

MSWAC Advisory Committee Meeting

October 9, 2020 - 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
Emily Warnock	Bothell
Elizabeth Mountsier	Bellevue
Robin Tischmak	Burien
Kim Lisk	Carnation
Chris Searcy	Enumclaw
Rob Van Orsow	Federal Way
Tony Donati	Kent
Penny Sweet—Chair	Kirkland
Jenna McInnis	Kirkland
Toby Nixon	Kirkland
John MacGillivray	Kirkland
Phillippa Kassover	Lake Forest Park
Amy Shaw	Maple Valley
Jeff Brauns	Newcastle
Earnest Thompson	Normandy Park
Stacy Auer	Redmond
Jina Kim	Renton
Linda Knight—Vice Chair	Renton
Anthony Rychkov	Sammamish
Mason Giem	SeaTac
Autumn Salamack	Shoreline
Jason Rogers	Snoqualmie
Diana Hart	Woodinville

<u>King County Staff</u>
Yolanda Pon, Public Health
Margaret Bay, SWD staff
Glynda Steiner, SWD staff
John Walsh, SWD staff
Jeff Gaisford, SWD staff
Brian Halverson, SWD staff
Hilary Leonard, SWD staff
Beth Humphreys, SWD staff
Dorian Waller, SWD staff
Joy Carpine-Cazzanti, SWD staff
<u>Guests</u>
Elizabeth Szorad, Recology
Brooke Stroosma
Jackie Wheeler, SCA
Ron Straka
Russell Joe, Republic Services
Natalie Caulkins, Republic Services
Wendy Weiker, Republic Services
Hannah Scholes, Waste Management
Quinn Apuzzo, Recology

Call to Order and Introductions

The meeting commenced with the Call to Order and Introductions.

Meeting Minutes

The September minutes were approved as presented.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Updates

Deputy Director Glynda Steiner provided the SWD update:

Tonnage and Transactions Covid-19 impacts

With state and countywide actions to enact social distancing still in place, SWD has seen a 1.2% decrease in tonnage year-to-date and a 5% increase in transactions year-to-date.

2021-2022 Biennial Budget

Our biennial budget was transmitted to the King County Council in late September. The final budget is scheduled to be adopted in mid-November and take effect in January 2021. SWD has continually taken measures to remain financially steady throughout the pandemic and we feel we are in a healthy position going into the budget process.

Vashon Organics Processing Feasibility Study

We've partnered with HDR Inc. and Zero Waste Vashon to evaluate small-scale organics management options for the Vashon/Maury Island community. The project will illustrate costs and benefits of an on-island organics processing facility. The feasibility study report is expected to be completed by February 2021 and will recommend a management strategy for the island's organics stream. Once released, we'll hold a virtual community meeting to present the report, address questions, and discuss potential next steps.

Department of Local Services Town Halls

SWD continues to participate in the Department of Local Services' (DLS) virtual town halls. The final two will take place this month and be focused on the Vashon Island and Snoqualmie Valley communities. The Skyway town hall last Tuesday was disrupted by the racist, antisemitic and lude antics of a couple of "Zoom bombers." DLS is investigating how to prevent future incidents from occurring.

Nixon suggested DLS change their Zoom meeting to a webinar to grant event organizers greater control over audience participation. Steiner responded that she would pass that insight along to DLS.

SWAC

Kassover reported that SWAC followed the same agenda. Waller added SWD is working with SWAC to draft a letter concerning flow control. We'll be reviewing it and sending it to MSWAC and SWAC early next week.

PMO—Priority Projects Update

Project Management Office Interim Manager, Margaret Bay Presented:

Cedar Hills Regional Landfill Site Development Plan

The Site Development Plan looks at how we will develop Cedar Hills. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) was issued on September 16 and we're currently in the 45-day public comment period, which ends October 30. The DEIS looks at 4 action alternatives for site development, including a no action option.

The final EIS is due out the first quarter of 2021, at which point we'll select our preferred alternative and relocation option. From 2021 to 2023 we'll begin the design and permitting followed by preparing the site for Area 9 construction in summer 2023. We're hoping to sign a new lease for our interim facilities at the end of December. Staff will begin using the facility in summer 2021.

Kassover asked how the public comment period is going under COVID. Bay responded that it's going well. Many people had sent in comments for consideration.

Thompson asked about the relocation options and how the final option will be selected. Bay responded that there's a 1000-foot buffer around Cedar Hills. Two of the alternative actions look at placing administrative facilities within

the buffer. The third option places the buildings offsite in Renton. These current facilities are located where Area 9 is slated to be constructed.

Thompson asked if the administrative facilities needs have changed since staff began working from home. Bay responded that SWD is looking into that. Most of the staff that use the facilities regularly need to be onsite at Cedar Hills to complete their work.

South County Recycling and Transfer Station Project (SCRTS)

We've completed the 30% design phase that sets the scope, schedule and budget on SCRTS. Elements of the project include our Equity and Social Justice and sustainability work. We're centering community-driven suggestions and aspire to reach the Living Building Challenge's petal certification. We're also engaging with our own employees to collect feedback on design and equipment needs. March 2021 through August 2021 we'll begin the permitting and final design process. We expect to begin construction at the end of next year. Construction is expected to wrap in 2024.

Kassover asked about the petal certification. Bay responded that there are different environmental sustainability standards and the Living Building Challenge is one of the most rigorous to achieve. The petals are part of the Living Building Challenge's measurement of sustainability. Gaisford added that the baseline for green building practices is LEED Platinum and the Living Building Challenges goes beyond those requirements. The Shoreline Transfer Station was the first industrial building in the US to receive LEED platinum status. We're blazing the trail in green building practices.

Northeast Recycling and Transfer Station

This is the last in our series of transfer station updates. The current Houghton Transfer Station is 50 years old, well past its service life. Our current focus is on siting and programing for the new station. We're building out the siting criteria with the consultants. We have a list of 16 potential sites, and we are honing those down to 5. We're also working with the Core Cities and their communities throughout the siting process. We've had 12 meetings to date to discuss project elements including site screening criteria.

Our goal is to comply with the Growth Management Act and avoid geohazards, environmentally sensitive areas, and negative community impacts. For community outreach, we have a subcommittee that has conducted stakeholder interviews. We also started recruiting for a siting advisory committee with an emphasis on recruiting representatives from underserved and underrepresented communities. We are building a siting process that is transparent, inclusive and authentic.

Our next steps are to continue meeting with the Core Cities and the Department of Local Services. We'll narrow our list of sites down to 5, which will be ranked by the siting advisory committee. We're also conducting non-site-specific programming with SWD staff looking at transfer station functionality.

Kassover asked how the sites will be narrowed down to 5 and if the committee be involved. Bay answered that SWD will narrow the list of sites by applying the additional criteria developed by the Core Cities and the consultants. The siting advisory committee will use criteria informed by feedback form the community to rank the final options.

Multi-Family Recycling

Waste Management Multifamily Outreach

Hannah Scholes, Manager of Education and Outreach presented:

We've been studying contamination in multifamily recycling for years in partnership with the cities. Our research led us to the 3 c's of best management practices: convenience, capacity, and clarify. We created WM eConnect to meet with our customers remotely during this time. We walk the property manager through the 3 C's and discuss the issues of greatest relevance to their property. We've developed some informational videos on recycling best practices and COVID-19 disposal protocols. The program has received a lot of positive feedback from property managers. We're flexible around technology capabilities and needs. We're finding that COVID-19 pushes recycling down on people's list of priorities, unfortunately.

Another way we're communicating is through social media. It's a great way to target messaging to our various communities and promote contamination reduction education. Each time a property is serviced, we use cameras on our trucks and a manual check by the driver to identify contamination. When contamination is identified, we send a message to the property manager via email. We have tools available to help cut down on contamination, including slotted lids to discourage bagged recycling and tote bags for residents to collect loose recyclables.

Multifamily Outreach Tactics During Covid-19

Natalie Caulkins, Republic Services Recycling Coordinator presented:

COVID-19 has significantly impacted our outreach to property managers. We start our outreach by contacting the property managers to educate around the 4 C's. We have one additional "C" for color. We try to change out any recycling containers that are not blue.

This summer we translated our recycling guides into more languages because we know many multifamily complexes are multilingual. We now have 12 languages available, including English. When I speak with property managers I ask if they have virtual meetings with their residents. I'll join the meeting to do an interactive presentation on proper recycling. We'll also ask property managers whether they have a newsletter or a bulletin board for monthly recycling tips.

We've begun reaching out to schools and teachers to help provide at-home learning activities that meet education standards. We developed a variety of activities for different age groups for free.

Kassover asked if the outreach includes individual residents. Caulkins responded that it does. The first call is to the property manager to try to establish a partnership to give the residents the highest chance of success.

Kassover asked if Republic Services also offers slotted lids. Caulkins answered they do, and the lids have been beneficial, but there is an added cost. It takes drivers more time to service the bin when there's a slotted lid.

Kassover asked what happens when contamination is identified. Caulkins answered that it depends on when it's identified. Drivers tag carts when they spot the contamination before it's dumped. We then contact the property manager.

Donati asked if Republic Services typically hires interns each summer to help with outreach. Caulkins responded that they hired consultants to help with outreach. We decided not to use interns this year, likely due to COVID-19.

Donati asked how many property managers are responsive to implementing changes. Caulkins responded that property managers overall recognize the value of recycling and are onboard with making changes.

Thompson asked if legal measures would likely be effective at helping reduce contamination. Caulkins answered that it's hard to say because enforcement and cost would play a big role. Fees would likely help convince property managers who are reluctant to act.

Recology's Multifamily Recycling Efforts

Elizabeth Szora presented:

Our recycling program for multifamily starts with curbside pickup. The collected materials go to our MRF where we separate the materials and send them to end markets. Contamination is a big issue, especially for multifamily properties.

We use consistent education and feedback to influence change. We work closely with the cities to create recycling contamination plans. Outreach staff go the day before collection to do a visual audit of the surface level materials within the recycling container. If contamination is present, determined by the threshold for contamination set by the city, we create a report. We send the property manager a letter with the contamination report.

This process is done on a consistent basis. Once a site reaches three instances of contamination, we have the capability to charge a fee. The fee ranges from \$10 to \$25. Sites that reach 3 instances of contamination are hot listed and we continue to do frequent visits to influence behavioral change. We have both a carrot with contamination education and a stick with the fee.

We have seen improved diversion rates in cities where we've done the program the longest. Relationships are key to this work. We're increasing engagement with property managers and creating a history or reports to track progress. We rely on cities to support our work and to back us when a resident calls about being charged a contamination fee.

Since COVID-19, we have made all our paper education materials digital. We offer residents tote bags, do pre- and post-audits to track contamination, and we provide a flyer with a QR code to a suite of customized videos. The videos focus on common contamination found onsite at the property and how to use the recycling tote.

Donati asked whether the contamination reduction plan is available to all cities. Szorad responded that it's used in 4 of the 10 cities that Recology serves. Some cities with a recycling surcharge don't have a contamination reduction plan. We work with the cities to determine the best actions.

Auer asked whether the contamination audit is done by outreach staff. Szorad responded that it is done by outreach staff prior to pick-up and the program runs all year.

Auer asked who the totes get delivered to. Szorad answered that they hand deliver the totes to the property managers with unique links to the online resources. We're able to track unique views and engagement through the links.

Knight asked if the recycling totes are effective. Past versions may have materials depicted on them that are no longer accepted. What do you do to communicate the change to residents and are the totes a worthwhile investment as a giveaway item in the future? Caulkins answered that the totes they give out are up to date. Szorad added that the bags are effective at encouraging loose recycling, but education needs to accompany the totes. They are effective at helping with language barriers. Scholes added that they get a lot of positive feedback about the

totes and they're great for door-to-door outreach. We see people use them all the time and we get frequent requests for refills from property managers.

Kim asked whether outreach routes are based on contamination rates or on a yearly cycle. Caulkins answered that they hit all properties at least once a year. Szorad answered that it depends on the city. Scholes answered that they do at least a phone call each year.

Members Comment

Knight commented that it could be good to explore a fine as part of the ZWOP work. Voluntary compliance on recycling has been the norm for a long time. Eventually, we may need that stick to follow up on education. There is a portion of the population that does things because they are fearful of being fined.

Thompson asked whether research had been done on how much money could be saved if we reached 100% compliance and whether those savings could go back to the property managers? Gaisford answered that it could be worth exploring but no study currently exists.

Giem commented that in SeaTac contamination is a factor for determining whether there's a rate increase using a variable rate. If contamination goes down, they're able to charge less. They've seen contamination rates go down and the structure helps convey that recycling is a communal effort.

Kassover asked whether the haulers are sharing contamination info with the cities involved. Scholes answered that Waste Management does and they work closely with the cities. Szorad responded that Recology does as well and they are happy to work with the communities on policy options. Caulkins responded that Republic Services hasn't had the bandwidth for partnering with our cities in the past but would be interested.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 12:50pm