

MSWAC Advisory Committee Meeting

September 10, 2021 - 11:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.

Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

<u>MSWMAC Members</u>	
Joan Nelson	Auburn
Jon Gire	Bellevue
Robin Tischmak	Burien
Steve Friedman	Clyde Hill
Ed Hawthorne	Enumclaw
Chris Searcy	Enumclaw
Rob Van Orsow	Federal Way
Evan B	Issaquah
Tony Donati	Kent
John MacGillivray	Kirkland
Jenna McGinnis	Kirkland
Penny Sweet, Chair	Kirkland
Amy Shaw	Maple Valley
Earnest Thompson	Normandy Park
Micah Bonkowski	Redmond
Aaron Moldver	Redmond
Julie Pursell	Renton
Linda Knight, Vice Chair	Renton
Rori Kirkpatrick	Sammamish
Mason Giem	SeaTac
Autumn Salamack	Shoreline

<u>King County Staff</u>
Navera Ahmed, SWD staff
Eyasu Ayalew, Public Health, Seattle & King County
Nat Bennett, Office of Performance Strategy Budget staff
Kalyn Brady, SWD staff
Joy Carpine-Cazzanti, Hazardous Waste Management Program
Jenny Devlin, SWD staff
Ashley Evans, Hazardous Waste Management Program
Jeff Gaisford, SWD staff
Brian Halverson, SWD staff
Annie Kolb-Nelson, SWD staff
Pat McLaughlin, SWD Director
Michell Mouton, Hazardous Waste Management Program
Yolanda Pon, Public Health, Seattle & King County
Terra Rose, King County Council staff
Andy Smith, SWD staff
Dorian Waller, SWD staff
John Walsh, SWD staff
Dave Ward, Hazardous Waste Management Program
<u>Guests</u>
Natalie Caulkins, Republic Services
Erin Gagnon, Ridwell
Laura Moser, Waste Management
Diana Wadley, Washington State Dept. of Ecology

Call to Order and Introductions

Chair Sweet called the meeting to order at 11:17 a.m.

Meeting Minutes

Searcy moved to approve the August meeting minutes; Thompson seconded. The meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

Public Comment

Wadley announced the second draft of the State Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Plan is available for public comment until September 30th. She provided links in the chat. Here's the Plan itself: <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/2104040.html> Here's where to submit e-comments on the State SW+HW Plan: <https://swm.ecology.commentinput.com/?id=K67fG> Comments on the Use Food Well Washington Plan are being taken until midnight tonight. Plan and e-comment links are on the main webpage: <https://ecology.wa.gov/Waste-Toxics/Reducing-recycling-waste/Waste-reduction-programs/Organic-materials/Food-waste-prevention/Use-Food-Well-Washington-Plan>.

SWD Update

McLaughlin provided the SWD update:

Northeast Recycling & Transfer Station (NRTS)

SWD staff met with staff from the Core Cities yesterday to address questions and feedback from Core Cities, the Siting Advisory Group (SAG) and the public from the August community meeting. SWD staff are working closely with staff from the Core Cities and SAG members to ensure community concerns are addressed.

Tonnage Report

Both garbage tons and customer transactions are up 4% compared to this same time period last year. This increase continues to be driven by commercially hauled tonnage (+6% or almost 25,000 tons). The customer verification program is reducing use of our stations by out of area customers, according to a customer survey in 2019, 14% of self-haul customers were from outside our regional system. In 2020 our survey data determined this number dropped to 8% and currently it is estimated to be at 6%.

South County Recycling & Transfer Station (SCRTS)

The virtual open house on August 25th had over 50 attendees who shared feedback and questions about the latest project design and public amenities associated with the station. Algona City Council will take action on the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) September 13th.

King County Legislation Update

The King County Council passed the 2022 rate increase proposal on September 7th with a 6-3 vote; voting no: Dunn, von Reichbauer, and Upthegrove. No reasons were provided for the no votes. Construction & Demolition (C&D) debris legislation is scheduled for October 6th Committee of the Whole Council meeting.

Solid Waste Operations

Employee absenteeism and job vacancies, particularly in truck driver and transfer station operator positions. This morning, staffing shortages required the closure of the Bow Lake Recycling and Transfer Station and both Algona and Renton Transfer Stations to commercial traffic, which was diverted directly to Cedar Hills. To reduce future impacts of staffing shortage, SWD extended job offers to ten new drivers and have ordered additional trailers. The County Executive's mandate requiring all SWD employees to be vaccinated by October 18th will also help to alleviate Covid-related staffing shortages, ensuring the safety of our employees and customers served. SWD employees are taking advantage of on-site pop-up vaccination clinics at the landfill and transfer stations. While some staff may elect not to receive the vaccination, it is a requirement to maintaining employment at King County.

SWAC Update

At the August SWAC meeting, all in attendance voted for fixed charge except for one abstention due to her feeling neither choice will affect her employer. Regarding the Re+ and Comp Plan Updates, a SWAC member asked if SWD would tailor SWAC meeting content toward private sector/public interest so they can make informed decisions.

2023-24 Rate Restructure: Account Fee vs Fixed Charge

Halverson said Waller was working with the seven members who abstained from last month's vote on the restructure options. Others are encouraged to reach out if more information is needed to decide. SWD staff edited the draft letter of support based on feedback. Then the floor was opened for discussion.

Staff from the City of Redmond shared concerns about the burden placed on cities to re-negotiate contracts with the haulers particularly regarding annual CPI-related adjustments and the annual true-up process. They point out the need to hire a consultant team to negotiate hauler contracts on behalf of smaller cities creates an inequitable process due to the cost. While they support the fixed fee option in theory, they will reserve their support until they review the FCS report on the rate restructure once it becomes available and their implementation concerns are resolved. In a preliminary conversation with a consultant, they are learning there could be potential for the county to lighten the burden on cities, perhaps if the county implemented a county utility tax which could be a line item pass-through on bills or a service level ordinance or drawing upon SWD reserves.

Sweet proposed Waller organize meetings between interested cities sharing the same hauler and perhaps city finance staff, while Halverson and Walsh offered to help facilitate these discussions and provide more information about the proposed true-up process. Committee members of the following cities expressed interest in participating in these rate restructure meetings: Auburn (with Waste Management), Federal Way (with Waste Management), Shoreline (with Recology), Kent, and Maple Valley.

Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan Update

Walsh sought member feedback on a high-level plan for updating the next SWD Comp Plan by 2026. He shared the project timeline with yearly milestones, asking cities to email Waller with feedback today and he will begin drafting the required project report due to County Council at the end of the year.

Discussion volleyed between committee members about the pace of achieving zero waste of resources and whether are we are moving too fast or too slow, the need for bold action to generate enthusiasm and support among the public, and the prudence of waiting for the right technology to be identified, funded, and developed to process the waste remaining after Re+ efforts, which may ultimately be the least expense option possible.

Seeking City Support

Walsh again sought member feedback about what it might look like when a city supports a SWD initiative, particularly the rate restructure, the Re+ Plan actions, and the possible extension of the Interlocal Agreements (ILAs) to encapsulate an extension on the terms of capital project bonds. Walsh asked if cities would sign letters of support or adopt a formal city resolution or proclamation.

Discussion began with the questions about how many cities the county needs to extends the bond terms and if the bonds could be refinanced after a few years. Others wanted to know what the rate benefit was to rate payers, if the terms extension relates to the useful life of the financed asset, and how might this extension affect future projects. Others also said they want to learn more about Re+ Plan and specific actions required by cities before they bring it to their councilmembers to decide. SWD staff will conduct additional analysis and provide more information to members, including the costs of options in the Re+ Plan, for further discussion at later meetings.

Re+ Technology and Market Development

Smith presented on Re+ key elements of technology and market development, first with an update on the statewide organics stakeholder group where they are discussing collection policy, infrastructure, streamlining permitting and siting processes. Smith encourages committee members to get involved in the stakeholder discussions where they can help affect statewide policies that could change the dynamics of material processing and allow Re+ to gain momentum.

In our region there are questions about our current and future capacity for processing materials such as food waste and fiber, particularly when policy and consumer behavior have implications on the volume and mix of materials. These implications will affect costs and economy, jobs, social justice and equity, and the environment.

As an example, Smith presented projections for additional organics processing capacity as the region pursues diversion and recovery goals. These projections highlighted the need to increase investment in building capacity and explore the variety of processing pathways and technologies such as depackaging, composting, codigestion, and anaerobic digestion. If policies, technical assistance, and communication efforts positively affect behavior change, then source separation could make codigestion and anaerobic digestion more feasible. If those efforts are unsuccessful, the question becomes the feasibility of removing organics from mixed waste processing. Infrastructure investment decisions are complicated.

To make it easier to decide about infrastructure investment, SWD wants to reduce risk by hiring a consultant to provide data to help participating jurisdictions decide focusing on organics, fiber, and plastic packaging. SWD is drafting a Request for Proposals (RFP) to be issued at the end of 2021. The timeline for 2022 includes analysis, policy development and discussion, gathering support from cities, and then providing technical assistance to support successful separation of materials at the source, preventing waste disposal.

Smith asked members to share factors to be considered when making investment in infrastructure. There was a suggestion to study how other countries, such as Japan, have made their infrastructure investments.

Smith then described how an innovation platform can drive market development as opposed to the current ad hoc system where disparate entities provide piecemeal resources when approached by an entrepreneur who needs funding, access to marketing expertise, or help creating a business plan. An innovation platform to advance a circular economy proactively attracts and supports entrepreneurs with technical support, mentoring, and funding. Components of an innovation platform could include: codesign to remove barriers of participation and ensure communities are involved, innovation challenges to incubate and identify ideas, and funding pathways such as grants or funds from government or private corporations. Innovation platforms could also include communication and recruitment to build networks and mentors, technical support for exchanging expertise, and data resources to fill gaps of knowledge.

SWD is exploring a multi-state innovation challenge called Nextcycle which is designed to identify and accelerate projects and business plans to create “shovel-ready” ventures for public and private investment. There is a strong potential for fruitful partnerships with national and commercial through this approach. SWD is working with to develop regional partners with the state departments of Ecology and Commerce and the recycling development center and will be working on developing partnerships with community-based organizations and small businesses who can benefit from the innovation platform

approach. Smith asked cities to play a role in helping get word out about the innovation platform when it is launched early next year.

When the innovation platform is launched, there will be a competitive two-million-dollar grant program geared toward private sector and community groups, a different grant program partner cities currently access. Grant recipients will need to report how well their projects are delivering on materials processing, waste reduction, and repair and reuse efforts using an impact framework.. SWD will be organizing platform development workshops with representatives from underserved communities to ensure this approach does not create barriers for participation. Smith asked committee members if they think the innovation platform is a good approach for market development.

Discussion followed about the demand for, and value of, processed materials, and the need to involve people from outside the waste industry as well as the need to include them.

Member Comment

From the Zoom Chat, Van Orsow offered suggestions for Re+: KCSWD creates an executive summary, the cost (and a ballpark cost per ton for the resulting diversion), the relative diversion potential/range, the scalability, and the timing to implement/bring on-line. What level of behavior change is required? Does it require legislation to mandate that a worker put specific stuff in specific cart? Or is it able to handle random MSW? Is it Before or After the scale house? How many local sustainable jobs are created per 100 tons of throughput? What is its impact toward improving social equity? Then: Show How much would each option increase or decrease the tipping fee. How large of bond is needed for each option? How much residual is generated that requires disposal per 100 tons?

Searcy announced introduced Ed Hawthorne, the City of Enumclaw's new Public Works Director.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 1:19 p.m.