

Metropolitan Solid Waste Advisory Committee (MSWAC) Meeting

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

Meeting Minutes

<u>MSWMAC Members</u>	
Bill Pelozza	Auburn
Joan Nelson	Auburn
Sarah Ogier	Bellevue
Sabrina Combs	Bothell
Robin Tischmak	Burien
Barre Seibert	Clyde Hill
Laura Techico	Des Moines
Chris Searcy	Enumclaw
Rob Van Orsow	Federal Way
Micah Bonkowski	Issaquah
Tony Donati	Kent
Penny Sweet – Chair	Kirkland
John MacGillivray	Kirkland
Phillippa Kassover	Lake Forest Park
Diana Pistoll	Maple Valley
Asea Sandine	Mercer Island
Carol Simpson	Newcastle
Linda Knight—Vice Chair	Renton
Jina Kim	Renton
Andrew Zagars	Sammamish
Mason Giem	SeaTac
Uki Dele	Shoreline
Alex Herzog	Woodinville
Paula Waters	Woodinville

<u>King County Staff</u>
Joy Carpine-Cazzanti, LHWMP
Jeff Gaisford, Solid Waste Division (SWD) staff
Hilary Leonard, SWD staff
Pat D. McLaughlin, SWD Director
Meg Moorehead, SWD staff
Dorian Waller, SWD staff
Annie Kolb-Nelson, SWD staff
John Walsh, SWD staff
Andy Smith, SWD staff
Christie True, DNRP Director
Jim Neely, SWD staff
<u>Guests</u>
Cynthia Foley, Sound Cities Association
Philipp Schmidt-Pathmann, NEOMER
Quin Apuzzo, Recology
Rory O'Rourke
Jennifer Jessum

Call to Order and Introductions

The meeting commenced with the Call to Order and Introductions.

Meeting Minutes

The February 2019 MSWAC minutes were unanimously approved as amended:

Sarah Ogier noted that on page three under Responsible Recycling Task Force the word “proved” in the first paragraph should be corrected to “provided”.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Updates

SWD Director Pat McLaughlin presented the SWD update:

Comprehensive Plan (Comp Plan)

The Regional Policy Committee (RPC) on February 27th approved the Comp Plan with an amendment that provides technical clarity. On March 4th the Committee of the Whole (COW) discussed the plan. They will continue to deliberate during the upcoming meeting on March 18th. We do not yet know if action will be taken, but will continue to update the group as events unfold. We will also keep the group updated on the venue of the Council meeting scheduled for 3/20. It may take place in the Renton area.

Organics Summit

The first of the two day Organics Summit took place this week. The next event is on April 17th. Day one was well attended with over 60 participants who represented a broad swath of industry stakeholders. Organics constitute the largest material by volume being buried in the landfill. During breakout sessions, attendees discussed the barriers and challenges with developing the market for compost.

Cleanup LIFT

In January we launched Cleanup LIFT, a new low-income discount at our recycling and garbage transfer stations. The discount is targeted to an estimated 300,000 low-income residents in King County. During the first month, a total of 227 transactions applied the discount. We will continue to monitor and promote the discount in order to make our services more accessible to low-income customers.

South County Transfer Station (SCRTS)

We are in the midst of an online [open house](#) for input on the new station design. The next major milestone is this summer when we reach 30 percent design completion with the help of the Design Advisory Committee. We are committed to achieving a Living Building Challenge Petal Certification, which is a much more ambitious green certification than we have pursued in the past.

Pelosa asked if the project is still on budget. McLaughlin responded that we are and finances are being closely monitored. That said, the project has not yet been baselined in terms of budget.

Pelosa noted that the City of Auburn is very appreciative of the new station's location.

Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC)

Sweet noted that SWAC approved the advisory letter during their February meeting and discussed current legislation.

Kassover added that a Union Representative attending SWAC reminded members that driving waste hauling trucks is the fifth most dangerous job in America. The snow made working conditions difficult and drivers did their best to pick up waste while ensuring employee safety.

McLaughlin added that coordinated communication with the public and host cities concerning operating hours was challenging during the storm because road conditions were not always known by haulers. SWD will be reaching out

to cities in the weeks ahead to clarify and standardize expectations around haulers and communication. Contract amendments won't be necessary. In fact, standards may already be outlined in the existing contracts.

Kassover requested that both committees receive regular reports on the Waste to Energy budget proviso being conducted by the Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget (PSB).

McLaughlin stated that SWD will keep everyone in the loop on the study of Waste to Energy. The work builds on research conducted in 2017 and seeks to further our understanding of the environmental impact and cost of Waste to Energy options. The study will inform the next steps for long term waste management planning. There were four Request for Proposals (RFPs) submitted that PSB will be considering during the next few weeks.

C&D Ordinance Update

Jim Neely of SWD presented on the construction and demolition (C&D) ordinance update.

C&D constitutes about one third of the solid waste generated in King County. If concrete and asphalt are included in the calculation, then the percentage increases to half of all solid waste. C&D is managed in the private sector primarily with SWD acting in a more regulatory fashion.

In 2015 King County passed Ordinance 18166 that shifted C&D disposal from landfilling to recycling. Materials including clean wood, cardboard, metal, new gypsum scrap, concrete, asphalt paving, and brick were banned from being landfilled. The number of private facilities authorized to handle C&D was expanded from 5 to 14. SWD contracted with the King County Sheriff to ensure materials were transported from job sites to approved facilities.

Regular meetings among industry and government stakeholders are conducted to assess the needs and efficiency of the recycling systems. SWD is also working with cities on a template for code language that supports C&D recycling and destruction.

King County is a regional leader in recycling C&D. In 2018 the amount of C&D being landfilled decreased while the amount going to material recovery facilities (MRFs) increased. In contrast, the City of Seattle saw an increase in the amount of C&D going to landfills via private transfer stations.

In 2019 SWD is considering updates to the ordinance to better influence what happens at jobsites. Additionally we are updating building and enforcement codes, developing grants for new markets, looking into hiring a full time sheriff, exploring additional collection options in rural areas, and working with cities to provide education on the ordinance.

Pelosa inquired about the Viaduct waste. Neely responded that the Viaduct is a Seattle project, however, his understanding is that there was concern the Viaduct would flood the market. Rebar from the Viaduct is being recycled as much as possible. The old tunnel needed something structural to fill it and the City is permitted to use viaduct debris as structure fill for the tunnel.

Kassover asked about the destination of the northbound trucks carrying debris through Lake Forrest Park. Neely answered that King County has authorized C&D recycling facilities in other jurisdictions and there are four recyclers north of Lake Forest Park along Highway 520.

Waters asked how enforcement was accomplished before the Sheriff was contracted and if other divisions contract with the Sheriff. Neely responded that enforcement was not very strong before the Sheriff contract. Parks also contracts with the Sheriff.

Simpson inquired about enforcement for small scale home remodels. Neely answered that the regulations do not extend to small C&D but we help recycle more of what comes to our transfer stations. We don't want to make regulations too onerous or encourage illegal dumping.

Searcy noted that there is opposition from community organizations on the siting of an additional facility in unincorporated King County north of Enumclaw.

Kassover asked for clarification on the work being done with cities around the program. Neely responded that they are working to change and clarify code at the county level. They work with each city's building departments to provide flyers and handouts to customers as well as encouraging resource recovery from the destruction of old buildings.

Responsible Recycling Task Force Recommendations Report

Jeff Gaisford presented on the state legislative updates and Task Force Recommendations [Report](#).

HB 1204 did not pass out of committee but it could be reintroduced next year. SSB 5397 is still alive in the senate. It was changed into a study bill that would require Ecology to hire a contractor to look at the management and disposal of plastic packaging in the state, identify alternatives, and produce a report with recommendations. The report would be presented to the legislature in 2020.

HB 1205 has been referred to the rules committee. SSB 5323 passed the senate on March 5th with a reduction in the fee amount independent grocers can charge for paper bags. The fee was reduced from ten cents to eight cents.

Recycling Development Center Bills HB 1543 and SB 5545 are focused on paper and plastic. We're still looking for these bills to move forward.

Kassover added that HB 1543 has passed.

The Paint stewardship bill HB 1652 for a paint takeback program will continue to move forward with a hearing on March 14th.

In January and February MSWAC discussed sending an advisory letter to show support for removing plastic bags and film. SWAC has finalized and sent their letter. Gaisford asked the group if there is support to send the letter at this time.

Sweet noted that representatives from Redmond weighed-in and provided additional feedback on the letter's language. Both Chairs recommend moving forward with the version of the letter MSWAC reviewed and finalized given the feedback does not substantively alter the message. The group reviewed both versions of the letter. Kassover motioned to send the original letter and Searcy seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Sandine asked when the letter will go out. Sweet responded that they aim to get it in the mail within 4 days.

The Task Force recommendations we will focus on today are the actions under goal 2 to develop local recycling infrastructure and goal 3 to harmonize recycling programs and messaging.

Action Item 2A—conduct pilot programs to encourage development of domestic recycling infrastructure. SWD would approach haulers and cities to develop pilots. Ogier commented that prior to creating a pilot SWD should speak with industry representatives to assess any challenges. Gaisford confirmed that conversations with people in the industry will be the first step and the committee will be updated along the way.

Sweet suggested a subcommittee or small work group be formed to support pilot development. Gaisford added that Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) is committed to this work and SWD and SPU are developing a joint work program that others may be invited to join.

Action Item 2B—expanding the Wrap Recycling Action Program (WRAP). WRAP has worked with other local governments and states, but not in Washington. The City of Seattle has already done some work on this and SWD would provide support to fill the gaps. We want to ensure there are good recycling options if we remove plastic bags and paper from bins.

Action Item 2C—development of markets for paper, plastic, and compost. If the bills pass that support the Recycling Development Center we'll want to speak with the Department of Ecology about next steps. SWD and Seattle would jointly work with haulers, MRFs, and Ecology to prioritize resources to support market development.

Action Item 3A—Harmonize our messaging around recycling materials. Our suggestion is to form a subgroup to come up with criteria that would be brought back to MSWAC and SWAC for discussion.

Action Item 3B—continue the work of the Communication Consortium to unify messaging about curbside recycling. Bus ads will begin running the Recycle Right media campaign in March and again in May and June. The consortium will create a communication plan around removing plastic bags and film that will be shared with you.

Action Item 3C—standardize system for coordination around recycling programs and policies with the City of Seattle. The Seattle SWAC has been briefed and is very supportive. The SWAC advisory letter was shared with them.

Member Comment

Searcy thanked SWD staff for the Skype option provided during the February meeting. He added that he's proud to report that Enumclaw didn't miss a day of waste collection service during the storm.

Simpson commented that Newcastle started a new contract last week with Waste Management. They now offer a combined yard waste and garbage option as well as new cart colors that align with standardization.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 12:45pm.