

**King County Solid Waste Advisory Committee
 March 20, 2015 - 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
 King Street Center 8th Floor Conference Center**

Meeting Minutes

<u>Members Present</u>	<u>King County Staff</u>	<u>Others</u>
April Atwood	Anna Fleming	Doreen Booth, SCA
David Baker	Jeff Gaisford	Chris Eggen, Deputy Mayor, City of Shoreline and SWAC applicant
Jerry Bartlett	Beth Humphreys	Ross Marzolf, King County Council
Elly Bunzendahl	Josh Marx	
Joe Casalini	Laila McClinton	
Gib Dammann	Pat McLaughlin	
Jean Garber	Bill Reed	
Steve Gerritson	Thea Severn	
Stacia Jenkins- <i>excused</i>	Diane Yates	
Kim Kaminski		
Kevin Kelly		
Sean Kronberg - <i>absent</i>		
Keith Livingston		
Jose Lugo		
Barbara Ristau		
Philipp Schmidt-Pathmann		
Stephen Strader		
Thomas Wray		
Bill Ziegler		

Approve Meeting Minutes; Review Agenda

In the Product Families Update, the following sentence was revised as follows: “Schmidt-Pathmann recommended that gasification, pyrolysis, plasma arc and all derivatives should be in the same category as waste-to-energy.”

The February SWAC minutes were approved as amended.

Updates

SWD

On March 16 a small landslide occurred at the Factoria Transfer Station. Though mud collected beneath a parked trailer, there was no damage to SWD property or equipment and no employees were injured. SWD staff moved the trailer to make way for a Geotech consultant to

evaluate the slope and recommend remediation to avoid a future occurrence. The construction of the new station continues without incident.

March 15 marked the start of the fifth-annual Compost Days, a month-long campaign to thank residents for composting and diverting 350,000 tons of food, food-soiled paper, and yard debris from landfills in 2014. The campaign includes discounts on Cedar Grove compost, as well as discounted kitchen containers and compostable bags at participating retailers. Free compost is also donated to local schools and gardens that grow food for low-income residents.

FEMA has accepted the King County Operational Disaster Debris Management Plan for participation in the Public Assistance Alternative Procedures Pilot Program for Debris Removal. This pilot program allows a one-time, two-percent federal cost share increase for debris removal operations following a major disaster or emergency declaration. The financial value of this additional two-percent can be huge as Snohomish County's experience with the Oso landslide demonstrated.

A cultural competency and equity review of the Spanish-language curbside education program *Recicla Mas ¡Es facilísimo!* will be completed this year. The review will start with an evaluation of the community education activist partnership, the *Facilitadores de Reciclaje*. Equity Matters, hired by SWD to complete the project review, will analyze the cultural competence and equity of the Facilitadores and the overall project design. The review is being completed to find ways for the program to be more effective at engaging the Hispanic/Latino community in King County for increased recycling and composting practices.

On February 27, SWD employees gave presentations to the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) Evergreen Chapter's technical session on material management. The session focused on diversion and zero waste, and SWD highlighted its "Food: Too Good to Waste" and "Resource Recovery Pilot" programs. Both presentations were well-received.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the SWANA Evergreen Chapter, Casalini expressed his appreciation for the division's hospitality as host of the session.

Yates sent the attendance letter to the four SWAC members whose attendance was 50 percent or less. Three members recommitted to regular attendance. Craig Lorch chose to resign due to business commitments.

MSWMAC

MSWMAC Vice Chair and SWAC applicant Chris Eggen provided a brief report from the March MSWMAC meeting:

- Five questions related to collection and processing policies were posed, the first four of which generated the most discussion.
- Discussion was focused on how to best move these difficult deliberations forward. The division had originally planned to have a final discussion in April. Final discussions have tentatively been moved to June.

State legislation

Jeff Gaisford provided a state legislation update, with a focus on paint stewardship legislation and the Governor's Toxics Reduction Act.

Schmitt-Pathmann commented that the February meeting involved discussion on what should be included in the waste disposal product family. After conducting research, he has confirmed that waste-to-energy should not be included in the waste disposal product family. Division Director Pat D. McLaughlin commented that the division agrees and has updated its internal reference points.

Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan

Gaisford presented the division's plan for engaging stakeholders in discussion about the collection and processing policy questions outlined in the [Decision Matrix](#). The five overarching policy questions are:

1. Should system partners mandate curbside collection? i.e., garbage, recyclables and organics
2. Should system partners mandate separation of materials in curbside collection programs? i.e., garbage, recyclables and organics
3. Should system partners agree that materials will be added to recycling collection programs that are supported by adequate processing capacity and capability and markets for materials?
4. Should an enforcement program be implemented to support separation of materials in curbside programs i.e., garbage, recyclables and organics. Who should be responsible for enforcement?
5. What should the Solid Waste Division do at transfer stations to facilitate resource recovery? i.e., mandate separation of materials coming to the transfer stations? Recover recyclable materials from the tipping floor? Provide rate incentives/disincentives?

Comments included:

- If regional stakeholders were to agree on a unified policy approach to achieve a 70 percent recycling rate, action would be required by the county and the cities. Cities are responsible for collection services and the county is responsible for services in unincorporated areas.
- Mandates can be challenging for cities to implement and can be viewed as an unnecessary hardship for aging or fixed-income populations.
- Enforcement of mandates is particularly challenging. For example, haulers have the safety of their drivers to consider.
- Part of the education challenge is that each of the 37 cities has a different contract, different rates, and different guidelines for customers. More uniformity and consistency would make customer education easier.
- There is not a lot of variation in cities' food and food-soiled paper guidelines. This may present an opportunity for collective action.
- The goal to reach 70 percent recycling was established in the 2013 Draft Comp Plan (written in 2008 and 2009) in collaboration with the advisory committees. At this time,

extensive discussion about what to measure resulted in the decision to only count municipal solid waste.

- Targeting zero waste of resources is a part of King County code. If the Comp Plan was adopted, the recycling rate would be included in county code.
- Buy-in from cities is essential to creating a unified system.
- Haulers would like to see increased consistency across the region as well.
- A high recycling rate for a city does not imply low waste generation. The last adopted Comp Plan includes waste disposal and generation goals, which may be pertinent to look at along with recycling rates.
- While incentives and education are part of the solution, they have been ineffective in significantly increasing the recycling rate over the last eight years. A coordinated approach that includes incentives and education, along with other tools such as mandates, is needed.
- Mandates are generally introduced gradually with a lot of education and only minor fines after a couple of years.
- While there are many fears about the unintended consequences of mandates, mandates are essential to reaching 70 percent, assuming that goal is retained.
- Mandates have played a role in our progress thus far.
- About 60 percent of the materials currently going to Cedar Hills has a strong market. Focus should be on designing a plan for preventing those materials from going to the landfill.
- With carbon emissions and natural resource conservation in mind, consider the system as a whole and what may be the limitations of recycling. Consider alternative technologies such as waste-to-energy.
- The Northwest has very high quality standards, state-of-the-art recycling technology, very low residual rates and strong local, domestic and international markets for all of its products, which are replacing natural resources. When contamination becomes a problem, haulers work with cities to develop education programs. Casalini offered to host a field trip to a recycling facility if there is interest.
- Consider the financial ramifications of diversion from the waste stream for the division.
- While the county's transfer stations have historically played a small role in recycling, recovery efforts at several transfer stations have demonstrated potential for large increases in recycling.
- Consider the potential energy content of the resources recovered at transfer stations.
- Today discussion is focused on diverting resources of value from the landfill. Tomorrow it may be about feedstock to a waste-to-energy plant. There is an increasing awareness that resources are valuable from an environmental and economic perspective.
- Consider focusing on recovering resources brought in by self-haulers at transfer stations.
- While this is no longer true for new recycling and transfer stations, division facilities have historically lacked the infrastructure to collect yard waste and recyclables. Once infrastructure is in place, it is possible to implement bans or mandates.
- Members debated the merits of building incentives through a differential rate structure at transfer stations. If too complex, multiple rates have the potential to confuse customers and force transfer station staff to make arbitrary decisions. Others, however,

argued that such incentives - along with increased uniformity in education across the region - are important.

- Enforcement of a mandate to separate materials at transfer stations may be difficult, especially when it comes to small business owners who prioritize speed and convenience.
- A mandate at a transfer station could provoke backlash, although attitudes tend to soften and become more receptive over time.
- Enforcement is important to help ensure contamination issue is addressed.
- Liaisons between the 70 percent subcommittee meeting and SWAC and MSWMAC are needed. The subcommittee will meet today and then report back to the advisory committees in April.
- Advisory committees will be asked to take action and express their position on the five questions in May, which will inform next steps.
- Written comments on the decision matrix and overarching policy questions are very helpful and welcomed.

Sustainable Solid Waste Management Study: System Rate Structure: Scope of Work/Timeline: Review

Yates reminded SWAC that eight members have recused themselves from participating in discussion on this topic per the county's ethics rules. Kevin Kelly recused himself from this discussion as well.

Based on comments received, the draft scope of work for the rates study that the division will undertake this year has been revised. The scope of work is currently undergoing another internal review and will hopefully be made public in April for procurement. The division will share the final scope of work with SWAC when it is available. If members have final questions or comments, please send them. The contract should be in place and the study completed by the end of the year.

Open Forum

A position as the [Solid Waste Outreach Coordinator](#) for the City of Seattle is open.

Schmidt-Pathmann shared an article from *Waste Management World* entitled [Waste to Energy: the Carbon Perspective](#). He highlighted the final paragraph: "The CO₂ accounting shows that WtE plants with little energy recovery may constitute an overall load to the environment with respect to CO₂ emissions. However, with efficient electricity and heat recovery waste to energy plants contribute significantly to reducing the climate impacts of modern waste management and appear much more climate friendly than when the waste is disposed of in landfills."