

MSWAC Advisory Committee Meeting

July 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
Sarah Ogier	Bellevue
Sabrina Combs	Bothell
Robin Tischmak	Burien
Barre Seibert	Clyde Hill
Chris Searcy	Enumclaw
Tony Donati	Kent
Meara Heubach	Kent
John MacGillivray	Kirkland
Penny Sweet – Chair	Kirkland
Phillippa Kassover	Lake Forest Park
Asea Sandine	Mercer Island
Carol Simpson	Newcastle
Aaron Moldver	Redmond
Stacy Auer	Redmond
Linda Knight—Vice Chair	Renton
Mason Giem	SeaTac
Cameron Reed	Shoreline
Paula Waters	Woodinville

<u>King County Staff</u>
Joy Carpine-Cazzanti, HWMP staff
Jeff Gaisford, SWD staff
Hilary Leonard, SWD staff
Pat D. McLaughlin, SWD Director
Dorian Waller, SWD staff
John Walsh, SWD staff
Josh Marx, SWD staff
Andy Smith, SWD staff
<u>Guests</u>
Cynthia Foley, Sound Cities Association
Laura Moser, Waste Management
Tera Rose, KCC
Carla Johnson, Republic Services
Rory O' Rourke

Call to Order and Introductions

The meeting commenced with the Call to Order and Introductions.

Meeting Minutes

The June 2019 MSWAC minutes were unanimously approved.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Updates

SWD Director Pat McLaughlin presented the SWD update:

Area 8

All the permits needed to begin operating Area 8 of Cedar Hills Regional Landfill are in place. There's a ribbon cutting ceremony next week and we expect to begin placing waste there within the week. The division will conduct a transition period between filling area 7 and Area 8 to ensure the first layer of waste has no share, heavy or bulky items that might puncture the new liner system.

Green Schools Program

King County's Green Schools Program continues to expand. The program now reaches 62 percent of all K-12 schools in King County. In 2008, 70 schools participated in the program and now the program includes 306 schools. Schools can achieve recognition at three different levels by completing actions and maintaining good practices. Of the participants, 88 percent of schools were able to achieve level one, 52 percent completed level two, and 41 percent completed level 3, the top level.

Comp Plan

Progress on city adoption of the Comp Plan is going well. Nine cities have formally adopted the plan with six more expected to take positive action in the next few weeks. We've offered a briefing to everybody and have a few briefings scheduled over the weeks to come. If there's something you need from us to nudge your city to action, let us know.

Kassover asked for clarification on the percentage of cities needed for the plan to pass. McLaughlin responded that right now 100 percent of the cities that have acted support the plan. If there is a mix of opposition and support, then the plan will pass if cities representing 75 percent of the population show support. Only cities that take action are factored into the percentage.

Knight commented that it's important for cities to act to approve the plan because it sends a strong message that we're in this together.

Recycle Right Branding

Gaisford provided an update on the Recycle Right campaign trademark issue that was touched on at the June meeting. SWD has been in conversation with representatives from both Waste Management and Republic Services. We are working on ways to allow us to continue to use the same language and will provide a detailed update soon.

Combined MSWAC/SWAC Meeting

Gaisford alerted the group that the November MSWAC meeting will be a combined meeting between MSWAC, SWAC, and the City of Seattle SWAC. The meeting will be at the usual MSWAC date and time. Prior to the meeting there will be a workshop focused on how to implement a plastic stewardship plan.

SWAC Update

The June SWAC meeting was canceled.

Responsible Recycling Task Force

John Walsh presented on the Responsible Recycling Task Force's (RRTF) plan for Action 3A, harmonizing curbside materials.

The goal of Action 3A is to develop a process and criteria for adding/removing materials in the curbside recycling programs that is consistent with the responsible recycling framework. During past discussions, MSWAC noted removal of plastic bags and shredded paper as an objective and the RRTF January report supported this. We hope to have a 3A implementation plan out by September. The process will function as a best practices list for what should be accepted in both the curbside recycling and organic bins. This list is important for creating consistency across the region as a means to reduce resident confusion, minimize contamination, and improve the marketability of product. The guiding principles being used to develop the process include taking the long-term view, increasing recycling and adding to the list when possible, striving for consistency across jurisdictions, and leveraging communication tools across the county.

The process, beginning in 2020, will be to gather information including a questionnaire sent to MRFs during the first quarter. During the second and third quarter, SWD will present the results and our recommendations for MSWAC to discuss and approve. Implementation will take place during the final quarter, then the process will repeat on an annual basis. SWD will assess materials based on the number of jurisdictions collecting the material, estimated tonnage, the greenhouse gas impact determined by the warm model, contamination, processing issues, and market viability.

During the implementation phase, some ideas for communicating changes include sending an advisory letter from both MSWAC and SWAC to County Council, creating new stickers for bins, updating contracts with haulers, and banning materials at our transfer stations.

Combs asked if Lenz will be included in the questionnaire and Walsh responded they will.

Knight asked how the interests of the MRFs will be weighed against the need for a long-term push to increase marketability of materials and broaden the list of materials accepted. Walsh responded that in addition to the MRF questionnaires, SWD will use future forecasting info and data on marketability. One of the considerations will be what alternative means are possible for recovering the material if it is removed from the curbside list.

Waters asked if King County will be handling contracts for cities that don't have one directly with their haulers. Walsh responded King County will.

Ogier asked if SWAC and MSWAC members could preemptively suggest a material to add/remove from the list prior to the deliberation phase of the process. Walsh answered members could suggest materials at any time.

Gaisford noted that SWD will provide MSWAC a rundown of all the materials currently being collected.

Simpson commented that customers will need an easy solution for where to take the materials that are no longer accepted in their bins. Some cities cannot afford to have a centralized store for collection, which forces customers to drive to multiple locations to drop-off collected materials.

Giem emphasized that Lenz's inclusion is important for this process. They take a different approach and we should take note when evaluating the data.

Kassover reiterated that both MSWAC and SWAC need a role in developing the list and find creative ways to meet the 75 percent recycling goal. If only industry dictates what materials have value based on market forces, the list is likely to reflect short term needs over long-term aspirations.

Sweet agreed and stated that we're all in this together and we must continue to push these relationships to meet our shared goals. Walsh added that part of the information gathering phase serves to build relationships with the MRFs. Throughout the process, we will also continue to check the market viability data.

Organics Recycling Program Update

Josh Marx presented an update on the organics recycling program.

Organics, including yard waste, food waste, wood, and soiled paper make up the largest category of materials disposed at Cedar Hills. The biggest challenges to expanding the organics market are wasted resources,

contamination, product quality at market, and processing capacity throughout the private sector. To make headway and reach the Zero Waste of Resources by 2030 goal, we need support from the private sector.

Last year Council created a budget proviso of \$500,000 to come up with a plan to expand and enhance the local market for compost. The first major part of the plan was holding two organic summits in March/April to gather stakeholder input and increase regional collaboration. The main takeaway from the summits was that contamination needs to be addressed at the curb for both commercial and residential. Secondly, we need to identify ways for local government to make use of compost in operations such as roads, parks, water resource projects, and development projects. Lastly, we need to continue to collaborate as a region.

In King County, 350,000 tons of organics were disposed in 2018 rather than processed. The capture rate for yard waste was relatively high at 86 percent, but food waste was only captured at a rate of 34 percent and other compostable, such as soiled paper and compostable products, were captured at a rate of 19 percent. We are currently at 85 percent of permitted capacity for processing organics and will need to expand capacity to meet organics recovery goals. Most organics material for composting is collected at the curbside.

Combs commented that Bothell uses Cedar Grove as a backup, but most material is processed by Lenz. That city is reconsidering that process given the list of accepted materials differs between the two facilities. Marx added that one of the goals is to address that confusion and harmonize what goes in the green bins as much as possible.

By weight, contamination of collected organics is only about 4 percent, but volume and visibility are ongoing challenges. Plastic bags are a common contaminant. While they don't weigh a lot, it doesn't take much to create problems.

Compost has many environmental benefits. Part of the plan under the proviso is to use more compost throughout King County government in our own operations. We're working on a program to provide direct technical assistance to incorporate more compost and provide educational outreach. The first phase will be internal facing, then outreach will go to various cities, followed by outreach to the public and landscapers. There's a pilot program in the works to use compost to reduce methane emissions at the closed landfills.

Other recommendations for action under the proviso include implementing a sister educational campaign to the Recycle Right campaign for the green bin. We have been doing education for years, but there are more and different approaches we can take. We're calling the research the "why" research for assessing why contamination continues to occur. One of the challenges we face is the perception of the public that Cedar Grove's compost is not high quality. We know that Cedar Grove has made operational upgrades to improve product. We're doing a product assessment qualitative study to demonstrate what contamination looks like today and understand if the public's perception is consistent with the currently state of the product.

Giem commented that during a compost pilot done with Snohomish County farmers in 2014-2015, the cost of compost was the main deterrent for farmers followed by contamination levels. The ability to prove the compost market viability was impossible because there were so many mitigating factors between farms. There are significant obstacles, especially for food crops.

Marx responded that Cedar Grove has implemented changes since that time. We're doing a pilot on stabilizing compost costs and tracking the impact of the compost on production with farmers leasing King County land. Compost needs to be incorporated over multiple years to create benefit for the soil. More details will be shared in the Fall. We're also supporting additional capacity in the region. On Vashon we're studying the potential for processing food and yard waste produced by Vashon's communities on the island. It would be a small dent, but still

an impact. We're studying potential to add food scraps to waste water to enhance energy production and looking at zoning code to support additional siting of facilities in the region.

Knight commented that there is a lot of work to be done around contamination, even if the percentage by weight is only 4 percent. We all have a role in supporting education and monitoring our carts to help on the front end.

The Organics Plan will be transmitted to Council in August. Also in August, Cascadia Consulting will provide an updated Organics Market Assessment report. We'll continue the summits on a biannual basis to strengthen regional stakeholder engagement and discuss progress being made.

Mattress Recycling

Jeff Gaisford provided an update on the mattress recycling pilot program.

We started pilot for mattress collection at Bow Lake in 2017. Each month, we collected about 200 mattresses. There are three regional mattress recyclers in our area and we're currently working with DTG.

When mattresses get to the facility, inspectors check for infestation and dismantle the mattress into the individual components. There is lots of variability in the number of mattresses collected each month. Data from 2017 and 2018 show that surges tend to take place in January through March and July through September. On average, we haul 2.5 loads each month, or about 5 tons. The cost to us per unit is \$16. That largest component collected from mattresses is metal, second is wood or sometimes foam.

We plan to begin more collection pilots at Shoreline and Enumclaw later this year. The pilot is being funded through tipping fees, but we're looking into charging a mattress fee.

Knight asked if the contract with DTG is per unit. Gaisford responded that yes, it's based on the cost of transportation and processing.

Kassover asked how the shift in mattress material impacts the ability to recycle them. Gaisford responded that there is a good market for foam. The separation process is hands on, which means contamination isn't a big issue.

Searcy asked if hotels recycle their mattresses. Gaisford responded they do, but on occasion they will get disconnected and bring large loads to be landfilled. When that happens, we try to reconnect them with recyclers.

Pelosa asked if mattresses are not accepted at Cedar Hills. Gaisford responded that they are, but usually when they come in it's through a large vendor and we try to provide information of alternative options.

Member Comment

There was no member comment.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 1:11pm.