

**King County Solid Waste Advisory Committee
December 18, 2015 - 9:30 a.m. to 11:35 p.m.
King Street Center 8th Floor Conference Center**

Meeting Minutes

<u>Members Present</u>	<u>King County Staff</u>	<u>Others</u>
April Atwood	Gerty Coville	David Baker, SWAC applicant
Jerry Bartlett	Anna Fleming	Doreen Booth, Sound Cities Association
Elly Bunzendahl	Jeff Gaisford	Michael Grayum, SWAC applicant
Gib Damman	Laila McClinton	Ross Marzolf, Councilmember Lambert staff
Chris Eggen	Pat D. McLaughlin	Largo Wales, SWAC applicant
Jean Garber	Olivia Robinson	
Stacia Jenkins	Diane Yates	
Kim Kaminski		
Kevin Kelly		
Keith Livingston		
Jose Lugo		
Barbara Ristau		
Philipp Schmidt-Pathmann		
Stephen Strader - excused		
Bill Ziegler		

Approve Meeting Minutes; Review Agenda

The October minutes were approved as written.

Updates

SWD

In late November, Olivia Robinson began working as SWD’s second Intergovernmental Relations Liaison. In addition to serving as a backup to Diane Yates, Olivia will be preparing legislative packets that directly support SWD’s Waste Prevention and Resource Recovery product families and working with city and industry partners to understand their needs.

On November 9, the King County Council approved SWD’s staffing request for seven transfer station operators (TSOs) and one truck driver to support the Resource Recovery Program at the Shoreline, Bow Lake, and Enumclaw recycling and transfer stations. Since the program began in April 2014, TSOs have successfully recovered cardboard, clean wood, and scrap metal from the waste stream and put these valuable resources back into the economy. SWD is excited to continue this important work.

In November, the EcoConsumer program met with the King County Library System (KCLS) to discuss potentially using library facilities for repair groups in connection with King County tool libraries and other sharing/reuse programs. The idea was enthusiastically received by KCLS and further discussions are planned for this month. Development of the South King Tool Library, which is expected to open in May or June 2016, is being led by the City of Federal Way and will be operated by a non-profit.

On December 1, SWD began a pilot program at the Shoreline Recycling and Transfer Station to determine the feasibility of accepting plastic wrap and bags and polystyrene blocks and coolers at division facilities for recycling. During the pilot program, SWD will transport materials to Styro Recycle in Kent. SWD will consider fully promoting the pilot program after a trial period.

On December 11, Spanish-speaking representatives of the SWD EcoConsumer public outreach program and Recicla Más public education program staffed three EcoConsumer Green Holidays program tables at an event at Mirror Lake Elementary School. The after-school event was organized by the school's Hispanic outreach liaison and attracted about 100 parents, students, and others in the school community.

Elly Bunzendahl noted that the King County Council approved the 2015 update of the King County Strategic Climate Action Plan (SCAP) in November and asked what this meant for the division. Recycling and Environmental Services Manager Jeff Gaisford confirmed that the division has a number of responsibilities outlined in the SCAP in the goal areas of Consumption and Materials Management and Green Building. Chris Eggen added that the SCAP includes the target of achieving a 70 percent recycling rate by 2020.

MSWMAC

Stacia Jenkins gave an update from the November MSWMAC meeting, which included presentations on multi-family recycling, as well as the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks' commitment to reduce and offset its greenhouse gas emissions. Jenkins noted that cities would like to know the cost of implementing best practices for multi-family recycling. She also pointed out that there are some local elected officials who have reservations about county spending on the SCAP.

Chair Jean Garber commented that it is important to keep in mind potential greenhouse gas emissions associated with not building a Northeast station as demand management strategies at transfer stations are discussed.

Other

Chair Garber acknowledged the contributions of departing members Chris Eggen and Stacia Jenkins and presented them with certificates of appreciation.

Cart Tagging Pilot Program: Presentation

Gaisford introduced Gerty Coville, who gave a presentation on SWD's 2013 [Cart Tagging Pilot Program](#) and the pilot program that will be conducted in 2016-2017. Comments included:

- A member asked for clarification around what food-soiled paper is considered compostable. Coville noted the complexity of this question, and explained that education campaigns start with materials that are easily recognizable, like pizza delivery boxes.
- Coville explained that the visual examination and tagging were done by staff in a vehicle ahead of the truck and that the 2013 study was not operationally instructive. A larger and more representative study will be launched in 2016.
- A few residents did call in response to having their garbage inspected, but most people were happy to participate once they had more information. Residents can choose to opt out.
- SWD Director Pat D. McLaughlin noted that the division is excited to be partnering with haulers on the pilot and that this type of investment in research and education is a prerequisite to reaching a 70 percent recycling rate.
- Gaisford confirmed that the goal is to implement a program in unincorporated King County that is as low-cost as possible. The cities may choose to implement a similar strategy.
- In response to a question about follow-up with the households included in the 2013 pilot, Coville explained that a longer-term outreach plan will be developed after the division has the results of the 2016-2017 pilot. Coville noted that the outreach plan will include a suite of education materials, including advertising, social media, outreach events, etc.
- Coville stated that the 2016-2017 study will be representative of the average King County household and will provide the division with information about what behavior can be expected if a cart tagging program were implemented.
- Largo Wales plans to share the results of the cart tagging pilot with Auburn residents and city council.
- Eggen noted the value of doing this type of educational outreach at community events. Gaisford pointed out that King County's Master Recycler Composter volunteers attend as many of these events as possible.
- Jerry Bartlett asked what strategies will be used to address the differences between compostable materials accepted commercially and residentially. Gaisford said the division will work with its consultant on this. Coville added that a regional Organics Contamination Reduction Workgroup has recently been formed. It includes haulers, cities, Cedar Grove, and big businesses, and one of the sub-committees will be Education and Outreach. Coville acknowledged that it is a big challenge to educate the public on the numerous and constantly changing varieties of compostable paper.
- Gib Dammann brought up the importance of looking upstream and working to affect waste streams at the source. Gaisford noted that several businesses, such as Starbucks,

are involved in the Organics Contamination Reduction Workgroup and that Cedar Grove also works with many groups to ensure they are using the right products. Kim Kaminski added that there is an Upstream Subcommittee that is looking at these very issues.

Multi-Family Recycling: Presentation

Gerty Coville gave a [presentation on best practices for increasing multi-family recycling rates](#). Best practices were identified through a pilot program. The [final report](#) is available online. Coville noted that in January 2016, SWD will begin developing a one to two-year plan to implement best practices at multi-family complexes in unincorporated King County.

Comments included:

- Jenkins commented that the benchmark of 0.12 cubic yards of capacity per unit may vary from city to city depending on levels of consumption and waste.
- In response to a question about the relative impacts of an investment in infrastructure versus education, Coville explained that to achieve results, both types of tactics are necessary.
- Chair Garber noted that these efforts may be intensive and expensive because of resident turnover. Coville explained that one of the goals of the pilot is to get a better idea of the cost and that the division will be developing work plans with the haulers. Gaisford added that the investment in infrastructure will not need to be made every year, however investments in education will be needed more frequently.
- Several members noted that it would be helpful to develop model code language that cities could adopt before launching educational campaigns. Gaisford stated that SWD has funding available in 2016 to develop model code language and will work with cities to do this.
- Dammann stated that the more educational materials and templates the division can provide to its city and hauler partners, the better.
- Philipp Schmidt-Pathmann noted the need to create a sense of urgency around recycling and to demonstrate the benefits of recycling such as job creation and greenhouse gas reductions.
- Having worked with multi-family complexes, Bunzendahl confirmed the importance of developing educational materials and partnering closely with property management staff. She also said providing design guidelines along with code requirements would be helpful.
- Kaminski noted that Washington State Representative Tana Senn (LD 41), serves on Washington State Building Code Council, which recently finalized some code revisions. One requires all new multi-family housing units to be constructed with capacity for compost collection.
- Schmidt-Pathmann described a [study mission to Germany](#) related to resource management that will be offered at the end of May 2016.