

MSWAC Advisory Committee Meeting

January 11, 2019 - 11:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.
King Street Center 8th Floor Conference Room

Meeting Minutes

<u>MSWMAC Members</u>	
Joan Nelson	Auburn
Sarah Ogier	Bellevue
Sabrina Combs	Bothell
Barre Seibert	Clyde Hill
Laura Techico	Des Moines
Chris Searcy	Enumclaw
Rob Van Orsow	Federal Way
Micha Bonkowski	Issaquah
Tony Donati	Kent
Jenna McInnis	Kirkland
Penny Sweet - Chair	Kirkland
Phillippa Kassover	Lake Forest Park
Diana Pistoll	Maple Valley
Jason Kintner	Mercer Island
Carol Simpson	Newcastle
Andy Rheume	Redmond
Linda Knight – Vice Chair	Renton
Uki Dele	Shoreline

<u>King County Staff</u>
Jamey Barker, SWD staff
Joy Carpine-Cazzanti, LHWMP
Jeff Gaisford, SWD staff
Tessa Rath, KC Council staff
Pat D. McLaughlin, SWD Director
Meg Moorehead, SWD staff
Dorian Waller, SWD staff
John Walsh, SWD staff
Annie Kolb-Nelson, SWD staff
Hilary Leonard, SWD staff
<u>Guests</u>
Laura Moser, Waste Management
Jeanette Brizendine-Jurgensen, City of Federal Way
Emily Newcomer, Waste Management
Philipp Schmidt-Pathmann, NEOMER

Minutes

The meeting commenced with a Call to Order and Introductions

Chair Sweet noted unfinished business from the prior meeting that included changing the committee name from Metropolitan Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee (MSWMAC) to Metropolitan Solid Waste Advisory Committee (MSWAC). Moorehead noted that under County Code the committee would still carry the old name but that the public-facing change would not be an issue. Waller will initiate the process to officially change the committee name in Code.

The November 2018 MSWMAC minutes were unanimously approved as amended:

Searcy requested a correction on Page 2, Paragraph 7, to change “Moderate Risk Water” facility to “Moderate Risk Waste” facility.

Updates -- Solid Waste Division (SWD)

SWD Director Pat McLaughlin provided the following SWD updates:

Comp Plan

McLaughlin noted forward momentum on the Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan (Comp Plan) and strong support from the cities following the Regional Policy Committee (RPC) meeting.

Council introduced a striker amendment that adds important clarifications but includes no major substantive changes to the ordinance or to the plan. Moorehead noted that members can go to the County Council website to view the legislative record.

SR-99 Viaduct Closure

In December and January, SWD notified City of Kirkland, County Council, and facility neighbors about extended hours of operation at the Houghton Transfer Station and the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill to accommodate for traffic impacts expected with the Viaduct closes on Jan. 11, 2019. Garbage hauling and tipping for King County operations only could extend to as late as 10 p.m. at these facilities. McLaughlin noted operations is looking at alternatives to later operations in the event community impacts are notable. Operations has been directed to minimize after-hours work and to conclude work activities as soon as possible.

Organics Summit

King County is planning a summit involving landscapers, agricultural operations, processing firms and others to increase market development opportunities around organics. Organics represent the single largest element disposed at Cedar Hills Landfill. There is substantial opportunity to recycle or reuse organic material but there isn't enough current demand from markets..

South County Recycling and Transfer Station (SCRTS) Project.

SCRTS project design is progressing, with the most recent milestone being the decision to go with a grade-separated floor, which operators prefer to a flat floor. Upcoming decisions will make determinations around traffic flow and building layout.

Pelosa asked about the features of a grade-separated floor. McLaughlin replied that waste self-haulers drive in on one level and the waste goes over a wall or slope to a lower level. Commercial haulers can drive directly onto the lower floor. This design keeps the public away from some of the larger equipment and is considered safer by operations.

Pistoll asked whether self-haulers would have a separate entrances for household hazardous waste and free recycling. McLaughlin replied those decisions are not made yet and that the project team is still looking at traffic flow implications and traffic patterns, and what that means for moderate risk transactions.

Searcy noted the new signage at the Bow Lake Recycling & Transfer Station.

Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC)

Chair Sweet noted there were no SWAC updates to report.

Sweet reminded members that February is the month for officers, so those interested as serving as chair or vice chair should make a note of that.

Cedar Hills Regional Landfill Update

SWD Director Pat McLaughlin gave a presentation on the noted commonly asked questions that are coming up from community members related to water quality protection, honoring agreements, managing landfill gas, and waste-to-energy.

His [presentation](#) stated the need to take action to extend the life of the landfill to comply with requirements in our interlocal agreements. The new Area 8 will only extend operations to 2025. We will need to cover additional areas to continue operating until 2028.

The presentation noted the number of operational changes that have come about from stricter environmental and regulatory requirements enacted over the past several decades, and how these requirements drive operational excellence in the ways the landfill is managed. Cedar Hills was originally permitted with few regulations in place to govern the design and operation of landfills. Over the past few decades we have evolved our techniques to become a benchmark for landfill excellence. We are on track to reach the division's goal to become carbon neutral by 2025.

Cedar Hills exceeds standards for gas detection and emissions. Gases are captured through a vacuum system. The system has earned awards for operational excellence from SWANA.

Protecting public health, the environment, and our employees is a top priority.

The Comprehensive Plan directs calls for us to maximize capacity at Cedar Hills. The actual design and permitting for such a policy is a separate process. SWD will continue to honor agreements with neighbors at every step.

Went over the history of the unlined areas developed before regulations were in place and how those areas are managed now.

The gas collection system is one of our nation's largest and best-run. It is regulated by the EPA, Department of Ecology, and King County Public Health. SWD is directed by regulators on gas measurement methods. We must be responsive to the regulatory environment in which we operate and cannot choose an alternative model. Waste characterization studies measure gas captured and SWD has an approximate 96 percent efficiency rate in capturing gas.

Groundwater management is very important. Operations monitor gas at 600 locations and 70 water wells. SWD works to protect the regional aquifer that extends below the landfill property. Groundwater flowing to the property, away, and some parallel flows are measured for quality. While incoming water is impacted by the superfund site at Queen City Farms, exiting groundwater exceeds federal drinking water standards. McLaughlin clarified concerns about historical contamination that's being cleaned up and contained.

Nelson asked about the history of the Superfund site, Queen City Farms, which due to its history of operations has legacy pollution.

Van Orsow asked what system was being referred to for carbon neutrality and McLaughlin clarified that the goal is set for the entire division and not limited to operations alone.

Van Orsow also inquired about the four percent gas not captured by the landfill pipeline and McLaughlin responded it is emitted into the atmosphere.

Pistoll asked about additive odorants in the gas to which McLaughlin responded Puget Sound Energy does inject an odorant but he couldn't speak to the nature of the substance.

Pistoll also asked if Waste-to-Energy options are being considered. McLaughlin noted all options are on the table but there is a need for clear policy direction to avoid closed doors and to meet 2040 service requirements set in interlocal agreements. Area 9 development at Cedar Hills does not preclude future consideration of a Waste-to-Energy facility. The ash produced by such a facility would still need to be disposed in a landfill. The County Executive is moving forward with another Waste-to-Energy study.

Pelosa asked about the aquifer at Cedar Hills. McLaughlin noted it is an important water supply system for the region and we are working to protect it.

Searcy asked about areas capped to prevent seepage.

Operational investments we're making to yield gas are comparatively more efficient than other systems. SWD staff notes our measurements show 96% efficiency while others are as low as 70%.

Responsible Recycling Task Force

Chair Sweet introduced the themes within the Responsible Recycling Task Force's report. Themes included working together as a region, tackling tough policy issues, creating market demand locally, supporting the development of a domestic recycling infrastructure, and committing to responsible recycling principles grounded in protecting human health and the environment.

Gaisford noted the 27-page report is posted [online](#) and encouraged members to read it as it will be reviewed and discussed at subsequent meetings.

His [presentation](#) provided an overview of the Task Force and summarized the report's six goal recommendations. Within the goals, there are 27 supporting action items. He proposed a two-step process for addressing the report over the coming months by discussing action items in one meeting and deciding on support for the items in a subsequent meeting.

Bennett asked how feedback will impact the report and implementation. Gaisford noted that the report will stand but it is up to the committee to decide which action items to take up. Feedback will form the basis of a SWD work plan.

Goal 1: Action 1A

Gaisford went over the goal to harmonize curbside recycling statewide

Goal 1: Action 1B

There is a potential bill for the 2019 legislature session called “Concerning Sustainable Recycling.” Ecology would develop a recycling center in conjunction with the Department of Commerce around improved processes and new markets. Local governments can work through their legislative channels to support or oppose the legislation.

Goal 1: Action 1C

There is a potential bill for 2019 concerning product stewardship of plastic packaging. The bill would establish a stewardship program on behalf of plastic packaging producers and it would fund plastic curbside collection and plastic litter cleanup. Strom Peterson is the legislative sponsor.

Kassover asked about the sponsors because WA cities Association will be in Olympia on Feb 13th and 14th and they could meet with legislators on the issue. Gaisford responded that the bills will be put forward the week of January 14th and we’ll have a better idea then about opportunities to reach out to lawmakers.

Siebert asked what constitutes “packaging.” Gaisford clarified that this particular bill concerns all packaging including rigid plastics, film, bags, and clamshells. Future bills will include some exemptions for types of packaging.

Goal 1: Action 1D

Advocacy for Responsible Recycling policies. Feedback from MSWMAC & SWAC is needed about how best to advocate for these bills in our own legislative actions while being cohesive.

Kassover will present the Task Force Report to her council. She wants to make sure the public gets engaged and knows about the work of the Task Force. She encouraged everyone to share the report in their communities.

Sweet noted that legislative strategy can also involve off-session conversations with legislators.

Goal 1: Action 1E

Develop a viable model for container stewardship based on the current program in Oregon. Oregon has had a bottle bill since 1971.

Combs commented that curbside collection materials with a higher value can inadvertently lead to higher rates of neighborhood car break-ins and crime by impelling neighborhood prowling. She encouraged the committee to talk with communities to be aware of unintended consequences.

Goal 5: Action 5C

Support potential 2019 reusable bag legislation to ban single use carryout bags. Produce bags, dry cleaning bags, newspaper bags, and plastic handle grocery bags would be exempt. Bill is sponsored by Representative Strom Peterson. Gaisford asked committee for feedback on how this bill would fit into their legislative priorities?

Bennett commented that there is a lot in the report to review and they’re not ready to answer now whether they support the Task Force Recommendations.

Sweet noted that this is why it is part of the work program for further discussion at MSMWAC meetings.

Kassover noted she wants Lake Forrest Park to adopt it as a work plan as opposed to policy. There is a lot of work to do but the document goal is to explore important areas that need addressing.

Knight commented that the report is a set of ideas for cities and their staff to use for building their legislative frameworks as opposed to fixed policies. It is a way to look at being more proactive on market conditions.

Bennett expressed interest in getting the haulers' perspectives on upcoming goals that address the cities' contracts with haulers. She proposed inviting haulers to future meetings.

Gaisford suggested emailing out legislative updates as they become known. Anyone not interested could opt-out of the emails. It is discussed that the subject would be specified as either a "legislative action report" or a "legislative action alert." Additionally, you can sign-up on a bill to receive updates.

Sweet asked about lobbying staff and Gaisford responded staff should be considered for the 2020 legislative session. Sweet notes that these things are important for each city to consider as decisions are being made about which legislative lobbyists to hire.

Kassover noted product stewardship was added to Lake Forest Park's legislative agenda.

Goal 5: Action 5B

Removal of plastic bags, film and shredded paper from residential bins.

Moorehead introduced a draft advisory letter recommending removal of plastic bags and film and shredded paper and asked for member consideration. The letter comes with "homework" for members to find out if their hauler contracts allow for removal of materials, what messaging is possible without revising contracts, and whether members wish to support the advisory letter. We need to decide on next steps about how recommendations would be implemented and what disposal recommendations are feasible.

Ogier asked for clarification on goal outcomes and what the intention is in communicating with County Council. Moorehead replied that the intention is to express recommendations on what we think is the right thing to do and to state that the county and cities can create a rollout plan together that moves these recommendations forward.

McLaughlin commented that these recommendations would provide a basis for setting service levels to the unincorporated areas and the letter is good leverage to help guide conversations.

Knight noted that Renton contracts are flexible in that recyclable materials are listed as an attachment and the city is not required to engage all items. She added that communications around bags and paper should make waste prevention a priority. Waste handling should be secondary to the elimination of those materials in the first place. Moorhead noted that the communication consortium goal is to develop message recommendations.

Gaisford reported that there are 15-17 cities that have plastic bags on their recycling list currently and there is a lot of confusion about recyclable materials.

Ogier appreciated the acknowledgement that there is still work to be done around alternative disposal recommendations and that this made her more supportive for the letter.

Sweet asked for a motion in support of the letter. Bennett expressed interest in waiting for another meeting to support it. The issue will be taken up at the next meeting.

Member and Public Comment

There was no member or public comment. Waller stated like SWAC, public comment will be moved up the agenda at future meetings. Doing so would give the committee a chance to consider public comment. Comments should ideally relate to agenda items.

Meeting adjourned at 1:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted by: Hilary Leonard