

MSWMAC Advisory Committee Meeting

July 14, 2017 - 11:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.
King Street Center 8th Floor Conference Room

Final Meeting Minutes

MSWMAC Members	
Diana Quinn	Algona
Bill Pelosa	Auburn
Alison Bennett	Bellevue
Sabrina Combs	Bothell
Anita DeMahy	Bothell
Tris Samberg	Bothell
Austin Bell	Burien
Brian Roberts	Burien
Barre Seibert	Clyde Hill
Chris Searcy – Vice Chair	Enumclaw
John MacGillivray	Kirkland
Penny Sweet – Chair	Kirkland
Phillippa Kassover	Lake Forest Park
Diana Pistoll	Maple Valley
Carol Simpson	Newcastle
Jerallyn Roetemeyer	Redmond
Linda Knight	Renton
Beth Goldberg	Sammamish
Uke Dele	Shoreline
Paula Waters	Woodinville

King County Staff
Jenny Devlin, SWD staff
Jeff Gaisford, SWD staff
Beth Humphreys, SWD staff
Meg Moorehead, SWD staff
Yolanda Pon, Public Health - Seattle King County
Olivia Robinson, SWD staff
Terra Rose, KC Council staff
Glynda Steiner, SWD Assistant Division Director
Christie True, DNRP Director
Eben Sutton, SWD staff
Kim van Ekstrom, SWD staff
Katherine Taylor, DNRP staff
Guests
Cynthia Foley, Sound Cities Association
Laura Moser, Waste Management
Emily Newcomer Waste Management
Nav Ota, City of Bellevue

Minutes

Minutes from May were approved as written. The June minutes will be available next month.

Updates

SWAC

There were no updates from SWAC as their last meeting was a joint meeting with MSWMAC.

SWD

Half of King County schools enrolled in Green Schools Program

The Green Schools Program has served a growing number of schools each year – from 70 schools in 2008 to 251 schools this year, which is half of all K-12 schools in King County outside the City of Seattle. This month the program recognized 77 schools and two school districts for meeting program criteria related to recycling, composting, and other innovative waste disposal best practices.

South County Recycling and Transfer Station

On June 28, the Algona City Council approved Interlocal Agreements related to the new South County Recycling and Transfer Station. The agreements are now making their way to the King County Council. We appreciate the hard work from Algona as we moved through this process.

Scoping Notice for Comp Plan EIS

As announced at last month's meeting, the division issued a request for comments on the scope of the non-project Environmental Impact Statement for the Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan on June. The comment period closes on Monday, July 17.

MSWMAC

During the Introductory portion of the agenda, both Beth Goldberg of the City of Sammamish and Jerallyn Roetemeyer of the City of Redmond announced their retirements from MSWMAC as they are leaving their positions with their respective cities.

Alison Bennett of the City of Bellevue shared the news that thanks to productive meetings with the King County Solid Waste Division (SWD) staff, Bellevue staff are making a recommendation to their city council to sign the extended Interlocal Agreement (ILA) keeping Bellevue in the King County waste management system through 2040. Bennett is pleased that there are plans underway to extend the capacity of the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill. In the letter of intent, conditions under which Bellevue would sign the new ILA include cancelling the proposed Demand Management pilot project and starting the siting process for a northeast transfer station. A final decision from Bellevue City Council is expected by fall. Meg Moorehead, Manager of the Strategy, Communications, and Performance Section of SWD, reported she met with the mayors of the Point Cities and invited them to also sign the extended ILA. Several city representatives expressed their gratitude to Bellevue and King County staff for their efforts.

Report Back on Small Group Discussions Re WPR & Collection Actions

The results of last month's joint small group discussions about the prioritization of a list of 41 waste prevention, recycling, and collection actions were summarized and made available both as an electronic copy distributed prior to this meeting and as a [hard copy handout](#) available during this meeting. There was broad agreement on the list of the action items. Comments shared on the electronic version will be discussed at future meetings.

Comp Plan Discussion: Transfer Stations

Beth Humphreys, SWD, delivered a [presentation](#) on the Transfer Station chapter of the Comp Plan. Her presentation included a review of the criteria used to determine the levels of service offered at transfer stations, and a guided discussion on the policies regarding transfer stations and associated financial policies.

The decision to upgrade or relocate transfer stations depends on several factors, such as whether an existing transfer station is within a 30-minute drive for up to 90 percent of residents, if facility hours meet user demand, or if a station can compact waste to reduce transportation costs. Currently, three transfer stations (Houghton, Algona, and Renton) are relics of the 1960s and although they had recent roofing upgrades, they do not meet all levels of service standards, particularly the need for a station to have capacity to store waste for up to three days in the event of an emergency. Even under ordinary circumstances, Houghton and Algona stations also fall short on levels of service standards for tonnage and transactions.

The first policy of the chapter is: *Provide solid waste services to commercial collection companies and self-haul customers at transfer stations, and to self-haul customers at drop boxes.* This portion of the presentation included slides of charts projecting tons of solid waste disposed and recycled from 2015 – 2040, as well as projections under the Demand Management pilot, and outlines the system-wide benefits if Bellevue and the Point cities choose to remain in the system – including the elimination of the Demand Management pilot and a projected decrease in costs per ton.

A new recycling and transfer station in northeast King County is projected to manage 218,000 tons and 171,000 transactions annually by 2040 for the same area currently served by the Houghton station - cities of Kirkland, Kenmore, Lake Forest Park, Redmond, Woodinville, Bellevue, Bothell, and a portion of unincorporated area of King County. If a new northeast county station is similar to the Factoria station, it is estimated to cost \$160 million, a cost of \$0.55 per household per month. The Houghton and Renton stations will remain in operation until replacement capacity is available.

Discussion included:

Auburn Councilmember Bill Peloza asked whether mattresses and box springs are counted as garbage. Recycling and Environmental Services Section Supervisor, Jeff Gaisford responded that they are currently counted as garbage, but they are being separated from the waste stream at some stations and are recycled at the Bow Lake station. At or before the next meeting, Gaisford will provide current counts and forecasts for mattress collection. The SWD's 2015 Waste Characterization Study indicates 8,251 tons of mattresses per year are disposed through SWD facilities. The number of estimated mattresses landfilled each year is estimated to equal between 220,000 and 367,000. The range of the estimate is due to the range in weight of mattresses (e.g., 45 lbs. vs. 75 lbs.).

There was a question about the next steps toward the new northeast station. A budget ordinance is being transmitted to the King County Council to shift money currently allocated for the Demand Management pilot to a capital fund for siting a northeast station.

The second policy: *Provide solid waste transfer services in the urban and rural areas of the county based on local and facility conditions and interlocal agreements with King County cities.* After the two new stations are sited, the division will conduct service level assessments to determine if additional capacity is needed in the rural areas and may consider siting drop box facilities in these areas.

The third policy: *Work with cities and communities to develop mitigation measures for impacts related to the construction, operation, and maintenance of transfer facilities, as allowed by applicable local, state, and federal laws.*

The presentation of the second and third policies elicited no further discussion.

The fourth policy: *Incorporate green building principles and practices in all new transfer facilities and seek a Platinum rating in the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design*

(LEED) certification process. The division proposed to modify the policy language as such: “Strive to build, maintain and operate Solid Waste Division facilities with the highest green building and sustainable development practices.”

Although there is a county ordinance requiring new county facilities to be designed to achieve Platinum LEED certification status and the text of the chapter would address that, there was concern the proposed policy language is weaker than the original. Staff will review suggestions and bring revised language to the August meeting.

The fifth policy: *Provide for collection of recyclable materials at transfer facilities – recognizing resource limitations, availability of markets, and service area needs – focusing on maximum diversion of recyclables from the waste stream and on materials that are not easily recycled at the curb or through a readily available producer or retailer-provided program.*

Currently, eight of the ten stations and drop boxes collect recyclables and Factoria will do so in a couple of months. There was a request, and agreement, to add the word “all” to the policy so that ALL transfer facilities will provide for the collection of recyclables. In support of this effort, the division incentivizes recycling by not charging for most recyclables (appliances and yard waste requires a fee) and by providing equipment to increase capacity and decrease associated storage and transportation costs. The division is also exploring adding equipment at stations to capture more high-value materials, such as sorting lines or screens to help divert materials, and anaerobic digestion to process organics and capture gas.

Discussion included:

There was a question about who researches the markets for recyclables. The county contracts with haulers who retrieve the recyclable materials from the transfer stations and finds willing markets.

The costs for managing recyclables is in the millions. Gaisford will provide figures at or ahead of the next meeting. SWD contracts with recycling vendors to collect and process materials from our transfer stations and drop boxes. SWD paid our vendors \$1,149,213 to collect and process organics, commingled recyclables and appliances in 2016. This figure is net the revenue received based on the value of the commingled materials. The cost is offset by recycling fees charged at our transfer stations (e.g., yard waste) and tipping fees. Some materials are collected at no cost to the Division, such as, scrap metal, textiles, bicycles, mercury containing bulbs.

In 2018, self-haul customers will be required to sort wood, cardboard, scrap metal, and yard waste from their waste, at transfer stations that offer recycling of those materials, to keep it out of the landfill.

The sixth and final proposed transfer station policy is new to the updated Comp Plan: *Maintain a public and private mix of solid waste transfer and processing facilities.* As this is how the solid waste system is currently managed and performing satisfactorily, there was no dispute or concerns raised.

Comp Plan Discussion: Transfer and Finance Policies

Moorehead presented the division's Finance Policies with a proposal to update how the financial policies are organized. The proposed updates are guided by principles outlined in a [handout](#) made available at the meeting. Beginning with the creation of four finance categories, the existing 17 policies are now either revised policies or were converted into actions.

The updated finance policies and actions support the division's Finance Goal: *Keep tipping fees as low as reasonable, while covering the cost of effectively managing the system, protecting the environment, encouraging recycling, and providing service to customers.*

The proposed finance policies and actions are divided into four categories:

- Setting Customer Fees
- Use of Solid Waste Funds
- Solid Waste Fund Structure and Management
- Operations and Capital Project Financing

Discussion followed the presentation:

There was a question about how the financial chapter will be laid out: the first page of the chapter would list the policies, followed by a chart listing the actions, and the text of the chapter would provide supporting content.

The goals, policies, and actions are written in a way to provide guidance, but to also allow the actions to change as needed.

There was a question about if this were the appropriate chapter for a policy regarding mutual aid agreements with other municipalities in the event of wildfires or earthquakes. Moorehead had not yet considered it but will.

An expressed desire for further discussion regarding the need for a policy on financial mitigation to non-host cities for the wear on roads that are traveled upon by haulers traveling to and from transfer station, such as certain roads in Auburn. Department of Natural Resources and Parks Director Christie True noted there is a Revised Code of Washington regulation about providing mitigation to host cities for wear on roads within a certain distance to a transfer station.

A comment that the fourth category of Operations and Capital Project Financing ought to be broken into separate categories. A final comment that the fourth category also does not include a policy, just four actions. Moorehead agreed to consider the suggestion and have a new proposal for the next meeting.

Member and Public Comment

There were no additional comments.