

**King County Solid Waste Advisory Committee  
January 15, 2016 - 9:30 a.m. to 11:35 a.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 - excused	David Broustis	Kenmore Mayor David Baker, SWAC applicant
Jerry Bartlett	Kinley Deller	Doreen Booth, Sound Cities Association
Elly Bunzendahl	Anna Fleming	Michael Grayum, Republic Services, SWAC applicant
Gib Dammann	Kevin Kiernan	Karl Hufnagel, Parametrix
Jean Garber	Laila McClinton	Tom Parker, CH2M
Kim Kaminski - excused	Pat D. McLaughlin	Yolanda Pon, Public Health-Seattle & King County
Kevin Kelly	Jim Neely	Ian Sutton, Parametrix
Keith Livingston	Olivia Robinson	Auburn Councilmember Largo Wales, SWAC applicant
Jose Lugo	Eben Sutton	Suzette Dickerson, Teamsters 117, SWAC applicant
Barbara Ristau - excused	Diane Yates	
Philipp Schmidt-Pathmann		
Stephen Strader		
Bill Ziegler		

**Approve Meeting Minutes; Review Agenda**

The December minutes were approved as written.

**Updates**

**SWD**

SWD facilities received 881,525 tons of solid waste in 2015. This figure represents an increase of 33,362 tons from 2014 and is indicative of the recovering economy. It also serves as a reminder of the need to work toward the region’s resource recovery and recycling goals, as well as to maximize the life of Cedar Hills Regional Landfill.

Assistant Division Director Kevin Kiernan announced his plans to retire at the end of 2016. SWD has initiated the recruitment process for a new Assistant Division Director so that Kiernan has ample time to work with the new leader in the transfer of duties. In his 30 years of service, Kiernan has contributed immensely to the division and his knowledge and expertise will be greatly missed. SWD will provide updates on the recruitment process as it unfolds.

Diane Yates reminded SWAC members to return their financial disclosure forms.

## Other

Chair Garber requested an update on the work of the Demand Management Subcommittee. Division Director Pat McLaughlin noted that the third and final meeting is scheduled for January 26. The subcommittee has begun to find consensus around the guiding framework for the demand management pilot program, identifying areas that should and should not be tested. Members agreed that a number of strategies such as mandatory collection should not be included in the pilot program because it is infeasible to test them. There was also agreement that some strategies such as incentive pricing and extended hours should be tested at all stations, rather than at select stations. It has not been decided whether or not this includes rural stations. The subcommittee also needs to discuss timing and sequencing of the testing so that the impact of each individual strategy can be clearly understood.

Philipp Schmidt-Pathmann underlined the importance of providing recycling options to contractors and builders in the region. McLaughlin noted that the county recently expanded its construction and demolition (C&D) management and recycling program. The program will be described more thoroughly in the C&D presentation later in the meeting.

### **DNRP Beyond Carbon Neutral: Presentation**

King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks staff Matt Kuharic and David Broustis gave a presentation on [the department's commitment to reduce and offset its greenhouse gas \(GHG\) emissions](#). They also explained how the Solid Waste Division fits into the department's plan.

Comments included:

- Elly Bunzendahl encouraged the department to consider investing in water efficiency projects in its efforts to reduce GHG emissions in a cost-effective way. Broustis noted that the department is aware of the tremendous benefits of investing in water efficiency, and pointed out a number of ways the division is already reducing and reusing water at the landfill and transfer stations. Over the next couple of years, the county will consider expanded tracking of its water use and possible water reduction targets.
- Jerry Bartlett asked what is done to capture energy at wastewater treatment plants. Broustis noted that the county's wastewater treatment facilities are doing a great job producing energy and have been doing so for a long time. The department is looking at ways to monetize this energy production for the benefit of the county. Additionally, Cedar Hills is one of the largest landfill renewable energy producers in the country.
- Kiernan noted that Cedar Hills currently captures over 90 percent of the landfill gas generated. The division does a number of things to capture fugitive emissions, including covering the waste and activating the vacuums as soon as possible. Five hundred measurement points are regularly monitored to ensure the right amount of gas is being drawn. A landfill cap project is also underway to further increase efficiency. Kiernan

pointed out that the regulatory limit of methane is 500 parts per million and Cedar Hills does not exceed 100 parts per million. He added that while the division does capture over 90 percent of the landfill gas, *how* to measure the amount of landfill gas generated is a topic of debate in the field of solid waste.

- Garber criticized the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s new landfill gas calculation model and urged SWD and local companies to protest it. Kiernan noted that the division's capture rate would be 110 percent more than estimated by the new model. He agreed that models need continuous improvement and said the division is working with regulators on this.
- Bill Ziegler asked what investments are being proposed for the 2017-18 budget. McLaughlin stated that the dual fuel pilot program will be included in the proposed budget. Using dual fuel technology (50 percent natural gas and 50 percent diesel) in the division's trucks would offer tremendous GHG emissions savings if the pilot is successful. The eventual hope is for trucks to be able to use the natural gas that is produced on site. Broustis added that the division has invested in a number of lighting retrofits and will be looking comprehensively at all facilities to identify more opportunities. McLaughlin pointed out that energy-saving opportunities are identified through regular facility maintenance as well.
- Kevin Kelly asked for clarification about the difference between "carbon-neutral" and "GHG-neutral." Kuharic stated that these terms are largely interchangeable.
- Kuharic clarified that the county's target to reduce its GHG emissions by at least 80 percent by 2050 is in relation to 2007 levels.
- Schmidt-Pathmann underlined the GHG reduction benefits associated with waste-to-energy technologies. He also noted the importance of looking at internationally accepted numbers when discussing carbon neutrality.
- Bunzendahl noted that the discussion has been focused on what can be done to reduce energy and water use within division operations rather than seeking to change the behavior of King County residents, which ultimately affects energy and water use at division facilities. Kuharic noted that half the GHG emissions in King County are related to transportation and pointed out that the county's Strategic Climate Action Plan includes commitments such as doubling transit service and ridership. While today's presentation is focused on department and division goals, they are linked to the bigger picture. Kiernan also pointed out that the county is not including the carbon benefits of curbside recycling programs in its accounting because it only wants to include items over which it has control.
- Gib Dammann asked if the county has considered piloting active methane collection systems at some of the closed landfills, knowing that methane levels are low and diminishing. Broustis said the county is always evaluating the best and most cost-effective collection and treatment systems at both landfills and wastewater treatment facilities. Declining levels of methane at closed landfills do present a challenge.
- Schmidt-Pathmann underlined the importance of building the local recycling industry to reduce the carbon emissions associated with shipping recyclable materials abroad.

## **Factoria Transfer Station Construction: Presentation**

Enterprise Services Manager Eben Sutton gave a presentation on [the Factoria Transfer Station Construction](#). Sutton showed videos of what the new transfer station will look like, described some of the benefits of the new facility, reviewed the schedule and progress to date, and shared the safety and the diversity summary.

Comments included:

- Stephen Strader asked how the diversity requirements and goals are determined. Sutton explained that a central unit within county government looks at the scope of work and performs some analysis, then provides the division with appropriate goals for the project.
- Garber noted that she hopes the demand management strategies will not affect resource recovery efforts at Factoria.

## **Construction and Demolition Contract: Presentation**

SWD staff Jim Neely and Kinley Deller gave a presentation on [the new Construction and Demolition materials management policy](#). The primary goal is to increase the county's C&D recycling rate from 63 to 80 percent by 2020. The plan includes disposal bans, additional designated processing facilities, increased enforcement, and further restrictions on C&D disposal at SWD transfer stations. The division is also working on developing new markets for C&D materials. The new King County requirements align with those established by Seattle Public Utilities, creating common disposal requirements for construction materials in the region.

Comments included:

- The ordinance provides the division director with the ability to make changes to the list of banned materials if viable markets for the materials no longer exist.
- Keith Livingston asked why the county is banning small dump vehicles at SWD transfer stations and what effect it will have on small businesses. Neely explained that SWD facilities were designed for municipal solid waste and not C&D, which is why they can only accept small quantities of C&D. Small dump vehicles with C&D will be directed to private transfer stations or material recovery facilities (MRFs) so that more of the materials are recovered.
- Dammann noted that contractors on Vashon Island do not have a viable C&D collection system, meaning many materials end up in illegal dirt yards or in gullies. He emphasized the need to develop alternatives and to involve Vashon Island contractors in the process. Neely agreed that as an island, Vashon has unique challenges, which is why the transfer station accepts some special wastes for disposal that the other transfer stations do not.
- Livingston asked for clarification about the county's role in managing C&D. Neely explained that the county aims to play a support role in the markets, but does not

intend to be a market player or to operate a C&D recycling facility. Kiernan added that the program is designed to be self-supporting.

**Open Forum**

There were no comments during open forum.