

**MSWMAC Advisory Committee Meeting**  
July 13, 2018 - 11:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.  
King Street Center 8<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room

**Meeting Minutes**

<b><u>MSWMAC Members</u></b>	
Bill Pelozza	Auburn
Sarah Ogier	Bellevue
Sabrina Combs	Bothell
Robin Tischmak	Burien
Laura Techico	Des Moines
Chris Searcy	Enumclaw
Rob Van Orsow	Federal Way
Tony Donati	Kent
Penny Sweet – Chair	Kirkland
John MacGillivray	Kirkland
Phillippa Kassover	Lake Forest Park
Diana Pistoll	Maple Valley
Carol Simpson	Newcastle
Gary Schimek	Redmond
Linda Knight – Vice Chair	Renton
Maia Knox	Sammamish
Paula Waters	Woodinville
Alex Herzog	Woodinville

<b><u>King County Staff</u></b>
Jamey Barker, SWD staff
Jenny Devlin, SWD staff
Jeff Gaisford, SWD staff
Beth Humphreys, SWD staff
Jennifer Jessen, Public Health Seattle-King County
Pat D. McLaughlin, SWD Director
Meg Moorehead, SWD staff
Katherine Taylor, DNRP Government Relations Administrator
Christie True, DNRP Director
Dorian Waller, SWD staff

<b><u>Guests</u></b>
Janet Dobrowolski, Interested Citizen
Sharon Hlavka, Green Solutions
Leslie Morgan, Interested Citizen
Laura Moser, Waste Management
Emily Newcomer, Waste Management
Janet Prichard, Republic Services
Philipp Schmidt-Pathmann, NEOMER

**Minutes**

The June 2018 MSWMAC minutes were unanimously approved as amended by Sarah Ogier. The motion was put forth by Carol Simpson and seconded by Paula Waters. Bill Pelozza requested Action Items be noted separately in future meeting notes.

**Updates**

**Solid Waste Division (SWD)**

SWD Director Pat D. McLaughlin gave the following SWD updates:

**Legislative transmittals**

The Executive Proposed Solid Waste Disposal Fees for 2019-2020 has been transmitted to the County Council for consideration. The proposal includes a 4.6 percent increase in rates to begin in January 2019.

The Solid Waste Draft Comprehensive Plan is currently being reviewed by the Executive's Office. It is due for transmittal to the County Council on July 26.

### **Comp Plan briefings**

The Solid Waste Division met with representatives from cities such as Federal Way and Sammamish to further discuss the Comp Plan as it relates to their community. Other municipalities who may want briefings with their council or key staff please let us know.

### **South County Recycling and Transfer Station (SCRTS)**

The Solid Waste Division met with the City of Algona to discuss the Environmental Site Assessment report and green building certification options for the new station. As expected, core samples taken at the site show no significant contamination. The project design team held their team kickoff for the project.

Peloza requested a high-level Gantt chart project timeline for the SCRTS project be shared with the Advisory Committee.

### **Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC)**

MSWMAC Chair Penny Sweet said she was unable to attend the June SWAC meeting because she attended the Washington Refuse and Recycling Association's conference in Cle Elum where she enjoyed a presentation by Susan Robinson. Also in attendance were legislative representatives from Washington State. Phillippa Kassover summarized notes she took at the June SWAC meeting: there was a presentation on a proposed increase of the hazardous waste fees, a presentation about the timing of the Comp Plan, a review of the efforts of the Responsible Recycling Task Force, and a discussion about the draft Advisory Committee letter to county council about the Comp Plan. Kassover noted the current draft MSWMAC letter now included edits recommended by the city council of Lake Forest Park which reflect the notion that expanding capacity at the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill is not a long-term disposal option, but a near-term temporary option.

### **Comp Plan Advisory Letter**

Meg Moorehead, Strategy, Communications, and Performance section manager for SWD opened the discussion with a point that from her perspective, when an Advisory Committee member signs the Advisory Letter to county council they do so as a member of the Advisory Committee itself and not doing so as a city representative since the cities will continue to be able to provide feedback now and later will be given the opportunity to vote to adopt the Comp Plan. Advisory Committee members have all received the most recent version of the draft Comp Plan last week. The final version will be available on July 26. Sweet asked if the Executive has the same version as the Advisory Committees, Moorehead said yes. Sweet said MSWMAC is a body with weight and its collective work and agreement together is important; she asked if members were prepared to vote on sending the letter as it is currently written.

Simpson said regarding the second sentence of the third paragraph (*We believe that King County Executive's recommendations in our plan, particularly those with regard to the siting and construction of a Northeast Recycling and Transfer Station and the maximization of the capacity at the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill as the **next** disposal method, are substantially supported by MSWMAC and, as such, this consensus should carry significant weight in the MKCC's deliberations when considering approval of our plan.*), that since the division is currently using the landfill as a disposal method, the word "**next**" implies its future use. Sweet

said that continuing to use the landfill requires a major revision to the landfill: moving buildings, building a new disposal cell. Kassover reiterated the specific feedback she received from her city council is deep concerns that using the landfill to its maximum capacity is only a temporary solution, while the other options require extraordinary regulatory hurdles; she does not want county council to think that once they have voted on this Comp Plan they can be done thinking about the future.

Peloza made a motion to remove "*as the next disposal method*" from the third paragraph. Simpson seconded the motion. Kassover said she will not vote to sign the Advisory Letter at this time as she maintains her position that the regulatory review for the other disposal options will be incredibly difficult and will likely require more than ten years to meet; she feels the division needs to begin working on the next disposal option as soon as possible.

Gary Schimek said in regards to the Advisory Committee's relationship to county council, he still represents his city as a member of MSWMAC, and therefore his vote will need to be in step with his council; he has yet to have this conversation with them and will also abstain from signing the Advisory Letter at this time. All the same, he does not have any issue with the language of the letter either way. Chris Searcy said he is confident the audience of the Advisory Letter understands the intent of the letter and he thinks starting the conversation about the next disposal option now will consume the Advisory Committee for the next twenty years.

Waters said her initial concerns regarding the Comp Plan were in regards to a new northeast station, but now she is okay with the plan going forward; she asked if there was a reason why the language was so anodyne. Moorehead recalled there have been several Advisory Committee meeting discussions about how early is too early when planning for the future; given the Comp Plan is due for review in five years, there was a general sense that is when planning for the next long-term option ought to begin. Waters said she is fine with the language either way, but can appreciate how Kassover would want the language to be more definitive.

Ogier said the City of Bellevue also cannot sign the letter at this time, although she knows the city values the work of the Advisory Committee and supports both the construction of a new transfer station in the northeast and continued use of the landfill as a disposal option; she will still not sign without the opportunity of going through a full review of the document. Diana Pistoll says she concurs with Searcy. Sweet thanked Ogier for clarifying her position and agreed with Searcy - that if we immediately begin doing studies now, they will get in the way of other business. She is assured updated data will be forthcoming from both the division and the Washington Department of Ecology, so her concern is not as acute as Kassover's.

John MacGillivray suggested the Advisory Letter include a disclaimer to the effect that 'this does not supersede council's ability (to vote on the Comp Plan) as laid out in the ILA.' Ogier said she liked the sentiment but still wants to confer with city staff. Schimek agreed. Sweet said the intention of the letter is to state we have done a lot of work and we have pride in it. Kassover said a lot of her city's concerns would be removed if the whole paragraph were struck. Sweet said there would not be any sense in sending the letter then. Kassover said the

second paragraph is good and speaks to the intent Sweet described; it's the third paragraph that raises concerns.

Peloza urged Sweet to take a vote on his motion; Sweet did. The motion carries with the raising of 12 hands to five: the phrase "as the next disposal method" will be removed from the Advisory Letter. Then Sweet called for a vote on sending the letter as amended; the vote carries: 11 to six.

### **Recycling and Resource Recovery Innovations (RFI)**

Before starting her [presentation](#) on the recent Request for Information (RFI) regarding *Recycling and Resource Recovery* Innovations, Moorehead asked the cities if they wanted hardcopies of the Comp Plan; most raised their hands. Sabrina Combs said her city will have one copy available for review at a customer service desk and encouraged other cities to follow suit in order to minimize paper waste. Moorehead said copies will be made for each city, even those not present today.

Moorehead also announced the August MSWMAC meeting will consist of a joint field trip with SWAC to the Sound Sustainable Farms in Redmond from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. where committee members can see how Cedar Grove Compost is used in Agriculture.

Moorehead introduced the RFI with a reminder that recycling rates in the region have stalled to a percentage in the low 50s, and with market constraints such as the China Sword situation, the division wanted to get more ideas on how to get past such roadblocks. The goal of the RFI is gather information on potential actions or strategies the division could pursue in the future. She noted an RFI is not a formal Request for Proposals (RFP) nor does it commit the County to pursuing any proposal in the future. Sweet said the hauling companies have issued similar requests and asked if this wasn't something that could be done jointly. Peloza suggested this was a good request to share on social media. Kassover asked if there was a scope to the RFI; Moorehead responded: waste prevention, recycling, resource recovery, reduction of contamination, and higher uses beyond landfilling.

Peloza asked for a hardcopy of the presentation so he could share it with his council and staff. Dorian Waller, SWD Government Relations Administrator, said he would give Peloza a copy. Combs said she loves that these meetings have gone to digital documents since we are in the business of waste reduction. Cynthia Foley, from Sound Cities Alliance, said her agency shares information digitally and provides hard copies when requested in advance. Waller said he will supply hardcopies to those who make their request with 48 hours' notice.

Moorehead said the RFI was open to companies, consultants, and other government entities. The division is hoping to attract information from organizations that build waste handling facilities, conduct public outreach and education, and manage programs such as product stewardship, material processing, and market development. There are numerous actions and supporting policies outlined in the draft Comp Plan that support this solicitation of ideas. Additionally, the division receives periodic requests from companies that want some of the collected waste materials for their research; this RFI provides an opportunity to formally evaluate these requests before issuing RFPs.

The timeline for the RFI: The RFI remains open for July and August, then the division will review information in September, and possibly begin issuing RFPs in the winter. Kassover asked how the division will be publicizing the RFI; Moorehead said it will go out the standard way and will let the Advisory Committee know when it does.

### **China Sword (Responsible Recycling Task Force)**

Gaisford reported the Responsible Recycling Task Force has held three meetings so far. The next meeting will be at Bothell City Hall on July 18 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. The August meeting will be held in Kirkland.

Gaisford began his [presentation](#) with context of the recycling market prior to China Sword: mixed paper, newspaper and plastics were roughly 14 percent of total recyclable tonnage in King County. China was the main customer for those materials. He noted that prices for recycled materials is on a downward trend, but it is still not as low as it was when it dipped in 2009.

Gaisford reports the region is responding to the China Sword situation by finding alternative markets in India and elsewhere, and retooling sorting facilities, and increasing costs as a result of transportation and disposing contaminated materials.

The Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) has approved requests from Waste Management and Republic Services hauling companies to assess surcharges on their customers' garbage bills. The amounts of the surcharge vary based on franchise area. For example, unincorporated areas and non-contract cities customers will pay an extra \$0.41 - \$1.01 per month through the end of the year.

Hauling companies have also requested cities to provide waivers to allow haulers to landfill unmarketable materials. The county is aware of at least six cities that have permitted such waivers, most of which are for short periods of time which have already expired. The task force determined there needs to be an agreed upon process and criteria to determine when and how future waivers would be permitted. Site visits to a materials recovery facility (MRF) are encouraged to ensure best practices for minimizing landfilled material are being used.

Gaisford said the task force also discussed the nature of contamination. At MRFs, materials become contaminated when there is too much of the wrong material baled together and when bales are exposed to moisture. At the curb, contamination comes from "wishful" recycling and confusion over what goes in the blue bin.

The task force compiled a list of materials that are accepted in all jurisdictions (the green list), materials that are accepted in 60 – 90 percent of jurisdictions (yellow), and what is accepted in 40 percent or fewer jurisdictions (red). Waters asked why there is such a wide variance between the jurisdictions. Knight noted that the city-hauler contracts are all negotiated at different times with different terms and provisions. Pelozo asked if any haulers have been checking the bins for contamination before the materials reach a MRF. Laura Moser from Waste Management said some are checking the bins. Combs said parameters change frequently, and new rules about contamination can mean that one day a community is doing

a fine job at recycling and a while later find out they might not be doing as good as they thought.

The task force also has a Communications Consortium where communications staff from the various participating jurisdictions are creating a Communications Toolkit with key messages, social media posts, and YouTube videos. Delivery of the toolkit is expected in mid-August. They are considering a public education campaign.

The task force refers several actions for the Advisory Committees to discuss. Gaisford asked if the Advisory Committee would be interested in taking on these actions one at a time as they surface or should they be packaged as recommendations at the end of the task force's mandate which is expected to end in November. McLaughlin said the cities may want to take action on the issue of waivers now and the other topics might be more complicated and require more information later.

Ogier said she supports bringing things forward in clusters and asked for clarification on what role the Advisory Committees have and to what extent. Gaisford said that's the nature of this discussion: What is MSWMAC role? Sweet said we have the opportunity to define our role, we have never acted uniformly and proactively in this way. Pistoll agreed. Knight said she agrees the issues should be shared in clusters, but she had concerns about how far standardization should go. She said it was important for cities to retain the right to include or not include materials in contracts. She said the cities have to be careful and protect their right to make contracts and agreements. Sweet said the reality is that we want to do the right thing. Knight said that is up for interpretation – are we looking to expand and continue recycling or are we looking at larger social justice impacts in the world.

Kassover said she was concerned about communications addressing the public's confusion over the proper contents of the blue bin now. Combs said she received good information from the communications staff at Recology who helped her with messaging for the City of Bothell's website. Waters said her city does not have a contract with them; would she be able to talk to them too? Gaisford said the county does not have a contract with them but contacts them anyway. Moorehead said there will be a website with the toolkit as soon as it is available.

Waters asked if it were possible to have a plastic bag ban. Sweet said that is something for the legislators to decide but they are not inclined at this point. McLaughlin said cities could ban them from the recycle bin; plastic bags can be recycled at grocery stores instead. Knight recommended Waters contact Heather Trim, from Zero Waste Washington, who is starting the conversation on a statewide plastic bag ban.

### **Member and Public Comment**

Searcy said the Muckleshoot Tribe is constructing a transfer station and asked if anyone in the division has been contacted about it. McLaughlin said no.

Pistoll asked if the Advisory Committee is still called MSWMAC. Moorehead said it is until the county code is changed.

Simpson asked if the PowerPoint presentation would be available online. Waller said yes.

Leslie Morgan, a neighbor of the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill read from a [written statement](#) in support of a waste to energy facility and in opposition to further capacity development at the landfill.

Janet Dobrowolski, neighbor of the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill also read a [written statement](#).

Phillip Schmidt Pathmann, of NeoMar, also read statement.

The meeting was adjourned.

### **Action Items**

1. Peloza requested a high-level Gantt chart project timeline for the SCRTS project be shared with the Advisory Committee.
2. Peloza requested a hard copy of the PowerPoint presentation. Waller offered to give Peloza a copy.
3. Moorehead will let the Advisory Committee know when the RFI is published and will provide members with a copy of the notice.

Respectfully submitted by: Jenny Devlin