

**King County Joint Advisory Committee meeting MSWAC/SWAC
December 10, 2021 - 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting (Zoom)**

Meeting Minutes

<u>MSWMAC Members</u>	
Emily Warnock	Bothell
Robin Tischmak	Burien
Steve Friedman	Clyde Hill
Chris Searcy	Enumclaw
Rob Van Orsow	Federal Way
Tony Donati	Kent
John MacGillivray	Kirkland
Jenna McGinnis	Kirkland
Toby Nixon	Kirkland
Penny Sweet, Chair	Kirkland
Phillipa Kassoover	Lake Forest Park
Jeff Brauns	Newcastle
Earnest Thompson	Normandy Park
Aaron Moldver	Redmond
Linda Knight, Vice Chair	Renton
Mason Giem	SeaTac
Cameron Reed	Shoreline
Rachel Best-Campbell	Woodinville
Diana Hart	Woodinville

<u>King County Staff</u>
Margaret Bay, SWD staff
Brian Halverson, SWD staff
Kathy Hashagen, SWD staff
Karen Herndon, SWD staff
Patty Liu, SWD staff
Kinyan Lui, SWD staff
Pat McLaughlin, SWD Director
Mary O'Hara, SWD staff
Adrian Tan, SWD staff
Dorian Waller, SWD staff
John Walsh, SWD staff
<u>Guests</u>
Quinn Apuzzo, Recology
Erin Gagnon, Ridwell
Kazia Mermel, Sound Cities Association
Rory O'Rourke, Seattle-King County Public Health
Diana Wadley, Washington State Dept. of Ecology
Quinn Apuzzo, Recology

<u>SWAC Members Present</u>
Wendy Weiker, Chair
April Atwood
James Borsum
Brian Martin
Karen Dawson
Robin Freedman
Phillipa Kassoover
Bill Louie
Ken Marshall
Steven Schmidt
Penny Sweet
Leah Tischler
Heather Trim

Call to Order and Introductions

Chairs Sweet and Weiker jointly presided over the meeting, which began at 10:05 with a request that Waller read a list of attendees in lieu of introductions. That was followed by an agenda review.

Minutes

Searcy moved to approve the October MSWAC minutes seconded by Thompson. The minutes were approved unanimously. Trim moved to approve the October SWAC minutes with comments removed. Seconded by Kassover. The minutes were approved unanimously. *The acronyms list will be attached to the minutes.*

Public Comment

Wadley from the Washington State Department of Ecology reminded attendees that the new law related to food services containers goes into effect January 1. More details available [here](#). If members would like emails on the topic, click [here](#).

Updates

McLaughlin provided the SWD update:

Tonnage Report

November 2021 Tonnage saw an increase of 2,800 tons (3.8%) over November 2020 actuals. The increase was primarily driven by commercial activity.

Legislation

Construction & Demolition legislation was passed out of King County Council for approval Oct 26. The 2022 Rate Restructure legislation was heard before Budget and Fiscal Management Committee of the King County Council Dec 8. The Solid Waste Long-Term Disposal Method Report (the "Plan for the Plan") is being review by the King County Executive. It is due to King County Council on Dec 31.

Safety & Vaccine mandate:

Because of the design of these older facilities, top load stations (Algona, Houghton, Renton) have a risk of customer injury. Customers emptying vehicles back them close to the edge and have fallen into the pit while unloading. The division has consistently adjusted operating practices, signage, painted tipping floors, placed moveable physical barriers, etc. to mitigate this risk. The fall hazard is not as great at the newer grade separated facilities like Enumclaw, Shoreline and Bow Lake and has been successfully mitigated by operational procedures.

We are exploring other options for top load stations such as wheel stops and providing a multi-language laminated card so Scale Operators can share information about the fall hazards when customers enter. We've hired independent firms to come into the stations and share their expertise to assess the fall hazards and advise what other options there are to increase safety.

We already have limits to the length of trailers at top load stations for safety reasons. We're contemplating other restrictions and service changes related to what types of vehicles can access these facilities to further mitigate this risk. King County is self-insured, so the changes are not expected to impact insurance premiums. We'll continue to evaluate this.

The County Executive has issued a mandate requiring all Executive King County Branch employees, which includes the Solid Waste Division, be vaccinated, or have an approved medical or religious exemption. A vaccinated workforce will help to ensure the safety of our employees and the customers we serve. The mandate also included certain contractors to ensure their workers have been vaccinated against Covid-19 who 1) work at a King County owned or leased site, and/or 2) interact with the public.

So far, 93% of all Solid Waste Division employees are vaccinated. The remaining 7% are working through the exemption processes. We have 100% contractor compliance. We do not expect a disruption or alteration to service due to the vaccine mandate.

King 5 story:

King 5 highlighted the King County/Port of Seattle [waste-to-jet-fuel study](#), its potential as a waste disposal alternative and as a potential source of sustainable aviation fuel. SWD staff, along with Port Commissioners and Councilmember Dembowski toured the landfill and were interviewed to speak to the potential of what the study may uncover.

The scope of work (SOW) on the consultant contract has been established as part of the procurement process. We will share that the SOW with both committees. Comments from the advisory committees can influence the negotiations with the awarded contractor.

NERTS

We continue to work closely with the Core Cities (Kirkland, Redmond, Woodinville, Sammamish) and Siting Advisory Group (SAG) members to ensure community concerns are addressed and are reflected in the project as we move forward. Yesterday, we met with the Core Cities and took a deep dive into the siting process. We sought feedback about our proposed public facing presentations regarding a modern transfer station and a high-level overview of the siting process.

Legislative preview

Tran provided the Legislative preview for the session which runs from Jan 10 to Mar 10, 2022. Bill numbers are included when they are available.

- The RENEW - Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for packaging and paper products.
- EPR for batteries - requires producers to plan and organize recycling and collection of batteries.
- Right to Report of digital electronic products repairability index – allows repairers access to information and materials for repairs.
- Methane and organics – will divert more organic material to compost and anaerobic digestion facilities and move excess food to hungry people., which will reduce methane gas at landfills.
- Landfill gas – increasing effectiveness of landfill gas extraction.
- SB 5492 - 2021-22 Providing for the recycling of wind turbine blades. Washington State Legislature

MSWAC/SWAC Update

Content was a similar in both groups. Discussion was more intensive in SWAC.

2022 Advisory Committee Work Plan Workplan

Workplan content includes:

- State Legislation: The committees will receive updates Jan and Feb with a wrap-up in March. Post-legislative work is expected to occur in April and May. The role of the committees is to discuss and adopt a policy position on EPR. The timing is awkward. The session may happen at a faster pace than the committees can act. Members are encouraged to watch the session and bring items of interest to the discussion. There is a substantial stakeholder process in progress regarding EPR. So far, stakeholders are committed to working together toward EPR goals.
- 2023-2024 rate: The committees will receive briefings, discuss the rate, and provide feedback from Jan to April when it is hoped they will choose to draft a letter of support. The intention is that the letter would be finalized in May, so it can be attached to the rate package transmitted to the King County Executive not later than Jun 7.

City representatives identified a possible challenge in the schedule. It's important to allow enough time (minimum of three weeks) for them to work within their city structures to get approval for the letter. City representatives do not have the authority to act for their cities. Any changes in content, say from draft to final, would require that the letter again go through the approval process including review by all city councilmembers. Letters from the advisory committees are typically signed by the Chair and Vice Chair. The language of those letters clarifies that the letter is from, "representatives present."

- Re+: The committees will review and discuss the final draft of the Re+ Plan and discuss how it could be implemented from Jan to April when it is hoped they will choose to draft a letter of support and work toward its public launch. The intention is that the letter would be finalized in May, so it can be attached to the rate package transmitted to the King County Executive. The committee members' role is to launch Re+ to their networks and in particular, their organizational leadership teams.

SWD staff will make themselves available to help members be empowered and equipped to advocate for Re+. Sweet noted there is a significant role for the Sound Cities Association (SCA) in this work. Trim suggested the timeline be accelerated and requested a "mini deep dive" on the topic to understand what's happened since the conversation began and to understand the details.

Kassover requested help from the division to educate on Re+ and the rate. A short report out at a council meeting will not accomplish the goal. She would like an outreach plan or public education plan. McLaughlin said subject matter experts would be available to make presentations when invited. Committee members could choose to facilitate those invitations to city councils, groups like the SCA, or meetings of mayors or city administrators. SWD is working on cost information about how much Re+ will cost cities and residents and will provide it to committees when it's available.

Liu said SWD will create a website and will be attending community events to share information. SWD is also convening a community panel of BIPOC and Community Based Organizations to help us understand how to fill communications gaps. Committee members can also help us understand the best ways to communicate. Atwood suggested that recording those "expert" talks could provide the information to a range of stakeholder groups relatively easily.

- Re+ plan innovation platforms and grants: The committees will be briefed on the NextCycle innovation platform and grant opportunities in Feb, Mar, May, and Oct. Members will give input into communications products and circulate opportunities in their networks.
- Cedar Hills support facilities: The committees will receive periodic briefings about project status. Committee members will be asked for feedback on the final EIS and what impacts this may have as it relates to Area 9 development and the facilities relocation plan.
- South County Recycling and Transfer Station (SCRTS): The committees will receive status briefings and will be asked for feedback on the project including the 100% design milestone. We expect to start construction in early 2023 with completion in early 2026. SCRTS will replace the current Algona transfer station.
- Northeast County Recycling and Transfer Station (NERTS): The committees will be briefed about the status of the project periodically. McLaughlin will also provide short updates during the update portion of the meetings. The role of the committee is to provide feedback. We are working on hiring the consultant of the project and hope to hire in the first quarter of 2022. The scope of work was changed in response to advisory committee comments, and we will send that revised scope to the committees.
- Comp Plan Update: In the second half of the year, committees will be engaged on the long-term options and non-long-term disposal related topics. Committee members will provide feedback and help prioritize which non-disposal options they see to address that will affect their respective organizations and communities. They will also explore, understand, and discuss possibilities for the next long term disposal method and discuss ways to agree on which option to select.

Waller ask the committees for other topics members want added to committee workplans. Thompson said he had contact with a company in Japan that does 100% recycling.

A subcommittee is being set up for Long term bond/ILA discussions. An email on that topic will go out soon. There are no other subcommittees from this group.

Knight said there would be value in replacing the Recycling Coordinators group that was disbanded with the advent of the Recycling Task Force. That type on ongoing group may involve some committee members but would also involve others. She would like to see that discussed.

Weiker said the organics stakeholder group is still meeting until legislative sessions begins. The King County Cities Climate Collaborative (K4C) is also continuing to work on materials management. It would be important to get those groups to work together. Kasser agreed saying cities are working on writing a Strategic Climate Action Plan (SCAP.) She suggested using those relationships to talk together about Re+ and how we are interacting with private companies like Ridwell. Others mentioned possible county reporting requirements to ensure the products collected by private companies are recycled. Atwood mentioned that because of the cost, there may also be a social justice issue where only affluent people could feel good about their recycling options.

Committee “work session”

Committee members went to break out groups to discuss two questions.

- 1) How can SWD improve your experience as a committee member?
- 2) How can you be equipped to empower your work as a committee member?

After the conversation, members shared these thoughts.

- Provide more info on SWD website for both SWAC and MSWAC. It's a good way to inform the committees and to the public.
- Send detailed meeting information at least one week in advance, preferably two weeks. Clarify what is needed from members. Examples include presenting to others, getting councils involved, or to vote on an idea.
- For topics that need action from city councils, provide the information four months in advance.
- Consider looking at how ex-officio members of committees could be involved though not vote.
- The level of information provided to cities is good. The timing needs work.
- Consider conversations to encourage sharing between cities for best practices.
- Members said both, provide more talk about details and less talk about details. Trim suggested allowing members to attend separate meetings where rate details are shared.
- Clarify member's responsibilities and what is expected of them. This would be particularly useful for new members.
- It would be helpful if staff were more available to come to councils to share information as subject matter experts.
- It would be wonderful to return to meeting in person, perhaps four times per year when that is possible.
- It would help to receive links to documents on the SWD website rather than copies of the documents. It would also be good to improve the website, so it is more useful. There may be public records issues related to a SharePoint site used by elected officials.
- Background information for new members would be particularly useful. One of our responsibilities is to take what we hear and influence others. I can't do that when I don't know what it means. Help new members be knowledgeable so we can be effective.
- Let's talk about how we can empower ourselves rather than the division empowering us. How we can become more empowered to vote for our cities? How we can make that better?
- It would be good if the division was more in touch with external efforts like K4C and brought that info back to the committees. It would help us fit puzzle pieces together.

Member Comment

There were no further member comments.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12:07.