

MSWAC Advisory Committee Meeting

June 10, 2022 - 11:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.

Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

MSWMAC Members	
Joan Nelson	Auburn
Cheryl Paston	Bellevue
Jon Gire	Bellevue
Emily Warnock	Bothell
Robin Tischmak	Burien
Steve Friedman	Clyde Hill
Chris Searcy	Enumclaw
Tony Donati	Kent
Jenna McInnis	Kirkland
Penny Sweet	Kirkland
Phillippa Kassover	Lake Forrest Park
Amy Shaw	Maple Valley
Earnest Thompson	Normandy Park
Aaron Moldver	Redmond
Micah Bonkowski	Redmond
Linda Knight, Vice Chair	Renton
Rori Kirkpatrick	Sammamish
Cameron Reed	Shoreline
Rachel Best-Campbell	Woodinville
Diana Hart	Woodinville
Ross Friedman	Mercer Island

King County Staff
Theresa Thurlow, SWD staff
John Walsh, SWD staff
Mai Bui, SWD staff
Hilary Leonard, SWD staff
Brian Halverson, SWD staff
Pat McLaughlin, SWD Director
Dorian Waller, SWD staff
Kinyan Lui, SWD staff
Karen Herndon, SWD staff
Mary O’Hara, SWD staff
Amy Ockerlander, SWD staff
Nathaniel Bennett, King County Executive Office
Terra Rose, King County Council
Guests
Han Kirkland
Kazia Mermel
Phil Allen
Diana Wadley, Washington State Dept. of Ecology
Natalie Caulkins, Republic Services

Call to Order and Introductions

Chair Sweet called the meeting to order at 11:15 a.m.

Meeting Minutes

Searcy moved to approve the May meeting minutes. Kassover seconded. The meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

Public Comment

Wadley reported that Ecology has launched a [webpage for HB 1799](https://www.commerce.wa.gov/building-infrastructure/pwb-financing/). The WA Public Works Board is now accepting loan applications for local infrastructure projects. More info here - <https://www.commerce.wa.gov/building-infrastructure/pwb-financing/>. There’s a [virtual application workshop](#) scheduled for June 14. The board expects the application process to be competitive. EPA funding to Tribal, State and Local Governments through new federal infrastructure law makes a total of \$275 million available for fiscal year 2022 to 2026. Grants focus on infrastructure and recycling with \$75 million in grants for reduce, reuse, recycle education and outreach. There’s also a separate funding stream for battery collection. The EPA is currently seeking feedback on their funding process for the grants. More details and contact info here - <https://app.box.com/s/bgq0gxb5vjyrr8vzjeegw9i02qqp6yi2>. For information on the USDA’s current funding opportunities for urban agriculture visit <https://www.usda.gov/topics/urban>.

SWD Update

Tonnage report

We are up 2.5% for the year. Last month we received roughly the same volume of tons as in May 2021. Commercially collected tons recovered are up by 6% compared to May 2021.

Vashon Island Community Meeting

On June 7, we hosted a community meeting for the residents of Vashon Island. SWD has been working with Zero Waste Vashon and other island partners to consider the costs and benefits of processing organic waste produced by Vashon. This work included a recently completed Vashon Organics Processing Feasibility Study and community survey to learn more about public opinion on the topic. Attendees heard an overview of the feasibility study, the results of the community survey, and some potential options for future projects. Project staff also answered questions from the public and discussed potential steps for Vashon Island organics processing and next steps on citing a facility on Vashon.

2023-2024 Rates

We transmitted our rate package to the Executive who is expected to transmit his rate proposal to Council on June 16. We're grateful to this committee for working through the rate options and providing support for the proposed rate.

Class 8 Battery-Electric Truck

On June 9 we had an exciting event with the Executive at the Kenworth assembly plant in Renton. SWD is adding the first [Class 8 battery-electric truck](#) to our fleet. We'll use the new zero-emission commercial truck to haul waste from Enumclaw to Cedar Hills. The emissions are significantly lower, and the truck is quieter than our traditional diesel fleet. The truck is not yet ready for delivery yet but should be in service by next month.

Re+ Pledge

We're getting ready to launch the Re+ pledge and ask cities and partners to sign-on, recommitting to shared efforts towards zero waste and creating a circular economy. We're currently scheduling early meetings with interested collaborators and county councilmembers. In the next couple of weeks, we will be sending MSWAC/SWAC members a draft letter of support for Re+ efforts. At the July meeting we'll request approval on the letter.

Kassover asked about the timeline for the Re+ pledge. Ockerlander responded that she will send out the draft language to members after the meeting. SWD would like to first present to the Sound Cities Association's Public Issues Committee (PIC) before going out to individual cities. We expect to reach out to cities by the end of July to begin scheduling presentations on Re+. The formal launch of the Re+ program will happen in November.

SWAC update

Kassover noted the only unique topic at SWAC was new info on the Northeast Recycling and Transfer Station that will be shared with MSWAC today and a Bike Works program update. McLaughlin added that Bike Works has decided to only collect used bikes from the City of Seattle transfer stations due to resource constraints related to the economy. SWD will continue to recycle bikes as scrap metal at our stations, and we have an eye out for a new partner.

Rates update

Halverson presented on the billing changes that may be coming in January 2023. With the rates restructure there will be a fixed-annual charge with a reduced tonnage fee. Billing will still be monthly, and the fixed annual charge will be doled out each month. We're working on a letter for cities with context on the new fixed-annual charge and how it will work. Depending on the contract, the fixed-annual charge may go through the hauler or the city. We're also happy to meet with cities and present more detailed info.

City contract language will need to be updated. SWD can't be party to negotiations, but we've provided some limited funding to pilot cities to develop template language. The pilot was created to alleviate the burden of updating contracts for smaller cities. We'll provide that template language to all cities by end of August.

Knight asked when the cities will receive the total fixed annual charge amount. Halverson responded that SWD is beginning the rate modeling to ensure accurate numbers and will give an estimate soon to help with planning purposes. The final numbers will be known in the fall with Council approval.

Nelson asked whether the fixed charge considers recent contract changes with newly annexed areas. Halverson responded that they will. In calculating each city's tonnage SWD will look at the total service area and combine tonnage where needed for the upcoming year.

House Bill 1663

Thurlow presented on House Bill 1663 that passed this year. The bill addresses reducing landfill methane emissions. Our landfills currently must comply with an umbrella of clean air and emissions regulations from the EPA, State of Washington, and Puget Sound Clean Air Agency. Cedar Hills Regional Landfill has a gas collection and control system with over 815 gas wells. We're conducting a new pilot to make gas collection more efficient through installing conveyance pipes. We also have a request in our 2023 budget to rebuild 4 internal headers.

Currently we use the handheld method dictated under EPA rules to monitor methane, but it is slow and cumbersome. We're investigating using drones as a diagnostic tool to better pinpoint areas of the landfill that may have an issue such as a torn liner.

Our closed landfills also have gas collection systems and may be subject to House Bill 1663. The closed landfill system has a different purpose. It's focused on assessing any impacts from landfill gas on groundwater.

Development of HB 1663 was guided by similar legislation adopted by California and Oregon. We already meet most of the requirements dictated by the bill.

Over the next year Ecology will develop standardized rules for implementation and reporting. They will need to work out information on open flares in the bill that doesn't line up with federal code. They also need to work out new conditions for closed landfills.

NERTS UPDATE

O'Hara presented an update on the Northeast Recycling and Transfer Station (NERTS) project.

Our current Houghton station, built in the 1960's, has outlived its useful life. We worked with regional partners to outline a commitment to replacing the transfer station with a modern facility in the 2019 Solid Waste Division Comprehensive Plan. Modern facilities focus on redirecting recyclable content from the waste stream and preventing hazardous materials from contaminating the environment. They're integrated into the neighborhoods they serve and include features such as public art, walking trails and educational space. Prior to modern designs, transfer stations were often called "dumps" and essentially functioned as such— a place to dump trash before it's taken to the landfill.

The County has a six-step process to evaluate suitable sites. SWD began meeting with the Core Cities (Kirkland, Redmond, Sammamish, Woodinville) in late 2019 to begin the NERTS siting process. In August 2021, the Core Cities raised concerns around the selection process and the County took a pause and shared all siting data to allow the cities to conduct their own review. We were asked to review an additional parcel. The final four sites under consideration include two locations in Kirkland and two in Woodinville.

On May 12 we hosted a virtual open house and provided an overview of the project and siting process. Over 200 people attended the event. On May 19 we hosted our eighth siting advisory group meeting to provide a recommendation on which three sites should move forward.

This month we'll decide which sites move forward based on the environmental review, equity impact report, financial viability, and socio-economic analysis. Once the sites are selected the SEPA process will begin. We expect scoping will take place this fall and the draft EIS should be issued in September 2023.

Cedar Hills Regional Landfill Site Development Plan

Lui presented a brief update on the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill site development plan.

The final EIS was published in March 2022. We anticipate selecting a preferred alternative and relocation option by Q2 2022. Once the preferred alternative is selected, we'll work on Area 9 design and permitting. We expect Area 9 construction to begin in 2025 with a Spring 2028 opening.

South County Recycling and Transfer Station

Herndon presented an update on the South County Recycling and Transfer Station (SCRTS) project.

We're at 100% design and will have the consultants submit the design deliverables on June 20. Some of the design elements include enhanced onsite stormwater collection. We collaborated with the Muckleshoot Tribe to create fish-passable habitat as part of onsite stream realignment.

There were also some offsite design elements. We are going to upgrade the nearby sanitary sewer line as part of project coordination. We're also working to re-align West Valley Highway to improve sightlines for traffic safety.

We're tracking towards meeting our Living Building Challenge petal certification goals. Our energy plan for the project will produce 105% of the energy needs onsite. We had to get creative with incorporating solar panels into the canopy above the building entrance to supplement the panels covering the roof.

For Equity and Social Justice actions, we're partnering with DIRT Corps to kick-off a training program with participants from south county municipalities. Trainees get hands-on experience in wetland restoration, including plant salvage activities. We also partnered with Local Food Initiative and Public Health to support south county farming and will be partnering with Parks to add amenities to segments of the Interurban Trail.

Knight asked whether SWD will share the SCRTS design with communities involved in NERTS. Herndon responded that the renderings will be posted on the NERTS webpage for the community to view.

Kassover requested more details on SWD's solution of putting solar panels on the entrance canopy to help cities plan for similar challenges.

Member Comment

There was no member comment.

Meeting adjourned at 12:37 p.m.