

King County Solid Waste Advisory Committee
March 18, 2016 - 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	Pam Badger	Ross Marzolf, King County Council staff
David Baker	Jeff Gaisford	Joan Nelson, City of Auburn
Jerry Bartlett	Anna Kegel	Tom Parker, CH2M
Elly Bunzendahl – excused	Kevin Kiernan	Deanna Seaman, WISErg
Gib Dammann	Karen May	Darcy Webber, King County Public Health
Suzette Dickerson – excused	Laila McClinton	
Jean Garber	Meg Moorehead	
Michael Grayum	Olivia Robinson	
Kim Kaminski	Diane Yates	
Kevin Kelly		
Keith Livingston		
Jose Lugo		
Barbara Ristau – excused		
Philipp Schmidt-Pathmann		
Stephen Strader		
Largo Wales		
Bill Ziegler		

Approve Meeting Minutes; Review Agenda

The February minutes were approved as written.

Keith Livingston made a motion to include the following statement in the Open Forum section of future SWAC minutes: “Information presented in this section is not an official position of SWAC.” The motion was passed unanimously.

Chair Jean Garber noted that provision 11 of the revised SWAC Discussion Guidelines allows the chair to recognize non-SWAC members for one-minute comments during each agenda item prior to any decisions.

Updates

SWD

Kevin Kiernan invited MSMWAC to the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill 50th Anniversary Celebration. The celebration will take place on Saturday, April 23 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Guests

will get a chance to tour the landfill, hear from division and county leadership, and enjoy light refreshments and informative displays. Please RSVP for the event by April 18 through Anna Kegel at 206-477-1693 or Anna.Kegel@kingcounty.gov.

The next Cedar Hills Community meeting is scheduled for April 13th at the King County Library in Issaquah. Attendees will hear about the landfill gas-to-energy facility, as well as, upcoming construction projects at the landfill.

The Solid Waste Division (SWD) recently hosted two well-attended open houses on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the South County Recycling and Transfer Station. SWD is reviewing public comments to ensure the EIS clearly reflects concerns and opinions expressed.

Livingston asked how SWD would characterize comments received at the open houses. Kiernan explained that there were no concerns expressed that were unanticipated. Both the cities of Algona and Auburn submitted extensive comments.

The pilot recycling program for plastic wrap and bags, polystyrene blocks and coolers resumed on March 9 at the Shoreline Recycling and Transfer Station. The pilot was temporarily stopped in early January due to logistical issues. The division has now contracted with R&D Recycling in Tacoma to provide transportation of these materials from Shoreline to the recycling facility in Kent. After the pilot program has been revised as needed, the division will expand promotion of the program and will consider accepting these materials at other stations.

Co-sponsored by SWD and Seattle Public Utilities, the 2016 [Threadcycle](#) campaign launched on March 1 and will run through May. The campaign educates residents that damaged clothes are no longer garbage. This year's campaign will include transit ads, Google and Facebook ads, promotion by cities in King County, earned media, and social media. Threadcycle collection partners are Big Brothers Big Sisters Puget Sound, Seattle Goodwill, Goodwill of the Olympics and Rainier Region, Northwest Center, The Salvation Army, SightConnection, TexGreen, USAgain, and Value Village.

SWD's [Food: Too Good To Waste](#) (FTGTW) program has been nominated for a Sustainability Leadership Award from Sustainable Seattle in the category of "Government, Non-Profit and Community Organizations: Communicating for Change." FTGTW outreach materials continue to receive attention from around the globe. SWD recently received an inquiry from Australia about the program's 2015 challenge campaign. Also, the town of Mansfield, CT, recently redesigned their website to incorporate much of the program's content, acknowledging SWD as the source. Staff from Dakota County, MN, requested permission to reproduce the program's popular Fruit and Vegetable Storage Guide in their outreach.

Meg Moorehead provided an update on behalf of the MSWMAC subcommittee on Demand Management. The subcommittee met three times and included representation from Bellevue,

Bothell, Kirkland, Redmond, and Woodinville. The subcommittee recommended that the 12-month demand management pilot project:

- Begin once the Factoria transfer station is fully operational
- Include testing at all six urban transfer stations, not just the Northeast sector
- Include the following strategies: extended operating hours, higher prices during peak use hours, web-based cameras with wait time information, and a higher minimum fee. The committee acknowledged that some strategies would require council action and others would require host city approval.
- Not include the following strategies: lower regional direct fee, low-cost bulky item collection, mandatory curbside collection, and large capital investments.
- Include closing the Houghton transfer station if necessary
- Be completed by December 31, 2018
- Measure the effect on recycling rates
- Evaluate impacts to large institutional self-haulers and small business owners
- Consider effects on the regional transportation system

The subcommittee also recommended that MSWMAC engage in a discussion around regional equity in the solid waste system. MSWMAC agreed to have this discussion at an upcoming meeting.

Comments included:

- Livingston underlined the importance of considering the impact on self-haul customers. Moorehead confirmed that the pilot will focus on impacts to self-haul customers.
- Garber asked how the Comp Plan update schedule may be affected. Moorehead explained that originally the updated Comp Plan was scheduled to be approved in 2018. Because MSWMAC requested more time to discuss transfer system issues, the original schedule will likely be delayed, but approval should still happen in 2018. Garber pointed out that the last adopted plan dates from 2001 and that an update is overdue.
- Garber noted that SWAC passed a motion recommending that the division immediately begin identifying alternative sites for a Northeast transfer station so as not to increase its cost should one become necessary. She asked if siting is currently on hold. Kiernan confirmed that the division is currently not doing any siting for a Northeast transfer station.
- Moorehead confirmed that Bellevue participated in the subcommittee and agreed to the general structure of the pilot. However, Bellevue is a host city and would need to interpret whether a permit amendment is needed to implement the pilot.
- Kiernan confirmed that Kirkland participated in the subcommittee and has also had discussions with SWD outside of the committee.
- Yates explained that there will be MSWMAC updates at SWAC that will be provided by Largo Wales. Bill Peloza will give SWAC updates at MSWMAC.
- When the budget for the pilot has been developed and the plan vetted with MSWMAC, a presentation will be scheduled for SWAC. This will likely be in July 2016.

- Livingston stated that demand management strategies are not an adequate replacement for a transfer station in the Northeast region, which is projected to be a major growth area in the county.

State legislation

The division continues to track the following bill in the Legislature:

- Senate Bill 6605 (SB 6605) “Ensuring that solid waste management requirements prevent the spread of disease, plant pathogens, and pests”

This bill passed both houses and was signed by the President of the Senate. It currently is on the Governor’s desk for signature. It aims to address composting and possible apple maggot contamination and other pests from Seattle compost heading over to eastern Washington. It requires the Washington State Department of Agriculture to be given the opportunity to review all solid waste comprehensive and building plans. If passed, it would add an agricultural representative to SWAC.

All other bills previously discussed, including Paint Stewardship, have died.

Kim Kaminski asked how SB 6605 would affect SWAC committee numbers. Yates explained that county code allows between nine and 20 members on SWAC. SWAC currently has 17 members. If the bill passes, the agricultural representative could replace an outgoing member whose term is up or the committee could grow to 18 people.

MSWMAC

Largo Wales gave the MSWMAC update. In addition to an update on the work of the demand management subcommittee, the agenda included presentations on transfer station recycling, special waste, and the food waste prevention toolkit. SWD also presented Bill Pelosa with a mattress-themed cake to thank him for his service as MSWMAC chair, noting his interest in removing mattresses from the waste stream.

Schmitt-Pathmann outlined two motions related to terminology and definitions that he would like to propose. Due to a full agenda, the committee advised Schmidt-Pathmann to take the draft motions to SWD staff and add them to the next meeting’s agenda.

Schmidt-Pathmann noted that he has heard individuals living in townhouses with small garages say they have been unable to get small recycling containers from their hauler. He fears customers in this situation may choose to opt out of recycling. The hauler representatives stated they do offer customers alternatives to the 96-gallon containers. Kaminski offered to follow up with the customer in question. Gaisford added that while there may be individuals who have encountered this issue, SWD has not seen this reflected in countywide recycling data.

Special Waste: Presentation

SWD staff Pam Badger gave a [presentation on special waste](#). She described some of the services provided by the division's Special Waste Unit, including special waste management at transfer stations, waste clearances and waste escorts at the landfill, the Community Cleanup Assistance Program (CCAP), and the Junk Vehicle Program.

Comments included:

- Livingston asked if SWD has encountered issues with hydrocarbon in the vector waste it accepts. Badger explained that SWD only accepts waste that the Health Department characterizes as low hydrocarbon.
- Kaminski asked why the food waste mentioned was not sent to Cedar Grove for composting. Jerry Bartlett noted that Cedar Grove does not accept recalled food. Badger added that food waste is typically packaged and companies do not provide staff to unpack it.
- Schmidt-Pathmann asked how SWD disposes of bulky items like boats. Badger explained that large items are crushed before disposal. Some items are recycled if they contain metal and are not severely damaged.
- Dammann asked if programs exist for elderly or low-income citizens who have a basement full of items (some potentially hazardous) that need to be disposed, but who are unable to drive to a transfer station. Gaisford noted that the Local Hazardous Waste Management Program provides [home collection service](#) for seniors and residents with disabilities. Kiernan added that in the past SWD has worked with volunteer or church groups that need help with clean-up of non-hazardous waste.
- Livingston asked if SWD quarters the tires they receive before disposing of them. Badger explained that SWD has a recycling program for its own truck tires and that some from the CCAP program are recycled. The small number of tires SWD accepts for disposal at the landfill are not cut up.

Food Waste Prevention Tool Kit: Presentation

SWD staff Karen May gave a [presentation on the Food Waste Prevention Toolkit](#) which is currently being developed.

The toolkit traces its origins to the County Executive's [Local Food Initiative](#) launched in 2014. Reducing wholesome food waste is one of the strategies that supports the development of a sustainable and resilient local food economy. May noted that 177,000 tons of food waste from commercial businesses was disposed at Cedar Hills in 2014. The division wants to keep food waste out of the landfill for several reasons: to move towards Zero Waste of Resources through food waste prevention, to extend the life of the landfill, to give food waste a second life through composting or fertilizer, as well as to address climate change.

The county is aiming to reduce countywide greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80 percent by 2050. The [Strategic Climate Action Plan](#) reports that the emissions in King County resulting from farm-to-plate food consumption are second only to the emissions from personal transportation. Residents are encouraged to prevent food waste through the FTGTW program and to compost their waste through curbside collection or backyard composting. SWD is focusing on the commercial sector with the development of the Food Waste Prevention Toolkit. The booklet will provide helpful “how to get started” tips and local resources for food waste prevention, rescue, and processing.

Comments included:

- Livingston commended SWD’s efforts, noting that behavior change can be challenging. He asked how SWD plans to incentivize food producers to participate and how it plans on measuring success. May explained that SWD will share case studies to demonstrate the cost savings that are achievable when businesses use different food waste reduction strategies. SWD is currently reviewing proposals received in response to an RFP seeking to provide financial support in the form of grants to projects that will reduce edible and/or non-edible food waste generated by the commercial sector within King County outside the City of Seattle. The grant program will provide case studies that document those efforts and can be included in the Food Waste Prevention Toolkit.
- Livingston asked if the toolkit is a pilot. Gaisford explained that it is a launch of the first edition of the toolkit and that it will likely change over time. The other way SWD is focusing on commercial food waste is by providing grants for projects to the commercial sector, as described above.
- The projects funded by SWD will provide data that will be used to measure success. Kiernan also pointed out that SWD tracks how much food waste is in the waste stream and will be able to measure the reductions. Gaisford added that the last waste characterization study was completed in 2015.
- Schmidt-Pathmann underlined the importance of reducing packaging and promoting durable products in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. He also brought up concerns about biosolids shipped to eastern Washington containing contaminants linked to chronic diseases. Robinson noted that SB 6605 is looking into potential contamination of compost going to eastern Washington. Schmidt-Pathmann stressed the need to go beyond EPA and state requirements. Kiernan explained that SWD does not have the resources to do that.
- Wales pointed out that the Auburn Food Bank feeds about 17,000 people a month and partners with businesses like Starbucks, Fred Meyer, and Safeway. She sometimes helps with deliveries and noted that while it is better to have food than no food at all, it is rarely healthy food. May noted that a focus on wholesome food is a core component of the Local Food Initiative, and that the Health Department and other stakeholders are working to advance that notion.
- April Atwood asked if SWD has worked with upstream stakeholders to promote selling “ugly” produce or change how sell-by/best-by dates are used. May noted that education

about food date labels is a part of the FTGTW program, and will be included in the commercial toolkit as well. She added that a national food waste prevention ad campaign will be launched in the next couple of months and expects it to contribute to elevated awareness and behavior change. May also noted that research through the Local Food Initiative has explored the potential of gleaning imperfect produce from King County farms. The results show there is not a lot of imperfect produce resulting from farm operations in King County to provide an ongoing supply to retailers. She added that imperfect produce is already sold at farmers' markets and some grocery stores at a discount.

Equity and Social Justice Initiative: Destination Zero Waste

Kevin Kiernan gave a [presentation on one of SWD's Equity and Social Justice Initiatives](#) called "Destination Zero Waste."

Several SWAC members expressed their support and appreciation for the pilot program.

Open Forum

Information presented in this section is not an official position of SWAC.

Schmidt-Pathmann shared an article entitled "[Good is the Enemy of Great in Recycling Programs.](#)"