

King County Solid Waste Advisory Committee
April 15, 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	Jeff Gaisford	Doreen Booth, Sound Cities Association
David Baker	Kathy Hashagen	Ross Marzolf, King County Council staff
Jerry Bartlett	Beth Humphreys	Joan Nelson, City of Auburn
Elly Bunzendahl	Laila McClinton	Ian Sutton, Parametrix
Gib Dammann	Pat McLaughlin	
Suzette Dickerson	Meg Moorehead	
Jean Garber	Olivia Robinson	
Michael Grayum	Lisa Sepanski	
Kim Kaminski - absent	Taylor Watson	
Kevin Kelly - excused	Diane Yates	
Keith Livingston		
Jose Lugo		
Barbara Ristau		
Philipp Schmidt-Pathmann		
Stephen Strader - excused		
Largo Wales		
Bill Ziegler		

Approve Meeting Minutes; Review Agenda

The March minutes were approved as written.

Updates

SWD

Updates

The Solid Waste Division business planning began eighteen months ago. The division identified line of business strategic goals, product families and key processes. This planning forms the basis for the budget request and rate proposal. In May and June SWAC will receive information regarding those preliminary business proposals as well as the budget and rate that the division will be asking the Executive to share with the Council.

April 25 the new transfer building at Factoria will open for commercial customers only. The existing station will continue to provide service to self-haul customers until May when those operations will

transition to the new building. There will be a Grand Opening for site when the entire project is completed at the end of 2017.

In response to a question McLaughlin noted that the new station is on track for LEED Gold rather than Platinum like Shoreline and Bow Lake because the site presents more challenges.

McLaughlin invited SWAC to the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill 50th Anniversary Celebration. The family friendly celebration will take place on Saturday, April 23 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Guests will have an opportunity tour the landfill, hear from division and Senior Deputy County Executive Fred Jarrett, 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.

On March 16, the topic of the EcoConsumer program's regular [KOMO4 TV segment](#) was spring cleaning, specifically "green clutter busting." SWD's EcoConsumer Tom Watson showed how to reduce clutter in the home and office. The segment also highlighted the non-profit SeaDruNar recycling and shredding services.

SWD's Green Schools program saw 21 new schools sign up for the program this school year. Green Schools seeks to enhance education and recycling practices for schools and school districts. Additionally, Green Schools specifically sought to enhance the diversity of school participants. Of the 21 new schools, 13 are from Auburn, Federal Way, Highline, and Renton school districts, which are among the most diverse districts in the county.

The division received multiple responses to a Request for Proposals (RFP) for commercial food waste diversion programs. Staff is working with those that have been selected to develop scopes of work and to begin the grant process. Those chosen include:

- Cedar Grove Organics Recycling, LLC who will work with restaurants in King County to develop food diversion programs
- City of Auburn to provide education on best practices for composting or donation to commercial businesses
- GreenBalance Energy Marketing for an elementary school micro-anaerobic digestion pilot
- Impact Bioenergy AD Digestate together with Seattle Tilth and the Auburn Food Bank for small-scale processing of food waste from farms, cider production and a food bank, and AD digestate field testing
- Impact Bioenergy Vashon with Zero Waste Vashon for bioenergy feasibility and demo.

In response to a question McLaughlin noted that the EIS for the South County Recycling and Transfer Station will be finalized in October and a siting decision is expected by the end of the year. Discussions continue with the City of Algona and the budget request includes funding for moving that project forward should the decision be a site other than the no action alternative. The Transfer Plan Review Report said that though the North East Recycling and Transfer Station should be retained in the plan additional testing of demand management alternatives should occur to ensure a new facility is needed before siting begins. Funds for that testing will be included in the 2017-2018 budget request.

SWAC members questioned the delay of siting a North East County RTS saying that the demand management study is a deferment of an essential service for county residents. They also noted that siting will be challenging and that delay may mean that sites and support from cities that is available now may no longer be available after a demand management study is completed. Also, property purchased today could be sold if the demand management study proves that a new North East County Recycling and Transfer Station is not necessary.

The State Legislature finally finished. The Governor signed into law SB 6605 on March 31st. This is the bill focused on addressing issues around waste, particularly organics, moving from an area under quarantine for pests to one that is not under quarantine. The biggest effect on SWAC will be the addition of a member representing Agriculture to SWAC.

SWAC members agreed to the following proposed changes to their meeting schedule:

- Every year MSWMAC and SWAC have a joint meeting. The division proposed a joint July meeting on MSWMAC's regular meeting date (July 8th). At that meeting the division will present its rate proposal.
- Each year a tour is scheduled for the committees which replaces the regular meetings. In August the division proposed a tour of the new Factoria Recycling and Transfer Station.
- In November, MSWMAC's regular meeting day falls on Veterans Day. The division proposed another joint meeting with SWAC, on SWAC's regular meeting date of November 18th. Members have expressed interest in recognizing Kevin before he retires, so at that meeting we can plan a little retirement party for him.

MSWMAC

MSWMAC discussed regional equity and secure medicine return.

Schmidt-Pathmann announced an [Open Source Circular Economy Days](#). Over thirty cities from around the world have signed up. He will provide additional information at the next meeting.

Member Schmidt-Pathmann's Motion regarding Recycling Facilities and Resource Recovery Definitions

Schmidt-Pathmann moved to rename recycling facilities to sorting facilities in all solid waste literature. The motion was seconded. He said the change is necessary because citizens and businesses believe that the materials they recycle at curbside go to recycling facilities. However, the facilities they go to sort the materials rather than recycle. Much of the material is then sent overseas where research has shown that only some of the materials are recycled. It is important that we begin to value the resources put into landfilling and begin to build recycling facilities and jobs locally.

Other discussion included:

- Gaisford said that currently material recovery facilities are considered recycling facilities in state code. They make the materials into a marketable product. The state defines what they do as recycling. The terminology used in state and county code is also used in permitting.
- Largo noted that from a non-technical marketing perspective what citizens and businesses are doing is part of a recycling process. It's easier to create a vision in marketing using recycling rather than sorting.
- Grayum said that much more than just sorting occurs at materials recovery facilities. Changing the definition would decrease their ability to do the recycling that is already occurring. He visited a recycling facility in China recently and was impressed with how the facilities are operated.
- Livingston said the industry has invested more than twenty years in education using the word recycling. The motion is intended to refine that understanding so that the public understands what occurs in a Materials Recycling Facility. At the present time he doesn't see the need for that level of precision in the language.
- Bartlett said that redefining terms used in state law appears to be out of the scope of the committee and that the terms used should be consistent with state law.

The motion failed with one in favor and balance opposed. Further discussion concluded with the understanding that a glossary defining terms such as resource recovery will be included as part of comp plan discussions.

Comp Plan: Regional Equity

Last fall the division presented a proposed comp plan schedule. In response, MSWMAC chose to explore transportation issues more fully. They created a small group that identified concerns of host cities and also discussed "what is an equitable transfer system." They began with existing policies which provide direction in three categories

1. What are equitable impacts on host communities
2. How do we ensure service equity including access to a range of services
3. Not unfairly impacting disadvantaged communities.

The policies are fairly extensive but how they are implemented is left to decision makers. MSWMAC suggested that the "magic will be in how they are applied."

Comments included:

- Essential public facilities are defined in the Growth Management Act (GMA) which provides a siting path for those facilities. Cities are not allowed to bar siting of those facilities in their comprehensive plans but the sites may be impacted by permitting or SEPA.

- A member questioned whether the non-siting of a North East County Recycling and Transfer Station (RTS) is in compliance with Equity and Social Justice (ESJ) and asked what could be changed in the policies to ensure it doesn't happen again.
- A member noted that there doesn't seem to be a connection between these policies and the climate. The division responded that those issues are covered in the [King County Strategic Climate Action Plan](#).
- The challenge will be in how it is applied. For example multi-family housing should have the same access to recycling as single family homes.
- Referring to page 3, F-228 on the [Regional Equity Policies for discussion](#), a member noted that no city should attempt to avoid its equitable share of essential public facilities.
- Multiple members noted that environmental should be added to the listed aspects of Social Justice.
- Referring to page 2, PF-13 – Siting Public Capital Facilities members suggested that the new term environmental justice be removed.
- Referring to page 2, F-210 – Members asked the term “determinants of equity” be either defined or replaced. They also suggested that the division consider adding access for people with disabilities.
- Referring to page 3, F-226 – A member asked that the term expansions be defined.
- Referring to page 4, F-230, C – a member suggested that environmental be added to socials and economic impacts and benefits.
- Referring to page 4, F-271b – A member said that they were not familiar with the King County Equity Impact Review Tool.

Northwest Product Stewardship Council: Update

SWD staff Lisa Sepanski gave a [presentation](#) on the Northwest Product Stewardship Council. She described it as a coalition of government organizations in Washington and Oregon that act as a think tank for product stewardship policies. In Washington, more than two thirds of the counties include product stewardship in the waste management plans.

The Northwest Product Stewardship Council's goal is to require producers that make products that are toxic and hard to handle to share in the management of their products at end of life. This means producers help to finance a statewide recycling program and are required do it in an environmentally safe manner.

There are two programs currently active in the state from their work: E-cycle Washington - a product stewardship program for computers, monitors and televisions and LightRecycling Washington a stewardship program for fluorescents lamps which contain mercury.

The council is continuing to work on building a broad coalition of support for paint product stewardship.

Secure Medicine Return: Presentation

Local Hazardous Waste Management Program (LHWMP) staff Taylor Watson gave a [presentation](#) on Secure Medicine Return. She noted that overdose deaths from prescription pain medicines now surpass car accidents as a cause of accidental deaths. Chemicals from drugs that have not been metabolized have also been shown to have a negative impact on the environment. In 2013, King County passed a local regulation that established industry funded product stewardship. There is a requirement in the legislation that producers are responsible to provide education but the County will also be doing a substantial amount of outreach. Comments included:

- Largo noted that Joe McDermott, David Baker and Sally Clark were three of the primary movers of the King County regulation.
- In response to a question Watson said that materials collected are required to be incinerated in a high temperature medical incinerator.
- The drop boxes meet DEA regulations and are bolted to the floor. There have been no security incidents since the pilot program began.
- Members are asked to encourage pharmacies in their communities to be part of the program. A sufficient number of drop boxes are available for everyone to participate.
- After the meeting Grayum provided the following video follow-up to the prescription drug problem. <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=X1WtkwWsQyA>

Open Forum

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

Schmidt-Pathmann shared an article entitled "[A Different Way to Look at Waste: Creating a Source for Renewable Products.](#)"