

**King County Solid Waste Advisory Committee  
May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015 - 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.  
King Street Center 8th Floor Conference Center**

Meeting Minutes

<b><u>Members Present</u></b>	<b><u>King County Staff</u></b>	<b><u>Others</u></b>
April Atwood - <i>excused</i>	Jamey Barker	Doreen Booth, SCA
Jerry Bartlett - <i>excused</i>	Laura Belt	Chris Eggen
Elly Bunzendahl	Alejandra Calderon	Councilmember Kathy Lambert
Joe Casalini - <i>excused</i>	Anna Fleming	Ross Marzolf, Councilmember Lambert staff
Gib Dammann	Jeff Gaisford	
Jean Garber	Beth Humphreys	
Stacia Jenkins - <i>excused</i>	Josh Marx	
Kim Kaminski - <i>excused</i>	Pat McLaughlin	
Kevin Kelly	Bill Reed	
Sean Kronberg - <i>absent</i>	Thea Severn	
Keith Livingston - <i>absent</i>	Diane Yates	
Jose Lugo		
Barbara Ristau		
Philipp Schmidt-Pathmann		
Stephen Strader		
Thomas Wray - <i>excused</i>		
Bill Ziegler		

**Approve Meeting Minutes; Review Agenda**

The following sentence was revised as follows: “Schmidt-Pathmann commented that if the metals currently disposed at the landfill went to waste-to-energy, nearly all 6 to 6.2 percent of the total waste stream would be recovered.”

The April SWAC minutes were approved as amended.

**Updates**

SWD

The public comment period for the Draft Transfer Plan Report just ended. Comments have been received from 16 cities, SWAC chair Jean Garber, and five residents. All comments will be included in a responsiveness summary as well as the final report. Themes included the importance of building a Northeast station, concerns about equitable distribution of impacts, and suggestions for improving the flow and readability of the report.

As MSWMAC requested at its March meeting, the division sent an email to the mayors and city managers of the 32 cities that are signatory to the amended and restated ILA. No one

responded with any suggested amendments to the ILA. The division will now prepare the proviso report to transmit to council.

On May 5, seven interested residents attended the division's Cedar Hills Regional Landfill Community Meeting in Issaquah. Attendees received an update on the landfill gas pipeline, ongoing noise studies, groundwater quality, the Earth Day Landfill Tour, and upcoming construction projects. A representative from Bio Energy Washington also updated residents on the landfill gas-to-energy plant operations. In addition to residents, a member of the Eastside Fire and Rescue Department in May Valley was also in attendance.

The division has issued a [determination of nonsignificance \(DNS\)](#) under the State Environmental Policy Act Rules (Chapter 197-11 WAC) for the King County Construction and Demolition (C&D) Waste Ordinance. After review of a completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the agency, the division has determined this proposal will not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment.

On April 20, Executive Constantine honored the county's eco-friendly leaders with Green Globe Awards. Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP) staff nominated Ashley Zanolli, the Environmental Protection Agency's West Coast Climate and Materials Management Forum co-lead, who collaborated with the division to create the [Food: Too Good to Waste program](#). DNRP staff also nominated Tahoma School District, a King County Green Schools Program participant since 2007, for implementing effective conservation practices district-wide. Another recipient was Martha Rose Construction, who partnered with the division to develop the [Built Green](#) program.

From April 1 to 3, the division's GreenTools program participated in the [Living Future Conference](#). The division held two training sessions focused on Equity and Social Justice in the built environment.

## MSWMAC

MSWMAC Vice Chair and SWAC applicant gave an update from the May MSWMAC meeting. Highlights included:

- MSWMAC's disappointment about cuts to comprehensive grants as well as a lack of action on the paint stewardship bill. The committee is sending a letter to the Senate Energy, Environment, and Telecommunications Committee expressing disappointment about their inaction and a letter to the House Environment Committee thanking them for passing the bill.
- The value of writing guiding principles for the Comp Plan updates was discussed. The resulting consensus was that principles are not needed.
- Diverse comments were made during the 70 Percent Recycling discussion. Two themes included the importance of education as opposed to bans and mandates and the need to examine the effectiveness of the current grant process.
- Division staff and the haulers gave a briefing that was well-received at the May 13<sup>th</sup> Sound Cities Association meeting.

## State Legislation

The State Legislature has proposed to cut the Coordinated Prevention Grant budget by almost 50 percent from \$29.6 million to \$15 million. This will affect grants to cities and to the division. Ecology has indicated there is not much hope that the money will be restored. Ecology is forming a committee to figure out how to implement the program if the cut goes into effect.

The Legislature has approved ESSB HB 1695 which directs WSDOT to specify and annually use a minimum of 25 percent construction aggregate and recycled concrete materials on its cumulative projects. In addition, local governments are to request and accept bids that include the use of construction aggregate and recycled concrete materials. They are to award bids to the bidder proposing to use the highest percentage of construction aggregate and recycled concrete if that bid is the same as or less than a bidder not proposing to use recycled concrete. Specifications to be used are those outlined in the WSDOT Standard Specifications and WSDOT and its "implementation partners" are to report to the Legislature annually.

## Other

No objection was made to having a joint meeting with MSWMAC this year on July 10. On July 17 Kevin Kelly will take interested SWAC members on a tour of Recology CleanScapes' Material Recovery Facility in South Seattle.

Steve Gerritson has resigned from SWAC due to business obligations. In recognition of his service and contributions, a certificate of appreciation will be sent to Gerritson.

## **Business Planning: Product Families Update**

Division Director Pat D. McLaughlin gave an update on the status of the division's business planning. The Product Family Champions are in the early stages of discovery as they develop a ten-year business plan that will support a sustainable fee structure. The business plan will be shared with advisory committees and other stakeholders in 2016. An important step in planning a business model is establishing the strategic context. This step – which includes an updated vision, mission, and ultimate outcomes – has been completed and the division is moving into evaluating technologies, policies, and operational practices.

Simultaneously there are big policy issues that need to be addressed, such as developing the roadmap to 70 percent recycling, waste prevention strategies, and extending the life of the landfill. In the coming months of Comp Plan discussions, the committee will be encouraged to work toward consensus on these big policy decisions. Another business plan update is scheduled for next quarter, where the division hopes to present more substantive findings.

- Philipp Schmidt-Pathmann commended the division's approach. In addition, he noted the importance of examining the cost of recycling and tracking where the state's recyclables end up. McLaughlin noted that the division has a "cradle to grave" mentality and that this mentality will be reflected in the business plan and policies.

- Kevin Kelly noted that the county’s waste haulers prioritize sending recyclables to domestic markets. With the exclusion of plastic 3-7 and paper which are shipped to international markets, most materials have domestic markets.
- Chair Garber asked Chris Eggen if he had the sense that cities are willing to be aggressive despite not favoring mandates and bans. Eggen responded that there is considerable support to take significant action in many cities, and there is also resistance in other cities. The SCA could help cities move forward by adopting principles.
- Chair Garber inquired about whether the division has done sensitivity analyses to account for the possibility of not reaching a 70 percent recycling rate. McLaughlin explained that the current business plan assumes reaching a 70 percent rate. The plan was recently presented at an SCA meeting and elicited a positive unified response from haulers and cities. The plan does require bans and mandates.
- Schmidt-Pathmann noted that bans and mandates work in other countries.

### **Roadmap to 70% Recycling: Presentation/Discussion**

#### **Open Forum**

SWD Recycling and Environmental Services Manager Jeff Gaisford gave a brief presentation, asking for input on the Roadmap to 70 % Recycling. The presentation and questions can be found [here](#). The three main topics of discussion were 1) incentives, 2) targets and timeframes, and 3) “is 70% recycling the best measure?” Gaisford also highlighted the King County Cities Climate Collaboration.

#### Incentives:

- In response to a question from Barbara Ristau about cities’ reported use of grant money, Gaisford explained that most cities use the money to pay for popular one-day bulky item recycling collection events. Unfortunately these events do not produce significant diversion of waste. Some cities use money for education focused on specific generators.
- Stephen Strader asked about the size of grants given out to cities. Gaisford indicated the floor is \$10,000 and that Bellevue receives the highest at nearly \$100,000 per year because of its high population and employment.
- Elly Bunzendahl suggested mandating that each city focus its grant money on its waste stream with the most potential for diversion.
- Gaisford noted that the city of Bothell does not host one-day events and instead sends mailers to residents encouraging them to visit the Shoreline station.
- Kelly expressed his support for a competitive grant. He also suggested targeting one specific area, such as food waste.
- Schmidt-Pathmann added that it would be beneficial to invite companies that design products from the recyclable materials to join conversations about grants.
- Strader commented that the grants should be aligned with specific actions that maximize diversion rather than be open-ended. He also expressed his support for creating a competitive grant.
- Gib Dammann agreed that the grant money should be aligned with the county’s 70 percent recycling goals.

- In response to the idea of setting each city's tipping fee according to whether or not recycling goals are met, Chair Garber expressed her concern that some cities may not have the resources to meet their goals and that it may not be wise to penalize cities for their lack of resources.

#### Targets and timeframes:

- Bunzendahl suggested developing a metric that would capture not just the diversion rate, but the end result of the waste diversion, such as decreased energy use.
- Chair Garber expressed her support for focusing on recycling among jurisdictions with the greatest tonnage, rather than encouraging all cities to meet targets at the same time.
- Ristau noted that establishing more consistent collection and processing practices throughout the county would make education more cost-effective.
- Dammann asserted that county-wide goals should be set and low-hanging fruit like multi-family housing and businesses targeted. He also reiterated the need for uniformity in education.

#### Is 70 percent the right measure?

- Schmidt-Pathmann affirmed that 70 percent recycling is the right measure.
- Gaisford noted that most of the materials that would allow the county to reach 70 percent are readily recyclable. Paper and food are the biggest categories, and markets exist for both of these.
- Strader noted that the timeframe for reaching 70 percent must be considered. While it is currently a reasonable thing to measure, if packaging is reduced in the future, it may no longer be the best measure. Strader also noted that "reduce to 100 pounds of trash" is a less accessible message than "reach 70 percent recycling."
- Kelly agreed that 70 percent recycling is a more relatable number and will resonate with the public more. Waste per capita is also important, though, and there may be a way to marry the numbers together.
- Bunzendahl noted the carbon emissions reductions that would come from switching to every other week collection of garbage, recyclables, and yard waste. 70 percent is very relatable, but it is important to look at overall reduction.
- Gaisford noted that trip reductions are happening as the division invests in compactors that notify staff when they are full.
- Chair Garber expressed her support for 70 percent recycling as the county's overarching goal.

#### **Open Forum**

- Schmidt-Pathmann noted that the Canadian waste-to-energy company named Plasco has filed for bankruptcy.
- The Washington Refuse Recycling Association and SWANA will host a [joint technical session](#) on June 26<sup>th</sup> in Vancouver, BC.
- On behalf of Vashon Island citizens, Dammann thanked the division for announcing that it will host an Organics Collection Pilot Program at the Vashon transfer station this fall. The pilot will provide residents an alternative to burning or disposing organics.