

MSWAC Advisory Committee Meeting

July 9, 2021 - 11:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.

Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

<u>MSWMAC Members</u>	
Joan Nelson	Auburn
Emily Warnock	Bothell
Robin Tischmak	Burien
Steve Friedman	Clyde Hill
Chris Searcy	Enumclaw
Rob Van Orsow	Federal Way
Evan B	Issaquah
John MacGillivray	Kirkland
Jenna McInnis	Kirkland
Toby Nixon	Kirkland
Penny Sweet, Chair	Kirkland
Phillippa Kassover	Lake Forest Park
Amy Shaw	Maple Valley
Jeff Brauns	Newcastle
Micah Bonkowski	Redmond
Linda Knight, Vice Chair	Renton
Rori Kirkpatrick	Sammamish
Audrie Starsy	Sammamish
Cameron Reed	Shoreline
Diana Hart	Woodinville

<u>King County Staff</u>
Navera Ahmed, SWD staff
Nat Bennett, Office of Performance Strategy Budget staff
Nori Catabay, SWD staff
Jenny Devlin, SWD staff
Jeff Gaisford, SWD staff
Brian Halverson, SWD staff
Karen Herndon, SWD staff
Rory O'Rourke, Public Health – Seattle & King County
Jazmine Patten, SWD staff
Andy Smith, SWD staff
Dorian Waller, SWD staff
John Walsh, SWD staff
Madeline Yun, Hazardous Waste Management Program
Michell Mouton, Hazardous Waste Management Program
<u>Guests</u>
Natalie Caulkins, Republic Services
Erin Gagnon, Recology
Russell Joe, Republic Services
Laura Moser, Waste Management
Diana Wadley, Washington State Dept. Of Ecology
Jackie Wheeler, Sound Cities Association

Call to Order and Introductions

Chair Sweet called the meeting to order at 11:18 a.m.

Meeting Minutes

Knight moved to approve the May and June meeting minutes; Van Orsow seconded. The meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

SWD Update

Waller provided the SWD update:

Northeast Recycling Transfer Station (NERTS)

Visit SWD's website to view an expanded Frequently Asked Questions section and read white papers about the closed Houghton landfill and the history of conversations between the County and City of Kirkland about the current site of the Houghton Transfer Station. Thank you to Kirkland and Core Cities staff for working with SWD to respond to these questions.

Customer Verification

SWD will resume enforcement of the customer verification policy beginning on July 17, by turning away customers who can't verify they live or do business in the service area. For customers who fail to turn around and use station services despite scale operator instructions, the Special Waste Unit enforcement coordinator will carry out progressive enforcement actions, including warning letters and, for repeat violators, citations with a monetary penalty, similar to SWD's response to those bringing unsecured loads to the recycling and transfer stations.

Flow control

In July SWD will work with the City of Seattle to select and schedule arbitration but may not get on an arbitrator's calendar until the fall. This July, SWD will share draft letters of support for consideration by individual cities.

Proposed King County Legislation

Van Orsow asked for more information about a news article re Councilmember Dunn's proposal to form a committee to study the feasibility of building a Waste to Energy (WTE) facility in King County for when the landfill reaches capacity. Several committee members noted it was odd the article did not mention Councilmember Lambert's ongoing efforts behind this initiative.

SWAC Update

Walsh noted SWAC members are interested in learning more about SWD's Re+ efforts and have expressed an interest in adding more items to their yearly workplan.

Legislative Update

Gaisford said there was no legislative update.

South County Recycling and Transfer Station (SCRTS) Update

Herndon presented a project summary of the SCRTS project in Algona. The new station accommodates recycling services and moderate risk waste disposal for households and small businesses Sustainable building features. The building will include sustainability features, public art, on-site ecological enhancements and other community benefits. The project includes stream relocation and wetland mitigation, stormwater management and road improvements.

The project is at 60% design, which shows the locations and features of facility components such as scale house and plaza which will resemble the Bow Lake RTS, the administrative building, the transfer station with trailer bays, and traffic flow, site grading and retention walls. The total acreage of the developed site is nine acres.

Changes made to the project since it was at 30% design include parking lot, landscaping, and a canopy over the fueling facility to improve rainwater management. The stream will be realigned to its original bed to the north to give it more space to meander space, moving to north brings it to original stream bed but with additional woody debris and riparian plantings.

This project is striving to meet the International Living Future Institute's Living Building Challenge Energy Petal Certificate, the first facility of its kind to apply for this level of certification. To meet the certification

requirements the facility must produce onsite energy, so design includes solar panels on the roof and face of the building.

Community benefits include a courtyard patio, a lobby with environmental messaging, and a multipurpose room available as a community meeting space. The artists selected to produce the public art include a member of the Muckleshoot Tribe and an art instructor from Evergreen College.

Later this summer there will be several opportunities for the community to provide feedback on the project at this 60% design phase including during an online open house, and at an event with the City of Algona on August 14th. These opportunities will be promoted on social media, on the SWD website, and a mailer. SWD staff are also seeking community input to learn how to better engage with BIPOC or other under-represented communities on this project to learn what could be added to the design that could promote social equity and accessibility at the facility.

So far, in partnership with a local food initiative to promote farming in south King County, the project contributed funding for a solar pump to be used at a community farm for immigrants and refugees. The project also includes a partnership with Dirt Corps to provide apprenticeship opportunities in green jobs. The project is also funding add interpretive sign and other amenities to the Interurban Trail.

The project is scheduled to finalize up to 90% of its design in fall 2021, when the community will have more opportunities to review design and provide feedback. The project should reach final design by spring 2022 and is expected to be ready for construction bids in summer and fall 2022. The facility is expected to be open for business by 2025.

Re+

Smith said today's Re+ presentation would focus on how waste management policy and collection connects to technology and processing beginning with system-level framing, work already underway, and then gather input from committee members about how SWD should develop the approach to Re+.

Smith said Re+ efforts intend to capture 70% of materials with value going to waste as it is buried in the landfill. Re+ will divert those materials toward processors and end markets, namely through source separation which relies on consumer behavior to keep clean, dry and empty recyclables and food waste from the trash bin. Source separation generally occurs through policy, contract language, outreach, and messaging. Source separation is based on a theory that reusable materials will negate the need to produce virgin materials. If the region moves toward encouraging more source separation, SWD will need to retool operations and systems to manage the anticipated volumes of diverted clean higher value materials and lightly contaminated materials with lower value.

SWD's options for a long-term disposal solution for when the landfill reaches capacity depends on the quantity and composition of the residual waste.

The 2030 waste processing stream would likely consist of four components: non-recoverable waste, hard-to-reach waste of limited recoverability, quality materials such a wood, recovered food and fiber (cardboard, paper), and lower value materials that would require new technologies for processing. Processing these streams would be concurrent with efforts to prevent waste.

Once Re+ options are more defined, and partners agree on preferred actions, then it will be possible to have more accurate predictions of what comprises the Re+ waste stream and thus generate more confidence towards investing in the needed technology. The region needs to explore options and set expectations. As an example, food waste could be processed with co-digestion, composting, or vermiculture, but this requires a critical mass of source separation and likely changes to existing contracts to ensure this feedstock is sufficient for the chosen technology to function.

There is increased attention on policy discussions about climate change and organics management through a stakeholder process including the recent initial gathering of 58 stakeholders. A key question: is there a critical mass of committee members who support actions leading to greater source separation such as policy changes, investing in technologies, or perhaps a grant program for cities and businesses.

Smith invited questions from committee members which started a discussion about stakeholder involvement. At the recent meeting about organics management as initiated by a local non-government organization, attendees represented a range of processors, jurisdictions, large composters, labor, tribal representatives, and members of Washington Association of Counties and the Washington State Association of Cities. The conversation will continue over the next six months with more stakeholder meetings expected to be scheduled.

One project Re+ is pursuing is determining what is equitable and marketable if the state is developing markets for materials and figuring out the key ingredients for successful market development for the whole system such as economic development, business support, partnerships, thought leadership, and system expertise. Over the next six months, SWD is investigating how King County can leverage its resources to provide grants, investment, technical support, and community engagement toward this effort.

Smith asked the committee if and how SWD ought to pursue source separation strategies: through cities, or transfer stations, or through state legislature. He asked for what kind of timeframes members might need to engage with city decision makers. He asked if it would be helpful if the county provided technical assistance.

A discussion followed about the need to brief jurisdictions since the path forward seems unclear, and decision-makers are already grappling with a lot of urgent issues. Fortunately, other state legislatures and small businesses are demonstrating how to drive innovation. Next month, there will be a deeper discussion about policy and collection action.

Sweet and Knight appealed to committee members as the waste management experts of their jurisdictions, to participate in these discussions and actively inform and engage with their decision-makers on these topics, especially given renewed interest in building a Waste-to-Energy facility. It was suggested decision-makers may also be daunted by the long-term nature of the issues of waste management. SWD staff will provide committee members and/or decision-makers the information they need to be informed participants.

Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan Update

Walsh presented on the Comprehensive Plan Update plan, which technically need not be updated every five years, merely reviewed. Yet SWD has several potential updates to make including a decision for a long-term disposal option, updates to the chapters on materials management (Re+) and finance (rate

restructure), a possible update to the interlocal agreement (ILA) amendment process, and including the Contaminated Recycling Outreach Plan (CROP). These will be discussed more in-depth next year.

Before determining the long-term disposal option, SWD needs to determine what year the landfill is expected to reach capacity, which depends on what decision is made for last developable portion of the landfill, Area 9. Without Re+ efforts, the landfill could reach capacity in 2028 if SWD pursued the “Do-Nothing” option but this is not a realistic since SWD is legally obligated to provide regional disposal services. The other Area 9 options forecast reaching capacity in years 2037, 2038, or 2046. The decision for Area 9 is expected to be made in Q4 2021.

Walsh noted the ILAs require SWD to engage with city representatives about long-term disposal options at least seven years before the projected closure but these discussions would likely begin much sooner due to lead needed for the next disposal option. He discussed analysis from the 2019 Arcadis study comparing waste export to WTE and how they projected siting, permitting, and building a WTE plant could take 8-10 years. Therefore, SWD needs to finalize the comp plan update by 2026. A discussion followed about the urgency of developing a plan soon, given the time required for legislative bureaucracy, and siting, permitting, and constructing a facility, and the burgeoning effects of climate change. Walsh will draft a timeline to show how the plan will be updated by 2026.

Walsh said SWD will soon hire consultant support for to study how Re+ efforts will affect content and decisions in the comp plan, and after a six-month procurement process, the consultant will present findings to the advisory committees for decisions to be made by mid-2023.

Walsh concluded his presentation with a reminder the long-term disposal option must be a decision made in the comp plan, and not in the ILAs. Walsh is seeking to secure Re+ commitments from city partners, then get everyone to agree on a long-term disposal decision, then secure long term ILAs, and finally adopt comp plan.

2023-24 Rate Restructure

This rate restructure presentation is postponed until next month.

Member Comment

Knight said she wanted to encourage committee members to think about their engagement during these discussions and provide suggestions to Knight and Sweet on how they could encourage more discussion. Knight said it would be interesting if all members could share their city's decision-making process.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 1:13 p.m.