

## MSWMAC Advisory Committee Meeting

October 12, 2018 - 11:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.  
King Street Center 8<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room

### Draft Meeting Minutes

<u>MSWMAC Members</u>	
Joan Nelson	Auburn
Bill Peloza	Auburn
Alison Bennett	Bellevue
Sarah Ogier	Bellevue
Sabrina Combs	Bothell
Robin Tischmak	Burien
Barre Seibert	Clyde Hill
Laura Techico	Des Moines
Chris Searcy	Enumclaw
Micah Bonkowski	Issaquah
Tony Donati	Kent
John MacGillivray	Kirkland
Penny Sweet - Chair	Kirkland
Phillippa Kassover	Lake Forest Park
Diana Pistoll	Maple Valley
Jason Kintner	Mercer Island
Carol Simpson	Newcastle
Andy Rheume	Redmond
Maia Knox	Sammamish
Mason Giem	SeaTac
Uke Dele	Shoreline
Alex Herzog	Woodinville
Paula Waters	Woodinville

<u>King County Staff</u>
Jamey Barker, SWD staff
Scott Barden, SWD staff
Meg Moorehead, SWD staff
Jeff Gaisford, SWD staff
Beth Humphreys, SWD staff
Annie Kolb-Nelson, SWD staff
Pat D. McLaughlin, SWD Director
Eben Sutton, SWD staff
Bill Berni, SWD staff
Andrea Clinkscales, SWD staff
Belinda Morrison-Brantley, SWD staff
Dorian Waller, SWD staff
Margaret Bay, SWD staff
<u>Guests</u>
Philipp Schmidt-Pathmann, NEOMER
Rick Brighton, Community Member
Kathy Sweeney-Easter, Community Member
Casey Desmond, Waste Management

### Minutes

The September 2018 MSWMAC minutes were unanimously approved as amended:

Diane Pistoll requested inclusion that cities are considering amending their contracts to include a recycling surcharge, and that may result in some choosing to remove items for disposal in curbside bins.

Chris Searcy from City of Enumclaw requested a comment attributed to him about recycling costs reflect Enumclaw's calculation of \$10.46 a month for 96-gallon single-stream cart service every other week, and that approximately \$3.77 of that is for tipping fees and an estimated \$1.50 to \$1.75 is due to the China Sword impact.

## **Updates -- Solid Waste Division (SWD)**

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

### **Comp Plan Briefings**

King County recently received a letter from City of Tukwila expressing support for the adoption of the 2019 Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan, bringing the total number of cities in favor to six, which includes Normandy Park, Algona, Federal Way, Auburn and Black Diamond.

To date, SWD has briefed 30 out of the 37 cities on the Comp Plan, with all briefings scheduled for completion by the end of October. Jurisdictional tours of the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill are available as part of the briefing, and cities are invited to schedule if they are interested. City of Woodinville recently took a tour.

Staffing constraints are preventing the King County Council from reviewing the Comp Plan until after budget approval. The Regional Policy Committee (RPC) discussed the Plan review at two earlier briefings, and another RPC briefing is scheduled for the end of October.

Bill Peloza said he is a member of the RPC and that he will be advocating for the passage of the Comp Plan.

### **Community Engagement**

Recent and upcoming community meetings and tours are keeping neighbors engaged on issues related to Cedar Hills Regional Landfill operations. King County Councilmember Reagan Dunn hosted a well-attended meeting at Maple Hills Elementary School on Oct. 10, where several people expressed concern about further development at the landfill. SWD will be responsive to the concerns they raised.

A public tour of the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 20, from 9 to 10:30 a.m., and there are still seats available for interested participants.

The semi-annual Landfill Neighbor Community meeting is scheduled on Tuesday, Oct. 23, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the King County Library Service Center in Issaquah.

### **Good News**

A very positive news story on the Recycle Right campaign aired on Oct. 3 on Q13 Fox that emphasized the key messages the Responsible Recycling Communications Consortium developed around "Empty. Clean. Dry". The story remains on the Q13 [website](#).

The Factoria Recycling and Transfer Station earned a "[Best Project](#)" award in the 2018 Government/Public Building category from Engineering News Record Northwest, an industry publication that covers engineering, architecture and construction news.

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

Phillippa Kassoover, Lake Forest Park, attended the SWAC meeting on Sept. 21 and reported that the director has been on a city tour and heard that planning the landfill isn't the last step in providing long-term disposal. The committee heard from the last division update report the county has been in contact with Republic Services regarding disposal of non-marketable recyclables and residuals.

Republic Services has requested a variance for residual waste, some of which comes from Seattle and Alaska. They are asking for the ability to take it to their own landfill. In September, the SWAC also reviewed the process for determining the minimum recycling list.

### **Status of Request for Information, Waste Prevention and Resource Recovery**

Meg Moorehead, SWD Strategy, Communications and Performance Manager, presented on the status of a recent Request for Information to increase recycling rates. King County received 14 submittals with wide-ranging proposals on outreach and education, materials recovery improvements, and more organics recycling. SWD is reviewing proposals and will bring back recommendations for MSWMAC's input at the January meeting.

### **Responsible Recycling Task Force (Task Force) – Recycle Bin Recommendations**

Moorehead presented with Jeff Gaisford, SWD Recycling and Environmental Services Manager, on the Responsible Recycling Task Force recycling recommendations concerning the removal of plastic bags, plastic film, and shredded paper from curbside recycling bins, and the results of the "homework" that was assigned to MSWMAC members at the last meeting to review their contracts for specifics on the management of these items.

The short term priority in response to China Sword is to continue encourage recycling while helping customers "recycle right" and avoid contamination. There's a desire to avoid too many changes that undermine recycling efforts and confuse the public.

The long term goals are to recycle more and strive for greater regional consistency by leveraging communication. When we say the same thing many times repeatedly, people remember.

Committee Chair Penny Sweet voiced the need to strive for consistency among the haulers, who need to be aligned on the ability to deal with the materials.

Kassover mentioned that Seattle's input is a big component that's missing from the conversation since they're not represented at MSWMAC.

Gaisford replied that Seattle is part of the Task Force that's striving for regional consistency around the criteria for removing materials. Criteria include availability of current and future markets, potential for contamination in a commingled stream, environmental impacts that go beyond EPA's greenhouse gas standards to include social and health impacts, and finally Material Recovery Facility (MRF) capabilities around what can and can't be sorted.

There could be alternatives for processing items like electronics or plastic bags that can be returned to the retailer. Another point of consideration is cost and whether it makes sense to put more materials in the bin when some items are a very small percentage of total recyclables.

Andy Rheume from City of Redmond asked whether the group has considered the broad environmental impacts, and how recycling causes impacts in other communities?

Better tracking of where our materials are going should be a goal. Sweet commented the environmental benefits of recycling reduces use of virgin materials.

Moorehead noted traditionally we have measured tons of recycling instead of greenhouse gas emissions of recycling and the environmental impacts versus production of virgin products.

Gaisford asked if MSWMAC is ready to recommend removal of shredded paper and plastic bags from bins. Seattle did a study of how plastic bags and films are affecting operations at the MRF where their materials are processed. The study found that the MRF was only able to remove about 25 percent of the plastic bags during the pre-sort process. The remaining bags consistently contaminate other baled commodities. While plastic bags and film make up roughly 0.2% of incoming materials by weight, approximately 20-30% of recycling center labor is attributed to dealing with these materials. Shredded paper blows around at the MRFs. If placed in organics bins, it contains high levels of contamination from plastic shards.

There's no consistent direction for disposal of shredded paper and whether it belongs in garbage, organics or paper recycling. Only 17 jurisdictions accept shredded paper and 18 accept plastic bags and film in the recycling bin.

Committee members engaged in discussion, sharing specifics about their cities' contractual specifications on materials and messaging. There was less clarity on shredded paper. Several committee members shared suggestions about whether education could help residents make informed disposal choices – for example, paper without personal data probably doesn't need to be shredded. Local shredding events or commercial shredding could be an alternative.

Sarah Ogier, City of Bellevue, said Bellevue is looking for more data about whether shredded paper is a MRF problem and asked about the marketability of shredded bales? Gaisford said that information will be available in November.

The committee then voted in unanimous agreement to draft an advisory letter calling for the removal of plastic bags and film from bins, but requested more study on shredded paper. The letter would apply to all cities and unincorporated areas in the king County regional system.

### Area 8 Updates

Scott Barden, SWD staff, presented a "virtual tour" of the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill. The presentation highlighted operational excellence, noting the several awards from the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA), and offered an overview of the landfill functions along with examples of continuous improvements that have saved public money.

The presentation emphasized the environmental and economic benefits of energy recovery through SWD's partnership with BioEnergy Washington that produces enough energy to power 19,000 homes annually and reduces greenhouse gas emissions. Gas sales generated \$8 million in revenue that was shared with cities and customers. There's currently a pilot project underway to use biogas to power dual-fuel trucks, which has already reduced diesel use by 40 percent.

Barden also covered environmental stewardship, noting the presence of nearby wildlife, and stressed the operation staff's dedication to monitoring nuisance odors and responding 24/7 to complaints.

Margaret Bay, SWD Staff, presented on the status of Area 8, which is the next landfill cell that will go into operation after Area 7 reaches capacity and closes.

The Area 8 development project entailed moving storm water ponds and relocating 700,000 cubic yards of 1970s-era waste from an unlined area to make room for the new cell, to increase waste capacity.

Area 8 will be 18 acres in size with 7.84 million cubic yards of capacity and is expected to be in service through 2026. SWD is investing upfront in environmental controls to increase safety and efficiency while avoiding potential risks and added costs. The leachate system being installed will facilitate water quality testing and monitoring.

The project entailed hydrological studies to deal with the challenge of groundwater seepage and upwelling to avoid damage to the liner. Engineers designed an underdrain system that can pump up to 50 gallons a minute of clean groundwater to an offsite stream.

Area 8 will have two types of clay liner applied in different areas: A 2-foot thick clay liner and a liner made of compacted amended with bentonite. The liners are economically sensible and offer a high level of environmental protection.

Kassover inquired as to whether the compacted soil would offer adequate protection, and it was noted that compacted soil mixed with bentonite, a type of clay, is highly resistant to water and that this method has been tested rigorously. The next step in construction is to add drainage rock followed by a soft refuse liner. The project is on schedule and Area 8 is expected to start operating in spring 2019.

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

Andrea Clinkscales, SWD staff, presented an update on the design of the new recycling and transfer station that will replace the 50-year-old Algona Transfer Station. She noted that SWD is very excited about the service improvements planned in this part of the county.

Over the coming months, SWD will be engaging cities, community members and haulers in facility design. There have already been internal workshops to solicit employee input, including operations staff. The new facility's planned features include a greater number of recycling options, green building certification, public art and a moderate waste facility. Safety, efficiency, better customer service, and equity and social justice are also priorities in facility design and operations.

SWD is planning a December public meeting at the new Algona City Hall in December, and moving ahead with convening a Design Advisory Group.

Currently, SWD is in preliminary design and drafting layouts to see where buildings would fit on the site.

Final design will occur in 2020-2021, followed by construction and the facility opening to the public in 2023.

Barre Seibert asked if whether the Algona Transfer Station would remain open and was assured the transition between operations at the old and new facilities would be seamless to customers.

Rheume inquired about a cost analysis associated with the acceptance of hazardous household waste co-located at the transfer stations versus mobile collection service. SWD is preparing one.

Joan Nelson from City of Auburn thanked SWD for collocating the household hazardous waste facility at the station.

#### **Member and Public Comment**

Community member Rick Brighton delivered a three minute public comment stating his opposition to further development at the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill. He noted his status as a lifelong resident of Unincorporated King County and a 30-year neighbor of the landfill who feels the viewpoint of community members is not listened to or

represented. He expressed frustration at impacts that include odor and garbage dropped by birds, and doesn't believe the area is a suitable location for the landfill. He attended Councilmember Reagan Dunn's town hall meeting on Oct. 10 at Maple Hills Elementary School and shares views expressed at the meeting that the landfill should be closed down.

Kathy Sweeny-Easter delivered a three-minute public comment in which she voiced opposition to future development at the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill. She lives in a neighborhood near the landfill and spoke of impacts such as odors and debris carried by birds. She also stated concerns about water quality, and feels overall mitigation for impacts is inadequate. She doesn't believe the landfill should continue operating through 2028 but acknowledges there would still be a need to manage the methane. Her view is that the landfill has been a burden that the community no longer deserves and that she would like to see other communities in King County step up and accept a share of responsibility for waste management. She closed her comment by mentioning the website created by landfill development opponents <http://www.stoplandfillexpansion.org>.

Dorian Waller, SWD staff, asked if committee members would like to cancel the December meeting and committee members voted affirmatively to do so.

#### **Action Items**

A proposed idea to host an upcoming MSWMAC meeting at the landfill will be discussed in November.

Motion to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted by: Annie Kolb-Nelson