

MSWAC Advisory Committee Meeting

April 8, 2022 - 11:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.

Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

MSWMAC Members	
Joan Nelson	Auburn
Jon Gire	Bellevue
Emily Warnock	Bothell
Robin Tischmak	Burien
Steve Friedman	Clyde Hill
Shellie Bates	Covington
Ed Hawthorne	Enumclaw
Chris Searcy	Enumclaw
Rob Van Orsow	Federal Way
Tony Donati	Kent
Jenna McInnis	Kirkland
Penny Sweet, Chair	Kirkland
Amy Shaw	Maple Valley
Robert Clark	Newcastle
Earnest Thompson	Normandy Park
Micah Bonkowski	Redmond
Linda Knight, Vice Chair	Renton
Rori Kirkpatrick	Sammamish
Mason Giem	Sea-Tac
Bethany Wolbrecht-Dunn	Shoreline

King County Staff
Eyasu Ayalew, Seattle-King County Public Health
Nathaniel Bennett, King County Budget Office Staff
Mai Bui, SWD staff
Joy Carpine-Cazzanti, Haz. Waste Management Program
Emily Coleman, SWD staff
Kathy Hashagen, SWD staff
Brian Halverson, SWD staff
Pat McLaughlin, SWD Director
Zainab Negati, King County Auditor
Erika Pablo, SWD staff
Amy Ockerlander, SWD staff
Terra Rose, King County Council staff
Hannah Scholes, SWD staff
Andy Smith, SWD staff
Terra Rose, King County Council Staff
Dorian Waller, SWD staff
Guests
Quinn Apuzzo, Recology
Carolyn Bowie, Washington State Dept. Of Ecology
Han Kirkland, Waste Management
Kazia Mermel, Sound Cities Association
Diana Wadley, Washington State Dept. of Ecology
Wendy Weiker, Republic Services

Call to Order and Introductions

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

Meeting Minutes

Van Orsow moved to approve the January meeting minutes. Thompson seconded. The meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

Public Comment

Wadley said current Ecology approved Local Solid Waste and Hazardous Waste Plans and Contamination Reduction and Outreach Plans (CROP) are now posted in one place - <https://app.box.com/s/u0cwvenm0wp0axx4yurjgtajigk00c74>. The file structure is still in development and input is welcome. The Statewide Recycling Coordinators meeting is scheduled for April 28. The meeting will include the unveiling of the results of the Residential Recycling Survey. Contact Diana.Wadley@ecy.wa.gov if you would like to be added to the mailing list or have any other questions.

SWD Update

Potential NERTS sites

In response to a member request, SWD provided maps of potential NERTS sites. Those sites include in no particular order:

- Site A: Winsome Trading and NW Utilities at 16111 Redmond-Woodinville Rd NE, Woodinville. 13.6 acres. Current uses are a warehouse and equipment yard.
- Site C: Houghton Park and Ride at 7024 116th Ave NE, Kirkland. 5.1 acres 1000 yards from the current Houghton transfer station. The location is being surplussed by the State of Washington.
- Site D: Houghton Transfer Station and Closed Landfill. 8.4 acres available
- Site E: NW Utilities and Woodinville Parcel Cluster, 15801 Woodinville-Redmond Road, Woodinville. The site includes two parcel clusters - 12.9 acres. Current uses include construction, portable toilet rental, manufacturing, automotive, accessories, and vacant space.

Tonnage Report

We received roughly 1,700 tons more last month than in March 2021, an increase of about 2.3%. Commercially collected tons are up by 9% compared to March 2021.

Top load transfer station safety improvements

We have deployed a modified 20-yard roll-off container to create a physical barrier between customers and an identified fall hazard on March 10, 2022. This configuration prevents customers (and employees) from being able to approach the edge of the fall hazard area. However, using this strategy also means that we will need to increase restrictions for longer vehicles at top load locations because new configuration leaves less space to maneuver within the station.

The sites will continue to service commercial haulers but self-haulers with trailers or large box trucks greater than 25 feet in length will be redirected to compactor stations. We'll be reaching out to the cities impacted by this change in the weeks to come.

We have reader boards in place at Algona, Renton, and Houghton so customers will know they could be impacted by the length restrictions. We also have a social media campaign and flyers. We are installing bollards/posts so it's easy to see how long a vehicle is. There will be a soft enforcement period. Only after that time will we turn people away. We're looking for a way to give redirected customers some sort of "landing discount" at another site the first time they are turned away from a top load station.

Remember, this is being implemented because we are addressing a fall hazard. We started with chains, then we painted the area, then we installed jersey barriers. Those efforts were not successful. Now we've installed curb stops that reduces stall length by 10 feet which means if the vehicle is beyond 25-foot total length it will block access for others using the station.

Rate Restructure Legislation passage

The Council passed the Rate Restructure legislation on March 22nd. The rate restructure will take place beginning January 2023.

The City/Hauler contracts will need to be updated to account for the change in billing structure. SWD staff are available to support cities and haulers in this effort. To assist the cities in preparing for this effort, we are working with a consultant to develop a template contract amendment with three cities served by each of the three haulers.

This language is intended to help reduce the cost of contracting for cities. The aim is to have this language and accompanying consultant report available for all cities with hauler contracts by the end of August 2022.

Flow Control status

We are continuing to work with Seattle Mayor's Office about the flow control issue regarding residuals from MRFs. SWD hoped to solve this through binding arbitration though the city is pursuing other options. There has been no change since the last report on this issue.

Ardagh Glass lease status

Ardagh Glass is the primary recycler of glass in King County. Part of their organizational footprint was leased from King County which had concerns about the environmental impact of part of their operation. A King County expert will provide more detail to MSWAC at your next meeting. We've heard that the news will be good, and he will provide details in May.

Cedar Hills Community Meeting

We are hosting an online meeting on Wednesday, April 27, from 6-8 p.m. via Zoom. Please check with Dorian for meeting registration link.

The meeting is an opportunity to learn and ask questions about what's going on at the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill, including current and planned construction projects, environmental monitoring activities, and operational activities. You will also receive updates on the Bio Energy Washington's renewable energy plant.

WRAP Program

The Solid Waste Division and the Department of Natural Resources joined the American Chemistry Council and Seattle Public Utilities to host a Zoom press event on March 18. The event which generated a lot of media interest, highlighted a joint pilot plastics take-back program at 10 local independent grocery stores, mainly in the Seattle area. The pilot is managed by American Chemistry council, and encourages people to return their plastic bags, film, and bubble mailers so they can be recycled at Merlin in BC.

Call2Recycle Top 100 Leader in Sustainability award

King County Solid Waste Division is a recipient of the Call2Recycle Top 100 Leader in Sustainability award! The annual Leader in Sustainability award is given to top performing organizations and businesses who demonstrate a notable commitment to battery collection and recycling. We played a pivotal role in helping the Call2Recycle program hit a milestone of recycling more than 8 million pounds of consumer batteries in 2021.

SWAC update

The meeting content was very similar in SWAC but there was a deep discussion about RE+ and grant funding.

2022 Legislative Reflections

Scholes briefed MSWAC on the 69th session of the Washington State Legislature which ended March 10, 2022.

[HB 1799](#) Organic materials management has been signed. This bill was a significant achievement that supports organics management and Re+. There was good stakeholder engagement and collaboration both before and during the session. Other efforts did not move forward but legislators were made more aware of the topic areas which builds momentum for the next session.

However, it was a short session with many competing priorities like housing, mental health and COVID. And EPR (Extended Producer Responsibility) is complex. We expected it would be a multi-year effort to move the RENEW Recycling Act forward. There was not enough time during this session.

During the next session we will continue to work on packaging and paper products (the RENEW Recycling Act) EPR for batteries, and on organics. HB1799 was a great first step but more work is needed.

MSWAC members were asked for feedback about what legislative topics are priorities, how members would like to be engaged during or prior to the next legislative session and if members would be interested in forming a legislative sub-committee. They also asked how legislative briefings could be improved. Member comments included:

In response to Knight's question regarding significant barriers, opposition, or questions about the EPR bill, Scholes reminded members that it's a complex scenario because of the stakeholders that need to be brought together. Producers and haulers want any new system to work efficiently and meet environmental goals. There was a great deal of good faith discussion and negotiation between those groups this year in the 20 meetings that occurred before the session began. Much progress was made but more is needed to find ground that works for everyone.

Sweet said as an elected official she would be interested in a legislative subcommittee. She said the elected officials can be advocates and that MSWAC members could work together with the SCA and AWC as partners around supporting legislation. She suggested that elected bodies may contain advocates that are not members of MSWAC that would be interested in a MSWAC subcommittee. Ockerlander said a lot of active committees have a legislative sub-committee to help local elected officials stay engaged.

Thomson said that to be effective, subcommittees need to include someone with technical knowledge. Otherwise, the subcommittee is just educational and doesn't necessarily move us along.

Bonkowski asked when the state will be providing guidance to jurisdictions on the implementation of the compost legislation noting that a model ordinance would be very helpful. Wadley responded via chat saying the Department of Ecology will provide guidance as soon as possible but it's not ready at this time. If you have specific questions that you'd like addressed in state guidance re: 1799 or 1663, please Wadley know via email at: diana.wadley@ecy.wa.gov.

2023-2024 Rate Proposal Update

We identified an error in the rate model that inflated projected revenues needed. We've corrected the error, had it checked by others and updated cashflows for co-digestion and mixed waste processing, lowered future budget add assumptions, updated some bond rate assumptions, the CERP transfer amount, and some landfill assumptions.

The January preliminary rate would require an 8.94% increase in revenue requirement for both 2023 and 2024. The division is projecting to under expend in 2021-2022 by \$6 million.

Also, the CIP cashflow assumptions have been revised resulting in smoothed capital spending. Area 9 development has been pushed out and refilling the tops of area 5 and 6 has moved forward. This change in landfill sequencing was done for environmental and project timeline reasons.

The projected revenue requirement increase is 9.4% in 2022 and is projected to be 9.56% out through 2028. We are spending rate stabilization reserve to accomplish that.

We've been analyzing Early Call Bond and Bond Anticipation Notes finds and have received high level analysis and rate assumptions from the King County Finance and Budget Office (FBOD). Different ways to issue the debt would have different impacts. We're looking at details and expect to see a little movement.

Waller sent a draft letter of support for the rate. Please review the draft over the next month to see what changes may be needed to create something you may feel comfortable signing.

A member asked if the fixed charge option still includes an annual true-up process and expressed concern about the administrative time it would require. Halverson responded that a true up process will not be needed because in future we will use the most recent data we have. There will be a two-year lag but that will still maintain the incentive for cities

to reduce their waste because the less waste they generate relative to other cities, the lower their share of the fixed-annual charge.

McInnis asked for a bit more detail about the error. Halverson said there are two places in the model where you could enter the past year rate and we put it in the wrong place. We were trying to account for current year revenue not knowing it was already accounted for in the model.

Sweet expressed concern about signing a letter in support of increasing rates. She said that while she recognized that we must continue to face these increasing rates, signing a letter in support of them is difficult in these current economic circumstances. She suggested that members think about this over the next month to prepare for next month's discussion where she looks forward to hearing from more cities.

Knight acknowledged that these are difficult times to sign that type of letter. She suggested that it's possible that MSWAC's time would be better spent on other issues. Waller said that MSWAC has historically sent letters in support of rate proposals.

McLaughlin said there are impacts if we move forward with the proposed rate and impacts if we don't. For example, in the past cities have said it is important to have a smoother rate path. Members said they would be interested in seeing the impacts on future periods if there was no rate increase. Other members said it would be useful to see how not increasing the rate would impact the priorities of the organization. What would be discounted or delayed and what would that mean? Another member said, "it may cost us more, but things like Re+ are "the right thing to do."

Sweet noted that the crux of the matter is that no one wants to increase a rate. There's always the question of whether we're making the best decision. Van Orsow said that he remembers similar conversations in the past about supporting something that is economically painful.

King County Equity & Social Justice

Pablo provided training on Equity and Social Justice.

Among other things, the [King County Equity and Social Justice Ordinance](#) passed in 2010 discusses determinants of equity. The Executive declared racism as a Public Health Crisis in _____.

The conditions in which people live, work and play are [determinants of equity](#). Equal opportunity in these areas is necessary for all people to thrive and achieve their full potential regardless of race, income or language spoken.

Determinants of equity include

- Access to affordable, healthy, local food
- Access to health and human services
- Access to parks and natural resources
- Access to safe and efficient transportation
- Affordable, safe, quality housing
- Community and public safety
- Early childhood development
- Economic development
- Equitable law and justice system
- Equity in county practices
- Family wage jobs and job training
- Healthy built and natural environments
- Quality education
- Strong, vibrant neighborhoods

Statistics show that there is an 11-year difference in life expectancy in King County based on race. There's an eight-year difference in life expectancy based on where in the county you live. Income shows difference by race and place as well. There is a difference of \$36,000 per year based on race and \$73,000 per year based on location. Combining these with other measures provides a quality-of-life indicators. Comparing those indicators with how communities of color are distributed throughout the county is startling.

The outcomes in a community like health, longevity, educational success, and economic wellbeing are based on the conditions in that community. Those conditions like living wage jobs and job training, healthy food and food systems, transportation and community development are dependent on policies, practices, and systems. For the greatest and most effective impact, King County is focusing on those policy, practice, and systems issues to address root causes and be pro-equity.

Committee members were put into small groups to discuss the following questions:

- How are your cities approaching equity and social justice?
- Are you already incorporating ESJ into your work? If so, how?
- What would you like to do in the future?
- What assistance or support could SWD offer?

Share out

There are tools used at KC that may be useful for others. [Equity Impact Review](#). Office of Equity and Social Justice budget guidance. (get those links) Equity and social justice scorecard available.

Shaw – found out some cities are further along than others. There is a strong focus on trying to get translation for public outreach. Some staff had service equity initiatives in place. Other focuses were messaging for Parks and community centers. Things in future continue to improve outreach and translation. Specific ideas is transcreation vs. translation. Fed Way wants to link with group doing SCRTS work to communicate with community.

Pat's group – Heard about Kirkland actions based on 2016 election – resolutions about inclusivity and in response to George Floyd tragedy, accommodating new facilities for unhoused – health through housing initiative. Clyde Hill & Normandy Park – less about more formal/structured actions and more about applying it in practice in their daily work. How can SWD help in next steps is increased transparency and engagement as KC is approaching community solutions so that as they are implemented, they are more effective and better received.

Andy – updating the climate action plan that includes ESJ. Conversation with Enumclaw helpful – how do we move forward and share the examples. Thinking about the future – how we use grants county can reflect on that. Find the space to have the conversation and share good practices so everyone hears about it.

Erika – many commonalities. Except for Renton, we're just getting started. New hires beginning to work on deconstructing bias. Renton has programs that have been going on for several years. Trying to involve people that haven't been involved in the past. Interested in how LHWMP has done this and learning from them. Learn about different county tools to incorporate budgeting and planning tools used by KC.

Suggested Training "Undoing Institutional Racism" organized by The People's Institute Northwest
<https://www.pinwseattle.org/what-we-do.php>

Send Erika notes: she is available to provide support for KC tools.

Member Comment

Thompson thanked McLaughlin for getting in touch with the Japanese consulate regardless of whether or not discussions with the Nakadai and Mono Factory moves forward

Meeting adjourned at 1:08.