

MSWAC Advisory Committee Meeting

November 13, 2020 - 11:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.

Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

Meeting Minutes

MSWMAC Members	
Beth Mountsier	Bellevue
Emily Warnock	Bothell
Robin Tischmak	Burien
Chris Searcy	Enumclaw
Rob Van Orsow	Federal Way
Tony Donati	Kent
Penny Sweet—Chair	Kirkland
Jenna McInnis	Kirkland
John MacGillivray	Kirkland
Phillippa Kassover	Lake Forest Park
Amy Shaw	Maple Valley
Earnest Thompson	Normandy Park
Stacy Auer	Redmond
Aaron Moldver	Redmond
Linda Knight—Vice Chair	Renton
Anthony Rychkov	Sammamish
Mason Giem	SeaTac
Cameron Reed	Shoreline
Diana Hart	Woodinville

<u>King County Staff</u>
Jenny Devlin, SWD staff
Brian Halverson, SWD staff
Jeff Gaisford, SWD staff
Glynda Steiner, SWD Deputy Director
Dorian Waller, SWD staff
John Walsh, SWD staff
Joy Carpine-Cazzanti, King County
Rory O'Rourke, King County
Ashley Peterson, King County
Terra Rose, King County
<u>Guests</u>
Quinn Apuzzo, Recology
Natalie Caulkins, Republic Services
Mark Hoffman,
Diana Wadley, WA State Ecology
Wendy Weiker, Republic Services
Jackie Wheeler, SCA

Call to Order and Introductions

The meeting commenced with the Call to Order and a round of introductions of committee members.

Meeting Minutes

The October meeting minutes were not reviewed nor approved due to lack of quorum.

Public Comment

No public comments were shared with the committee.

SWD Update

Dorian Waller provided the SWD update:

Tonnage and Transactions Covid-19 impacts

- We continue to track actual tons and transactions in October 2020 compared to tons and transactions from October 2019.

- With state and countywide actions to enact social distancing still in place, SWD has seen the following as of October 30th:

Tons - Month-to-date is up 6.5%; Year-to-date is down -0.3% from 2019;

Transactions - Month-to-date is up 20%; Year-to-date is up 6% from 2019;

2021-2022 Biennial Budget

- The 2021-2022 Biennial Budget was transmitted to the King County Council in late September.
- A proviso sponsored by CM Dembowski for evaluating feasibility of using some or all of the county's waste for conversion to jet and other fuels in partnership with the Port of Seattle.
- The final budget is expected to be adopted next week with no significant impacts to the SWD budget.

Interim Location for Cedar Hills Support Facilities

- Our project team continues to search for a potential site to relocate landfill support facilities for interim purposes.
- Some potential sites have fallen through due to a host of reasons, but the Division continues to search for a "move-in-ready" location.
- The move to an interim location may begin as soon as a site is selected and the lease is executed, which could be as early as spring 2021, but no later than the end of 2022 so that construction of Area 9 can start in 2023.
- In addition, some facilities including the truck wash, scale house, the heavy equipment maintenance shop, tire shop, and cat shack will be relocated within the landfill property. That work is expected to start in 2021.

Upcoming Plastic and Paper E-Tour

- Save the date: December 7th from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- This e-tour will showcase up to five companies which are diverting plastic/paper in the waste stream. More information to follow.

Breaking News: Flyer Distributed with Misinformation about Transfer Station Closures

The Solid Waste Deputy Division Director arrived to the meeting during Weller's SWD update and waited for him to conclude to break the news she had just received only minutes prior: Thousands of flyers containing misinformation about the Solid Waste Division have been distributed, possibly by an affiliate of the labor union Local 174, throughout several cities within King County including the cities of Houghton and Algona which host two of King County's oldest transfer stations.

Steiner provided context for the flyers: The Solid Waste Division is considering plans to close weekend operations at the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill beginning July 2021. These plans do not include any changes to the weekend operation of any Transfer Stations, which are planned to continue operating on the same days and hours of current operations.

These flyers wrongly assert the SWD Division Director Pat McLaughlin has unilaterally decided to close Cedar Hills on the weekend in addition to the transfer stations in Algona, Houghton, and elsewhere. Steiner alerted committee members they may receive questions about this information from their constituents as she assured them SWD has no intention of changing any of the service hours or days of operation of any transfer stations.

Steiner reminded committee members that, even as Division Director, McLaughlin does not have the authority to change days and hour of transfer station operations without approval of King County Council. She acknowledged valid concerns from labor unions if such a plan would result in layoffs but SWD has no intention to eliminate jobs. Analysis has shown the current longstanding staffing schedule of truck drivers and tipper operators at the landfill is not financially responsible as we work toward reducing tonnage at the landfill with our Zero Waste efforts, and especially as we experience pandemic-related reduction in revenues.

Steiner explained: With Saturdays and Sunday operations managing just a third of weekday tonnage with the same labor costs, SWD spends \$20/ton for weekend operations as compared to \$8/ton for weekday operations.

Fortunately, Steiner noted, King County transfer stations are designed with the capacity to store up to three days of tonnage. Weekend tonnage will be collected in trailers at transfer stations as usual, but instead of being trucked to the landfill during the weekend, they will be stored on-site until Monday morning when they will be delivered to the landfill.

John Walsh, SWD's manager of performance and strategy noted that reducing operational hours at the landfill aligns with the projected reduction of tonnage from 900k tons to 300k tons; it would not be reasonable to operate the landfill at full capacity as we work toward our zero waste goals.

Diana Hart of Woodinville asked if SWD had plans to mitigate the potential increase in odors at the transfer stations while full trailers are stored on site over the weekend. Steiner said most of the transfer stations are enclosed facilities, but the division will continue to monitor for odors. Penny Sweet of Kirkland noted the Houghton station is not an enclosed facility. Steiner said SWD has the ability to mobilize a response to accommodate situations that disrupt normal operations such as weather events and holidays and SWD will maintain the flexibility to make deliveries to the landfill on an as-needed basis.

Linda Knight of Renton asked when would the effective date of these changes occur? Steiner said July 2021, in the meantime, SWD needs to purchase additional trailers. Knight said Renton is very sensitive to the draft EIS re the potential to use the area by the Renton transfer station to host interim offsite landfill facilities, so she has a couple of comments: like Houghton, the transfer station in Renton is a pit design. She sought clarification on the proposed procedure: the garbage will go into a trailer, parked on site until Monday morning when it is hauled away. Steiner said yes. As an FYI the city is concerned about odor and smell and containers on-site for long period of time for surrounding neighbors. So, it will be really important to work with host cities toward common understanding and agreement and possible mitigation measures if necessary. Knight then asked if SWD has a plan to notify the cities about this flyer or did she expect committee members to act as ambassadors to inform the cities. Steiner said the plan is to provide communications to the Executive's office and county council members and later today to draft a communication to be sent to all the cities, so everyone has the same consistent message.

Steiner shared she and McLaughlin met with workgroups at the landfill to present and discuss this proposal with assurances the plan would not change operations at the transfer stations. She said she was disappointed about the flyers.

Beth Mountsier of Bellevue asked if Steiner knew which communities received the flyers, had they been distributed around Factoria? Steiner was not sure where they were distributed. Mountsier said she is interested in having a written summary of factual information, especially sent to the cities who host transfer stations. Then she asked if this plan to close the landfill on the weekends was factored into the budget that was recently sent to council. Walsh said the projected savings from this proposed plan was not included as part of the budget because they were not a given since they had not run the plan by the labor unions by the time the budget was submitted.

Mountsier asked about the timing of the plan and the budget so when she meets with her council members, she can say the current budget will not reflect these cost savings in July 2021. These creative cost cutting proposals are what she wants to represent when she talks to them about rate development, that this is about an efficient way to reducing expenses. Her council members and constituents will be interested in facts and potential impacts and planned mitigation. Walsh said depending on negotiations with labor unions, SWD could potentially save \$3-4M a year.

Chris Searcy of Enumclaw asked if bargaining on this matter was underway. Steiner said this particular issue has not been initiated but will be as soon as they can set up meetings with Local 174. Searcy asked if SWD has experienced any coordinated efforts such as sick outs on Fridays to create a false narrative of data. Steiner said it was expected but it hasn't happened yet.

Phillipa Kassover of Lake Forest Park thanked Steiner for sharing the information, but she would have expected this kind of savings would have been part of earlier discussions about rate structure. She asked if the reason why this possibility was not brought up during the committee meeting was because it would have violated an agreement with the labor unions. Walsh said the plan was brought up in a previous meeting on a document showing the no-increase alternative with the idea of closing the landfill on the weekends was at the top of that list. The document was also shared with Sound Cities. Walsh said the rate discussions are conservative because SWD does not want to assume an extra \$4M that may not materialize.

Cameron Reed of Shoreline asked if there would be increased staffing to manage the tonnage stacked up during week. Walsh said operations supervisors are figuring out staffing levels and schedule but we do not anticipate needing increased staffing because we will be getting ten more productive hours of staff in a smaller footprint.

Amy Shaw of Maple Valley requested more information about odor complaints. Steiner said okay and offered that the neighbors of the landfill will likely appreciate the elimination of weekend truck traffic at the landfill. There will also likely be less bird traffic since the exposed garbage will be covered up on Friday night and off limits for two days.

Earnest Thompson of Normandy Park offered two observations: First, the labor unions have been reasonable up to this point with concerns about jobs being on the line. And second, some people have hard time understanding this COVID-era requires major changes in funding. Thompson said it is always better to present the worst-case scenario and make sure people know about it so if the worst does not happen then so much the better. People really do not like surprises, so you always have to plan for the worst even if you do not think they are likely to happen. Some people take the ostrich-defense to COVID and hope it will just go away, but it's changing our world and this is just one example.

Steiner said there are a lot of populations who need this info, but we felt strongly the effected employees deserve to hear the plans first. She apologized for anyone feeling broadsided or ambushed, but we wanted employees to hear from us first and not thru the grapevine this change was going to happen. Thompson asked if she could share the reaction from staff. Steiner said under the current staffing schedule, truck drivers and tipper operators work seven ten-hour shifts for one week while they receive pay for 80 hours and the next seven days off. that 7/10 shift is very coveted. She said this plan will be hugely disruptive to a lot of employees who have managed their lives around that shift. She said they were mostly quiet, but some brought up concern about being laid off. With some truck drivers and tipper operators reaching retirement soon, and others retained for other work within the division, Steiner is confident no one will lose their jobs. Thompson said, as a former labor representative in his college days, that was good news to hear. He advised SWD to assure staff this is not a negotiating ploy to get a better deal for management at risk of the workers. He said it is important they don't see it that way and wished her luck.

Seeking Public Comment on Recycled Material Standards and Update Re City Recycling Grants

Jeff Gaisford, manager of the Recycling and Environmental Services section said Green Blue was seeking early guidance about the Recycled Material Standards and goal areas during a public comment process in a survey due Nov 18th. If anyone did not receive the invitation to take the survey, he will redistribute it.

Gaisford also reported that since COVID has interfered with how cities will spend their city recycling grants, his team is amending scopes and agreements. They are also collecting any feedback and thoughts city representatives have about how the process went since they want to continue to be flexible and work with cities to make it easy. He thanked everyone who got their grants agreements turned in last week. Sweet said the link might not be working.

SWAC

Sweet reported the topics covered during SWAC were the same as the last MSMWAC meeting but the discussion was slightly different with more discussion about legislation. She asked if Waller or Kassover have anything to add. Kassover asked if there was any follow-up information about the letter from the cities about Flow Control. Waller said the cities are taking a pause with the letter as they are having more in-depth conversations with city of Seattle.

2021 MSWMAC Work Plan

Waller presented and described topics schedule on the 2021 MSWMAC Workplan, spoke of the role of the committees, and solicited comments and questions following each topic.

1. State Legislature

Description - Provide updates on bills before the legislature.

Example: Extended Producer Responsibility for Paper and Packaging – expected to be introduced.

Composting legislation – recently passed and expected additional legislation to be introduced.

* Send out email updates in between meetings, if needed.

Role of Committee - The committee or individual members (e.g., cities) may choose to take action on a bill. The committees will be encouraged to take action and draft an advisory letter on EPR.

Comments & Questions - Gaisford said this will be an interesting session.

2. Cedar Hills Support Facilities

Description – In January, the advisory committee will be briefed on the latest developments of the CH Site Development & Facilities Relocation to include the DEIS, as well as the SEPA/EIS process and a recommendation on the preferred alternatives. In October, we will present an update on the Area 9 development and facilities relocation plan.

Role of Committee – SWD staff will seek feedback on the selected preferred relocation alternative and what impacts this may have as it relates to Area 9 development and the facilities relocation plan.

Comments & Questions – None.

3. 2022 Rates

Description – The advisory committee will be briefed on the 2022 Rate Proposal.

Role of Committee – SWD will seek committee feedback on the 2022 Rate Proposal (service delivery, capital projects, etc.).

Current Plan for Topic

Jan: High-level briefing on the preliminary rate proposal and legislative plan for the year.

Feb: Provide feedback on any issues with the proposal

Mar: Provide briefing on 2022 SWD rate proposal.

Apr: Present the Exec Proposed rate.

Comments & Questions – Walsh noted the task force will move forward with 2022 rates under current structure using status quo. Based on last meeting, it sounded like people want more time to understand the work and get billing processes in place. But 2023 – 2024 rates will be under new rate structure. Mountsier asked about the timing of task force recommendations on rate structure because she thinks people will be interested in the potential overlap of the 2022 rate adoption and decision-making how that impacts rates in the coming years with capital investments. Walsh said in MSWAMC will focus exclusively on the 2022 rates in January and February and then shift gears in April and May to talk about the rate restructure.

4. Flow control

Description - King County Code and the Interlocal Agreements with cities require that MSW be directed to the CHRLF and that C&D be sent to approved processing and disposal facilities. The committees will be informed of the types of flow control issues that have been observed and actions taken by the division to address these issues.

Role of Committee - The committees will be encouraged to provide feedback; will be encouraged to develop processes for partnering with the division to improve flow control oversight; and potentially drafting a letter of support for Flow Control.

Current Plan for Topic

Jan: Background on flow control and SWD discussions with regional solid waste agencies

May: Sharing data on recyclable materials and partnering on enforcement

Sept: Updates on enforcement efforts and discussions with regional solid waste agencies

Comments & Questions – None.

5. Northeast Recycling & Transfer Station Project

Description – At the February meeting, staff will provide a project status update to include the results of the Broad-Area Site Screening (BASS) Report. In June, staff will present on the results of the Final Focused Site Screening Report as well as the work of the Siting Advisory Committee. In October, staff will provide a “year-end” report of the project to include what major benchmarks are set for 2022.

Role of Committee – In addition to review and comment on the siting activities described above, there are several important issues in 2021 for NERTS which would benefit from feedback from the advisory committees:

- 1) Input on potential socioeconomic impacts, which will inform the County’s Socioeconomic Impact Assessment to be conducted in the latter half of 2021
- 2) Informal input to environmental review (SEPA) activities that will commence in February 2021 and continue through October 2022 (in addition to formal public comment periods)
- 3) Comment and input on the continued public engagement throughout 2021.

Comments & Questions – Searcy asked if core city representatives were satisfied by process as laid out. Are they okay with staff doing the screening? Sweet asked if MacGillvray had any response to that but there was no audible reply. Sweet said they had talked about it, and she thinks Kirkland is satisfied with the response they are getting. Aaron Moldver of Redmond said the process was moving along, they are evaluating the information, but overall the process for getting down to five sites has slowed down a bit and they are hoping to have more interaction with the process before the county decided on the five sites but otherwise it has been good support. Jenna McInnis of Kirkland said definitely the core cities are involved and active and looking forward to keeping things moving. Sweet said from an Electeds’ perspective, all of the cities have been in contact with their staff representatives.

6. South County Recycling & Transfer Station Project

Description - At the March meeting there will a status update on what the project baselined at for 30% design (scope, schedule, budget). Also, info will be provided as it relates to the status of the 90% design, progress on sustainability, ESJ and permitting. At the October meeting, staff will provide a “year-end” report of the project to include the status of progress on the 100% design, bidding and contractor negotiation plans will be presented.

Role of Committee –SWD staff will seek feedback from committees on:

- 1) Site circulation for both self-haul and commercial haulers and what pertinent advice SWD staff may utilize in the final design process
- 2) Hours of operation for both the transfer station and MRW facility
- 3) Different recycling materials that will be accepted
- 4) Planned uses for the multi-purpose room and how the community can benefit from access to the facility
- 5) Commercial haulers may ask if there will be a truck wash down area
- 6) ESJ recommendations

Comments & Questions – None.

7. Zero Waste of Resources Plan

Description - The purpose of these series of presentations is to present the recommendations of the ZWORP Task Force to include recycling procurement policy and commercial sector recycling. The

recommendations are a series of actions that will lead us to achieving our zero waste of resources goal by 2030.

Role of Committee – The role of the committees is to provide feedback on the Task Force recommendations and discuss what should go in the final ZWOP. MSWAC members in particular are expected to educate their city officials and staff on these actions; what their city is committed to implementing; acknowledgment of costs to recover resources. Ideally, the committees will draft a letter of support for this final version of ZWOP.

Current Plan for Topics

March: Briefing on Task Force ZWOP. This will be high level overview of the issue, the process we went through with the Task Force, and a brief look at the recommended actions.

Apr: Deep dive on organics and recommendations. Ask members to discuss this with appropriate folks to provide feedback at May meeting.

May: Discuss feedback on organics recommendations. Deep dive on paper and plastics and recommendations. Ask members to discuss this with appropriate folks to provide feedback at June meeting.

June: Discuss feedback on paper and plastics recommendations. Deep dive on other materials and actions. Determine if recommendations from May and June meetings warrant an advisory letter of support. Ask members to discuss this with appropriate folks to provide feedback at July meeting.

July: Discuss feedback on other materials and actions. Seek finalization of recommendations and agreement to draft a letter of support.

Sept: Adopt letter of support.

Comments & Questions – Gaisford said SWD wants to take time to provide task force recommendations and get agreement on where to start next year and align with rate restructure for how SWD will pay for these things. Walsh said SWD is planning on rebranding ZWOP. Moldver suggested in Zoom's chat feature: How about Resource Recovery instead of ZWOP?

Mountsier said it was great the task force is making an aggressive schedule but expressed concern about the amount of time available to review recommendations, discussion papers and financial analysis, and provide meaningful input. Walsh said staff will be reviewing against evaluation criteria such as costs, achievable diversion rates, GHG reduction, and ease of implementation, etc. He imagines there will be a table presented in written document providing options, analysis and recommendations.

Gaisford said there will be a report near the beginning of March so the committee will have back ground information in advance. Mountsier asked if there was still an opportunity to join the task force and Walsh said yes, she was welcome to join and asked her to send him an email and he will connect her with the SharePoint page.

8. Recycling Markets

Description - The purpose of the presentation is to inform the advisory committees of the current state of recycling markets, post China Sword from SWD and Hauler perspective (joint presentation)

Role of Committee – The role of the committee is to provide feedback on the actions taken to secure markets and the long-term ramifications of China Sword in local and international markets.

Comments & Questions – Gaisford said SWD is inviting folks from the Recycling Development Center which is involved with developing markets at the state level into these conversations. Kassover said she hopes extended product stewardship discussed during state legislature will feed into recycling markets and other topics areas and requests updates and opportunities to advocate for stewardship as soon as it comes up. Gaisford said his team will share information with the advisory committees as soon as it is received.

9. 2023 – 2024 Rate Restructure

Description – The advisory committee will be briefed on the recommended rate structure from the Zero Waste of Resources / Rate Restructure Task Force.

Role of Committee – SWD will seek committee feedback on the new rate structure including the new curbside low-income discount program and the balance between revenue streams in the new structure (account vs tipping fee for example). The committees will be ultimately asked to draft a letter of support for this new structure.

Current Plan for Topics

May: Provide briefing on Task Force recommended rate restructure option, ask members to get feedback from city representation.

June: Discuss city feedback on the rate restructure.

July: Continued discussion and feedback on the rate restructure.

Sept: Present final SWD proposal for rate restructure. Seek agreement to draft a letter of support for the rate restructure.

Oct: Adopt letter of support for 2023-2024 Rate Restructure.

Comments & Questions – Walsh said SWD will send a motion to county council in September to formally adopt structure then later will present the new rate.

10. Comp Plan Update

Description – The advisory committee will be engaged on what sections of the Comp Plan to update for the 2024 Comp Plan and help develop the “plan for the plan” on deciding the long-term disposal option. A briefing on KC’s CROP will also be done.

Role of Committee – SWD staff will seek feedback and agreement on updates to the Comp Plan and provide input into the “plan for the plan”.

Current Plan for Topics:

June: Discuss what should be updated for the 2024 Comp Plan update. Map out the “plan for the plan”.

July: Report out on CROP. Further “plan for the plan” discussions.

Sept: Finalize “Plan for the plan”.

Comments & Questions – Waller invited Thompson to provide his thoughts about the comp plan update. Thompson said he feels almost like spokesman for people who have sent him emails and phone calls with concerns regarding PPE and blood bags dropping onto their neighborhoods, but he is not. He says he is fully aware of element of NIMBYism involved with certain kinds of complaints, but he sees these concerns are very valid, and asks if SWD can reach out to these people and set up a meeting so they can present their concerns formally in public. Waller said everything Thompson has requested has been done, so it is

not to say SWD is not aware of their concerns and have continued to engage with them. Waller said ultimately, they want SWD to close. Waller says SWD has performed clean-up at homes, instilled a number of practices to eliminate bird nuisance, responded to emails. Sweet validated Waller's comments as a member of the committee for six years and said all committee members are aware of their concerns. She noted the idea of closing the landfill on the weekends is a potential win for them. Kassover reiterated the topic had been exhausted over an entire year and half of discussions during the comp plan update where alternatives to landfill were thoroughly discussed such as trains, waste-to-energy, etc. resulting in a decision to keep the landfill open until an alternative method of waste disposal. Kassover offered to talk to Thompson offline about the alternatives and why they weren't chosen. She commended SWD for having a number of meetings with those who live near the landfill while expressing sympathy for anyone living next to a landfill or light rail, but SWD has done a good job and we, as a society, have to face the honest truth that we produce a lot of garbage. Thompson thanked Kassover for her explanation and offer. Mountsier added that at a certain point come, there won't be any more room at landfill but the comp plan is a plan to get a plan for what comes next.

11. Recycle develop center

Description - The purpose of the presentation is to inform the advisory committees on the activities of the RDC. The Washington State Legislature established the Recycling Development Center in July 2019. This law tasks the Recycling Development Center with facilitating research and development, marketing, and policy analysis to bolster recycling markets and processing in Washington. Initially, the Recycling Development Center will focus on businesses that convert or remanufacture waste into new products, especially mixed wastepaper and plastics.

Role of Committee – The role of the committees is to provide feedback to Ecology on how the RDC can support our regional market development needs.

Comments & Questions – None.

12. Washington Food Waste Prevention Plan

Description - The purpose of the presentation is to inform the advisory committees about this plan. In April 2019, the Washington Legislature passed the Food Waste Reduction Act. This law tasks Ecology — along with the Washington departments of Health, Agriculture, and the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction — to write a food waste prevention plan. This plan will recommend actions to achieve a 50% reduction in food waste in Washington by 2030.

Role of Committee – The role of the committee is to provide feedback to Ecology on the potential actions in the plan.

Comments & Questions – None.

13. Multi-family Recycling

Description - The purpose of this presentation is to highlight innovative best practices to improve multi-family recycling and to reduce contamination. Cities, SWD and haulers will be invited to present.

Role of Committee – The role of committee members and SWD is to develop action steps for jurisdictions to utilize best practices for a clearer harmonized approach.

Comments & Questions – None.

14. Additional topics:

Ardagh recycling

Centralized compost contracting. – about how cities will use composting. Under ZWOR discussion.

Comments & Questions -

Moldver requested an update on King County's Construction & Debris recycling program since the city of Redmond is working on establishing something. Gaisford said the best place to hold a discussion about C&D would be during the discussion about Flow Control. Moldver suggested it could also be covered under ZWORP and Flow Control since there is overlap. Gaisford agreed.

Knight provided additional context for the topic of centralized compost contracting for members who may not know there is a state law that encourages cities to buy compost from local providers and many cities have standing agreements with the county to piggyback on contracts so cities can realize savings that way instead of contracting separately with composters.

Mountsier asked if there was any coordination between the Wastewater Treatment Division and the Solid Waste Division regarding composting and the budget proviso regarding turning waste into jet fuel. Gaisford said yes, SWD is coordinating with WTD with their Loop project, and WTD participates in task force as we explore organics options.

Waller reminded the committee that both advisory committees would start implementing more of an equity and social justice lens when providing feedback. He will be speaking with committee chairs for how to roll out this change in December.

Members Comment

Searcy said he email from Ecology reminding constituents of the statewide plastic bag ban that is still on track for January 1, 2021. He said it seems strange in this time of COVID to blindly marching forward and asked if anyone has received any word regarding deferrals of that plan. Sweet said she heard the state was anticipating holding off on that. Gaisford said it appears the state is going back and forth but the last he heard was the state was probably going forward. McInnis said the last time she checked with the coordinator from the state, it was moving forward. She added that locally stores have found COVID does not appear to be not transferred through bags, so stores are starting to welcome bags from home again but this doesn't solve supply chain issues with paper bags. Thompson noted bag policies seem to vary business to business and in regard to the science of COVID environs, he is under the impression the scientific community is divided on that.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.