:

- Peloza asked about the potential impact of mandatory curbside service on the 70 percent recycling goal. Moorehead explained that the proposed service changes outlined in the business plan would only affect current curbside customers. Jeff Gaisford added that the impact of mandatory curbside service on the 70 percent recycling goal has not been studied.
- Diana Pistoll underlined the importance of outreach to the county’s rural customers before changes are made to their services. Moorehead noted that the rate proposal does not include funding for business plan-recommended service changes in the unincorporated area, adding that a policy discussion will not begin until 2017 and will certainly involve dialogue with rural customers.
- Susan Fife-Ferris asked how SWD calculated the cost of the demand management pilot program. Moorehead noted that while the demand management pilot will not be fully scoped out until the end of 2017, the rate proposal includes funding to

implement strategies at all six urban stations, as recommended by the MSWMAC subcommittee. Extending hours at six stations would involve hiring additional transfer station operators, scale operators, truck drivers, as well as monitoring consultants, in addition to maintenance, fuel, and other utility costs. Kiernan added that SWD plans to collect baseline data in 2017 and implement the study in 2018. Once the King County Council takes action on the proposed budget later this year, more details around the scope of the pilot will be determined.

- A member asked if the rate would drop after the demand management pilot is complete. Kiernan explained that it depends on the results of the study and that SWD will provide briefings to MSWMAC throughout 2017.
- Austin Bell asked if any portion of the landfill reserve fund could be paid back by fees collected after the landfill closes. Moorehead explained that SWD did explore debt financing and determined that this was not the most cost-effective option.
- Linda Knight asked about staffing at a new transfer station. Kiernan explained that it varies greatly depending on traffic and tonnage. Typically there are one or two scale operators and four or five transfer station operators.
- John MacGillivray asked if the budget for the demand management pilot reflects the closure of the Houghton transfer station. Moorehead stated that the budget assumes that the pilot scope might include at least a partial closure of Houghton focusing on self-haul customers, noting that closing the station to commercial traffic could disrupt city contracts.
- Several members of the MSWMAC subcommittee underlined the importance of closing the Houghton station during the pilot regardless of the impact on city contracts. They argued that the pilot would not produce real-world data if Houghton were left open. Kiernan explained that SWD has not yet collected the data necessary to scope out the project, and will begin the scoping process in 2017 once the budget is approved. The current rate proposal includes enough resources to follow the recommendation of the MSWMAC subcommittee.
- Kiernan confirmed that when Cedar Hills closes, there will likely be a rate increase due to the increased cost of waste export.
- Moorehead and Gaisford confirmed that the additional 42,000 tons of recyclables per year would be the product of recycling efforts at transfer stations.
- Knight noted that some cities maintain rate stabilization funds to allow for smaller, regular increases that customers come to expect. Moorehead stated that SWD has created a line item in its budget for rate stabilization based on earlier feedback from advisory committees that smaller more frequent rate increases are preferred over larger less frequent increases. Kiernan stated that going forward, SWD's financial plans call for rate adjustments on a two-year cycle.
- Fife-Ferris asked for guidance on how to reconcile the proposed rate increase with the \$22 million that was not collected because rates were not increased in 2015-2016 as planned. Kiernan explained that the tonnage increases over the last two years have meant increased revenue, which has allowed SWD to defer a rate increase, resulting in customer savings. The current proposal to increase the rate to \$140 in 2017 is what was originally forecasted; it just skips the interim rate increase. If the interim rate

increase had occurred, SWD would have collected more money and spent it on equipment replacement, Area 8, etc. He added that while additional tonnage means additional revenue, it also means additional operating costs. Moorehead said that part of the additional tonnage that came in over the last two years was due to the closure of the North Seattle station. When the North Seattle station opens later this year, there will be a drop in tonnage. Added cost that contributes to the rate increase includes catching up on equipment replacement and covering higher than expected costs for developing Area 8.

Painting for Paint Stewardship: Discussion

Brian Roberts provided follow-up to last month's brief discussion about creating a dumpster mural event to draw attention to the need for paint stewardship legislation in Washington. Since then, SWD staff Olivia Robinson has pointed out restrictions regarding the participation of government agencies in grassroots lobbying. Roberts' understanding is that MSWMAC members can participate as interested citizens, but not as city representatives. Roberts has also spoken with Alison Keane, VP of Government Affairs and Industry Programs at the American Coatings Association (ACA), a non-profit that has been a strong driver behind the paint stewardship legislation. Keane showed interest in the event concept and plans to reach out to colleagues and see if there is sufficient interest to create a steering committee. The event would likely be held in the winter while the Legislature is in session. Roberts will continue to provide updates to MSWMAC as information becomes available.

Chair Sweet asked for more information about the legal restrictions that relate to cities being involved in grassroots lobbying. Robinson explained that King County is prohibited from participating in grassroots lobbying, which is different than direct lobbying.

LinkUp Program: Presentation

Gaisford introduced SWD staff Kris Beatty, who gave [a presentation on the LinkUp program](#), which supports the development of collection and processing infrastructure for recycling, as well as the development of end markets for recyclable and reusable materials and products.

Comments included:

- Pelosa asked about the cost of bringing a mattress to the Bow Lake station during the recycling collection pilot planned for this summer. Gaisford explained that the pilot will largely be invisible to customers this summer. Staff will focus on the operational side of the pilot, separating and storing mattresses to be sent to recyclers. SWD would only then look into what a customer may be charged for mattress recycling.
- Knight asked if non-profits that accept donations of used goods are still sending textiles to the landfill. Beatty explained that SWD has not tracked textile waste by those customers, but through the waste characterization study, has determined that 25,000 tons of textiles were disposed in 2015. According to SWD's consumer research, most textiles seem to be coming from residents and businesses. Beatty indicated that

SWD has an interest in knowing if there is increased (or decreased) textiles disposed by non-profits and will look into that.

- Knight asked how many coil mattresses remain in the waste stream and what kind of research has been done related to the recycling of foam mattresses. Beatty stated she will contact the mattress program manager for the breakdown of coil versus foam mattresses. She noted that mattress recyclers would likely want to receive mattresses that contain polyurethane foam because of its higher value, adding that coil mattresses can be difficult to recycle. She noted that three states have product stewardship laws for mattresses, which may lead to the production of mattresses that can be more easily recycled.
- Pistoll acknowledged SWD for undertaking this important work and expressed her appreciation for SWD's partnership with cities. She also noted that city contracts with haulers often prohibit the disposal of materials that are collected for recycling.
- Gaisford confirmed that funding for the compost demonstration trials is provided by SWD.
- Searcy noted that the City of Enumclaw has worked with King County on its successful [Biosolids program](#), and looks forward to seeing the good results of the compost project.

Member and Public Comment

There were no comments.