

MSWAC Advisory Committee Meeting

April 12, 2019 - 11:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.
King Street Center 8th Floor Conference Room

Meeting Minutes

<u>MSWMAC Members</u>	
Bill Peloza	Auburn
Joan Nelson	Auburn
Stephanie Schwenger	Bellevue
Sabrina Combs	Bothell
Barre Seibert	Clyde Hill
Chris Searcy	Enumclaw
Rob Van Orsow	Federal Way
Tony Donati	Kent
Penny Sweet – Chair	Kirkland
John MacGillivray	Kirkland
Diana Pistoll	Maple Valley
Carol Simpson	Newcastle
Andy Rheume	Redmond
Linda Knight—Vice Chair	Renton
Andrew Zagars	Sammamish
Mason Giem	SeaTac
Autumn Salameak	Shoreline
Uki Dele	Shoreline
Paula Waters	Woodinville

<u>King County Staff</u>
Joy Carpine-Cazzanti, LHWMP
Jeff Gaisford, SWD staff
Hilary Leonard, SWD staff
Pat D. McLaughlin, SWD Director
Dorian Waller, SWD staff
Beth Humphries, SWD staff
Laura Belt, SWD staff
Annie Kolb-Nelson, SWD staff
Meg Moorehead, SWD staff
<u>Guests</u>
Cynthia Foley, Sound Cities Association
Emily Newcome, Waste Management
Ken Marshall
Russel Joe

Call to Order and Introductions

The meeting commenced with the Call to Order and Introductions.

Meeting Minutes

The March 2019 MSWAC minutes were unanimously approved as amended:

Chris Searcy noted a change within the third paragraph of page four—the proposed C&D facility is sited in unincorporated King County North of Enumclaw.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Updates

Recycling & Environmental Service Manager, Jeff Gaisford presented the SWD update:

Organics Summit

During the first day of the Organics Summit industry stakeholders came together to discuss the existing system and possible improvements. The second summit is next Wednesday, April 17th. We'll report back to you with details at the next MSWAC meeting.

Local Media

There has been widespread coverage of the Solid Waste Division in the media including in the New York Times, KIRO-7, KOMO-4, KING-5, KCPQ-13, KUOW, the Seattle Times, the Seattle Weekly, Renton Patch, and the Covington Reporter. Coverage has largely focused on the future of Cedar Hills and bird management. A [story](#) that aired on April 10th on KIRO-TV promoted Recycle Right messaging. The segment did a great job summarizing the range of issues facing recycling and included the "Empty, Clean, and Dry" tagline.

Recycle Right

In March the Communications Consortium launched their first messaging campaign. The campaign includes a mix of radio, TV advertising, online ads, social media, and billboards. The messaging will continue to be advertised through mid-April then will be broadcast again beginning in May through June.

Local Hazardous Waste Update

The Local Hazardous Waste Management Program (LHWMP) is rebranding by dropping "Local" from their name. Beginning this month, they will be launching an awareness campaign, Guilt Free KC, to educate people living in King County about our hazardous waste collection services. Lynda Ransley, the Hazardous Waste Management Director is scheduled to come speak to MSWAC about updates to their engagement plan in June.

SWAC

Sweet was not able to attend the prior SWAC meeting but noted that the meeting stuck to the same agenda points as MSWAC.

COMP PLAN

SWD Director Pat McLaughlin presented the Comp Plan update:

Six [amendments](#) to the Comp Plan were introduced by Councilmember Dunn at the April 1st meeting. The amendments do not raise substantial concerns for SWD.

Amendment one reaffirms our commitment and obligations to maintaining a 1,000-foot buffer at Cedar Hills. It is consistent with language present in the settlement agreement with the addition of annual reporting on our progress in establishing and maintaining the buffer. When the landfill was originally permitted, County Commissioners decided the landfill should have a 1,000 foot buffer instead of the 250 foot buffer required by State law. Aerial photos from 1966 show that garbage was placed within a part of the buffer. There is no county record to indicate why that was done. SWD has acquired four properties from willing sellers who were within the 1,000 foot buffer area.

When asked if there was encroachment on Cedar Hills by the surrounding neighbors, Waller responded there wasn't. Encroachment has been a problem with other landfills, but not at Cedar Hills.

MacGillivray asked about the approximate cost of property acquisition. McLaughlin responded that four properties have been acquired over the past several years. They were all acquired at market rate through a typical real estate transaction. Exact numbers can be shared, but they are not on hand.

Waters asked if the acquired properties span the entire section where the buffer was diminished. McLaughlin responded that 22 property owners who are within 1000-feet of garbage were notified that we would be interested to buy their homes when they wish to sell. Many of the properties are multiple acres and it may only be a small part that is within range.

Searcy asked what has been done with acquired properties. McLaughlin responded that the homes were deconstructed, the materials recycled, and the area is being restored to its natural state.

Amendment two concerns bird management. The amendment requires a more specific approach to reporting on management of birds of seagull size or larger. We have always managed wildlife and will continue to do so. Current bird management includes the use of 3rd party experts. The amendment will amplify our activities. The goal of bird management is to humanely and legally minimize issues birds cause in terms of where they nest and any nuisance they may cause.

Rheume inquired about the bird manager's methods. McLaughlin answered that they use a variety of approaches, including trapping and culling, and deterrents such as scarecrows and drones. Pyrotecnics are also used from time to time. Eagles pose a challenge because they cannot be harassed.

Knight asked what the impetus for the issue is given bird management is already occurring. McLaughlin replied that the amendment emphasizes tracking and reporting, which is ultimately a good outcome for SWD. Sharing our results more broadly may help dispel any misinformation about our operations.

Amendment three focuses on ensuring the division is considering best practices around landfill cover. It is consistent with our current practices but adds additional reporting. We use different techniques and coverage strategies depending on the stage of closure. On a daily basis we use tarps because they keep wildlife out of the garbage, reduce odor, and improve gas collection. We currently do an annual report mainly focused on recycling but have an opportunity to cover operations in the future.

Zagars commented that the intent of the amendment seems to be to require a detailed report. McLaughlin replied that we can make modifications to how we present information in our annual reports based on feedback. These are not executive amendments.

Amendment four is focused on cell height limitations for Areas 5, 6, and 7. It is similar to the first proposed amendment in that it serves to reaffirm and reinforce our standing commitments in the settlement agreement. There does not change is nothing new or changed as far as capacity or design.

Knight asked if we are still on track to expand into Area 8. McLaughlin answered that Area 8 is expected to start operating this summer.

Searcy asked which areas are included in the settlement agreement and if a King County had defined what "good faith effort" means. McLaughlin answered that Areas 5, 6, and 7 are in the settlement agreement. The parties acknowledged in the agreement that the 788 feet height limit may not always be possible. Area 8 could from an engineering standpoint be higher if Area 9 is made higher, but that would require additional permitting. The additional height, however, would not affect Areas 5, 6, and 7.

Amendment five acknowledges that there is work to be done in planning for long term disposal. It instructs the Performance, Strategy, and Budget (PSB) office to work with us to engage regionally and provide a report on disposal options by December 31, 2021. This does not suggest we are going to select the next alternative by that

date, but rather we will have developed a plan. PSB is currently managing and RFP for a waste-to-energy study that will be done by this October. The study may inform the work that happens under amendment five. Once the plan is created, an option for final disposal will be put forward through legislation with consultation from MSWAC.

Meg added that the selection of the post-Cedar Hills disposal option will be part of the next Comp Plan update.

Amendment six requires us to work with the Roads Services Division to investigate if there is a mechanism for unincorporated areas to seek mitigation dollars when our operations impact their infrastructure. The Interlocal agreements currently afford cities the ability to seek mitigation. We do have a cooperative agreement with Roads at our Skykomish drop box as it happens to be located next to a Roads facility. The amendment, however, is exploring something that we have not done before.

Knight asked if the amendment is anticipated to open new costs for the division. McLaughlin responded that one of the reasons we don't have concerns about the proposed amendments is because we do not expect substantial cost impacts. If indeed we discovered there is an appropriate mechanism, which could impact a future rate. In terms of gathering and reporting information, costs are be limited to staff time and is expected to be nominal.

Moorehead said there are two new [amendments](#) from Councilmember Lambert that have not yet been introduced at full council. One relates to sending the County Council report on landfill operations that SWD produces each year for the Department of Ecology and Public Health. There are dozens and dozens of requirements we are required to follow and report on annually. Although sending the Council the report should not be an issue, SWD needs to confirm the exact report addressed by the amendment. It is possible the amendment relates to the sub section 11 report that is developed annually and shared publicly. Our intention is to recommend some clarifying edits before the amendment is presented to the RPC. The second amendment concerns the Comp Plan financial policy that will be codified at the same time as the Comp Plan adoption. Our policy currently is to "keep tipping fees as low as possible" while protecting the environment and managing the system. The amendment specifies adding language for including new and emergent technologies. Adding this isn't inconsistent with our current policy to use tipping fees to invest in emerging technologies.

Our hope is all the amendments will be presented to the RPC and be approved. If the RPC approves them on the 17th, sometime in the next few weeks the Comp Plan will be in front of Council again for final action. Once the Council acts, we will provide you with an info packet including a notice about what is included in the plan with an opportunity to weigh in. The Plan will be considered adopted if 75 percent of the population as represented by cites taking action within 120 days. Our info packet will outline these rules and include a link to the electronic version as well as one hard copy of the Comp Plan per city. If the cities approve, it goes to the Department of Ecology for 45 days. It is possible the Comp Plan could be approved by the end of this year.

Pelozo asked for clarification on the utility of the on the seventh amendment. McLaughlin responded the report we send to our regulators shows the accountability of our operations. Councilmember Lambert appears to be trying to increase transparency, which SWD supports.

Rheume asked about the possibility of a study session with the cities. Moorehead responded SWD staff are available for meetings, briefings or any other support to assist in the city ratification process. The 120 day limit is set by the Interlocal Agreements.

Cleanup Lift Update

Meg Moorehead of SWD presented an update on the [Cleanup LIFT program](#).

King County residents at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level are eligible for the Cleanup Lift discount by showing either an Orca LIFT, ProviderOne, or EBT card at any King County Transfer Station. Since the program launch in January, the discount has been used 750 times. More than half of all transactions using the discount were at the South County stations. Usage dropped off during the winter snow storms but started to rebound again in March.

We're trying to broaden outreach to residents to increase awareness of the discount.

Kolb-Nelson noted that SWD has program flyers available in nine different languages. A digital version of all the brochures can be found on our [website](#). We're also conducting an ethnic media campaign with outlets around the region to promote the discount.

MacGillivray asked if there are different types of Orca cards. Moorehead responded that there are. Low income residents must qualify for the Orca LIFT discount. Unlike generic ORCA passes, the card includes an expiration date on the back.

Simpson inquired about the main reason residents self-haul their waste to transfer stations. Gaisford responded that surveys show most customers do have curbside pick-up and use transfer stations for bulky items.

Moorehead facilitated an activity where members were asked to brainstorm ways to promote the Cleanup LIFT program to their respective cities. Ideas included:

- Add to Human Services brochure
- Add to Senior Center brochure that mails quarterly
- Utility bill inserts
- Brochures and posters available in City Hall and other city buildings
- City Facebook, Twitter, Next Door, Instagram
- City newsletter
- Commercials, TV
- Community television programming (TV 21)
- Co-promote with city utility rate and tax relief programs
- Customer service info on city web pages
- Distribute information at community events such as farmers markets in partnership with waste haulers
- Show pictures of cards needed for eligibility on city materials to make it easy to understand
- Elevator
- Facebook website community letter
- Food bank
- Front desk calls about discounts
- Include in update reports @ council meetings and study sessions
- Make sure all of city staff know of program
- Notice sent to customers that already receive other discounts
- Through code enforcement when responding to junk and debris on private property
- During Orca LIFT enrollment
- Promote using City newsletters
- Use social service agencies to distribute through apartment property managers
- Quarterly Magazine
- Short videos with closed captioning
- Work with Chamber of Commerce
- YouTube

Responsible Recycling Task Force Recommendations

Jeff Gaisford from SWD presented legislative updates and the Task Force Recommendations Report.

The legislative session should wrap up by the end of this month.

The Plastic Packaging Stewardship bill (HB 1204/ SSB 5397) concerning the responsible management of plastic packaging has been reduced to a study bill. It requires Ecology to work with a consultant to develop options to reduce plastic packaging in the waste stream and present to the legislature in 2020. It moved out of the House Appropriations Committee and is in the Rules Committee.

The Reusable Bag Bill (HB 1205/SBB 5323) would ban plastic bags at retail establishments and impose an eight cent surcharge on reusable plastic film bags. It also mandates compostable bags be either brown or green. The bill was voted out of House Appropriations and is currently in the Rules Committee.

Pistoll raised the concern that some retailers will purchase plastic bags slightly thicker than the requirement to avoid the charge. MacGillivray noted that was a concern for Kirkland when they adopted their plastic bag ban. Kirkland decided to charge the 8 cent fee for thicker bags as well.

The Recycling Development Center Bill (HB 1543/SB 5545) concerns creating a recycling development center to research, incentivize, and develop new markets and expand existing markets for recycled commodities and recycling facilities. There was an amendment added to include a lifecycle cost analysis. It was voted out of the Senate Ways and Means Committee and is in the Senate Rules Committee. If this passes I'm sure we will discuss what goes into that analysis.

The Paint Product Stewardship Bill (HB 1652) is currently in the House Rules Committee and has not moved. The final status of this bill and our other bills will be provided in May.

We have been talking about the Task Force recommendations since January to inform this group and SWAC. We are creating a workplan now that you will hear more about at future meetings once we complete initial action item discussion.

Action Item 4A: Establish recycled content legislation that requires certain products be made of a set amount of recycled material. California already began this a few years ago. They set certain percentages for plastic containers. Our recommendation is to hold off until 2020 to begin work on this.

Action Item 4B: Strengthen procurement ordinances that increase the purchase of products made from post-consumer recyclables. Our recommendation is to hold off work on this until 2020.

Action Item 4C: Work with the Association of Plastic Recycler's Demand Champions program to encourage King County companies to buy and use items made with recycled plastics. It is a voluntary program. We would focus on getting more companies onboard and Seattle, who has an existing relationship with the program, would lead the effort starting in 2020.

Action Item 4D: Explore procurement opportunities similar to Demand Champions for products made with recycled materials. We want to not rely only on the Demand Champions program which is primarily focused on plastics.

Action Item 5A: Create clean and marketable feedstocks and change contracts. SWD will take the lead on developing model language. We put out a Request for Proposals (RFP) last year with new language around domestic processing and sorting. We signed a new contract for collecting and processing comingled recyclables from our transfer stations with Recology and are expecting quarterly reports from them. We'll have an update next month on those reports.

Searcy asked if SWD is coordinating with facilities in Snohomish and Pierce County as it would be difficult to implement a standard for only facilities within the bounds of King County. Gaisford noted that coordination has not happened yet.

Action Item 5B: Remove plastic bags/film and shredded paper from the list of acceptable recyclables in King County and the City of Seattle. We want to ensure there are adequate alternatives for these materials. One of our interns checked the online retail locations that claim to take back materials and found that 75 percent are up-to-date.

Knight noted that Kroger recently announced they are eliminating plastic bags at their stores starting with all QFCs. Gaisford responded that all the QFC stores contacted claimed they were still doing bag take backs, but they were not explicitly asked about the new policy.

Action Item 5C: Support the “Reusable Bag” legislation. We’ll see what happens in the legislature by the end of session.

Action Item 5D: Develop a better way to track and document the chain of custody for materials to ensure human health and safety standards are being met at all stages. We’ll be working on this with Seattle this year.

Action Item 5E: Develop a consistent process for evaluating and granting surcharges on recycling rates and waivers to allow for periodic disposal of non-recyclable materials.

Action Item 5F: Better tracking and documenting of MRF residuals. SWD will this year conduct a local study of contamination going in and coming out of the facilities to get a baseline level of contamination.

Action Item 5G: Emulate and adapt Seattle’s process for tracking the market price and conditions of recyclable materials. Our process may not need to be on a monthly basis.

Action Item 6A: Improve upstream design of package labels in order to provide a clearer and more consistent message around how to dispose of products. Seattle would take the lead and most of the work would begin in 2020.

Peloza commented that without good places to recycle shredded paper or plastic film people will dump them and litter. Providing an environmentally safe alternative for disposal is a must.

Member Comment

Knight expressed thanks for county staff who have shown endurance throughout the Comp Plan approval process. Sweet agreed and hoped that by the end of the year there would be an occasion to celebrate.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 1:15