

**King County Solid Waste Advisory Committee
June 17, 2016 - 9:30 a.m. to 11:45 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	Gemma Alexander	Doreen Booth, Sound Cities Association
David Baker - absent	Jamey Barker	Ross Marzaf, King County Council Staff
Jerry Bartlett	Kris Beatty	Joan Nelson, City of Auburn
Elly Bunzendahl	Matt Hobson	
Gib Dammann- absent	Laila McClinton	
Suzette Dickerson- absent	Pat McLaughlin	
Jean Garber	Meg Moorehead	
Michael Grayum- absent	Olivia Robinson	
Kim Kaminski		
Kevin Kelly		
Keith Livingston		
Jose Lugo		
Barbara Ristau		
Philipp Schmidt-Pathmann		
Stephen Strader		
Largo Wales		
Bill Ziegler		

Approve Meeting Minutes; Review Agenda

Philipp Schmidt-Pathmann asked that his comment, “Despite recent problems with Total Reclaim, supporting companies like Total Reclaim is important because they offer solutions that divert materials from landfills,” be added under the discussion of electronics recycling.

The May minutes were approved as amended.

Updates

SWD

Pat McLaughlin announced that the first division vehicle – a tractor at Cedar Hills – has been converted to dual-fuel diesel/compressed natural gas (CNG) operation as part of a pilot project to test whether CNG will work for the division’s entire fleet. The division is excited about the possible environmental benefits and economic efficiencies of using CNG. For the pilot project, the division is using existing fueling stations in the region.

Last week, the division held a successful round table as part of a series to move the climate agenda forward and positively influence the built environment. The author Mike Lydon of Island Press was the host.

MSWMAC

Largo Wales gave the MSWMAC update. MSWMAC continued to discuss the 2017-2018 rate proposal. Many members felt that the results of the demand management study would not be accurate unless the Houghton Transfer Station is closed during the pilot. SWAC Chair Jean Garber expressed agreement with that statement.

MSWMAC also discussed paint product stewardship and heard the same LinkUp presentation that is on today's SWAC agenda.

Other

Schmidt-Pathmann reported that the [Open Source Circular Economy Days](#) event held on June 10 in Seattle involved six presentations on topics including textile recycling and waste management practices around the world, such as in Germany and Australia. A key finding in discussions across the event was that low rates for landfilling limit the opportunity develop recycling options.

Rate Proposal: Discussion (continued from May)

SWD staff Meg Moorehead gave a [presentation](#) on the current rate proposal.

Comments included:

- In answer to a question, Moorehead confirmed that the solid waste rates of neighboring jurisdictions presented for comparison are the currently charged rates; the division is unaware of possible planned rate increases in other jurisdictions.
- In answer to a question, Moorehead said the division does have a reserve fund for capital equipment replacement. Contributions to that fund are increasing because equipment replacements are increasing after several years of deferment.
- Keith Livingston asked about the demand management pilot project. Moorehead replied that the project is sufficiently scoped for the rate proposal, but a host of logistical and design questions remain unanswered. Once funds have been approved, the division will, among other actions, talk to cities about permits and unions about temporary staff positions before the pilot design can be completed. McLaughlin added that the division will retain the right to return to normal operations at any time during the pilot, if necessary, and that clear communication will be necessary to ensure that residents understand the project is temporary.
- Garber suggested that high level discussions with Kirkland about maintaining and upgrading Houghton could be beneficial, as a community survey revealed customers

love having a station there. McLaughlin replied that Kirkland has been clear that their preference has been to close Houghton, while remaining open to siting a new facility in the city.

- Schmidt-Pathmann asked about the post closure reserve fund. Moorehead answered that post-closure landfill funds are based on standard, anticipated expenses, and do not include disaster response. McLaughlin added that the division has 50 years of experience managing the landfill, and in those years, has always responded to unexpected events swiftly with minimal environmental effect. The division does have general emergency reserves.
- Kim Kaminski asked whether the proposed rate anticipated any impact from the proposed Clean Air rules. McLaughlin said there is no assumed impact in the proposed rate, and the division has been in contact with the Washington State Department of Ecology regarding their methodology, which classifies the Cedar Hills landfill as emitting more than three times the division's actual CO₂ emissions. Garber noted that Ecology is using an EPA model with default averages that are unrelated to actual measured results in the Pacific Northwest.
- Stephen Strader asked about mining the landfill for recyclable materials. Moorehead responded that an old, unlined area of the landfill was excavated in the construction of the newest cell at Cedar Hills and part of the process involved looking for recoverable materials. While the results were interesting, discovered materials were of insufficient quality to merit recovery.
- Moorehead said the proposal will move from the Department of Natural Resources and Parks to Executive Constantine, who will decide what to put forward to the King County Council. The proposal is expected to go to Council in early July. If the rate is to take effect at the beginning of 2017, Council would have to approve it by September for the division to meet the required 90-day notice to the Washington State Utilities and Transportation Commission. The division has a roll-out protocol for public notice, but is happy to hear any ideas from SWAC members to improve the process.
- Livingston commented that the transfer system study found that a new Northeast transfer station is necessary for a strong solid waste utility for the future. The demand management study delays the building of an essential facility when it would be better to take advantage of current interest rates and act now rather than kick the can down the road. Five dollars per household to build a robust system seems fair and the division should present that as an alternative to Council. McLaughlin agreed that Council should be presented with good choices based on data, but that includes the results of the demand management pilot.
- In answer to a question McLaughlin said the demand management pilot is scheduled to last 12 months starting in 2018.
- In answer to a question, Moorehead said 42,000 tons of increased recycling would come from a combination of floor sorting and new self-haul separation requirements.
- Garber commented that the demand management study could result in a decrease in recycling and an increase in illegal dumping. Moorehead agreed that asking self-haulers to separate recyclables and move through stations faster is going to be a challenge.

- Barbara Ristau commented that recycling at Bow Lake could be made easier.
- Bill Ziegler commented that the need to negotiate with unions in order to pursue the demand management study raises doubts, and any time you mess with the customer you cause trouble. McLaughlin added that the addition of temporary staff for this part of the project is in existing union contracts.
- April Atwood asked when Houghton will close. McLaughlin answered that the Comp Plan calls for Houghton and Renton to close “when replacement capacity is available.” For Renton, that means when Bow Lake and South County are complete. For Houghton, the question is whether replacement capacity can come from other stations absorbing the customer base or if a Northeast Station is necessary.

Link-Up Program: Presentation

SWD staff Kris Beatty gave a [presentation](#) on the [LinkUp program](#) and its current priorities.

Comments included:

- Elly Bunzendahl asked about the Seattle Department of Transportation’s involvement with asphalt shingle recycling. Beatty said that SDOT was approached to participate, but has not been interested because they had already embraced the warm mix technology. However, they have been encouraged to pave a roadway as a pilot and they are doing that this summer.
- Schmidt-Pathmann asked about the key obstacles to the program. Beatty said that cost was a significant hurdle, but that proving value was still critical; once value is proven, cost can be overcome. In market development, especially for building materials, specifiers are nervous about new materials with which they are not familiar.
- In response to a question, Beatty said that Seattle had listed carpet for a disposal ban back when oil was \$108 per barrel and industry was still at the table, but the ban has been postponed.
- Bunzendahl commented that it is a challenge to decide whether to specify recycled material carpet that will end up in a local landfill or recyclable carpet that will be shipped to the Southeast or even China. Beatty agreed and said LinkUp is trying to educate people about the difference between recyclable and recycled-content.
- Livingston commented that LinkUp should prioritize items by the impact they have on operations rather than their percentage of the waste stream.
- Beatty said the division is closely tracking the progress of California’s carpet stewardship program. They are the only state to establish one and so far manufacturers are not making meaningful progress.
- Schmidt-Pathmann commented that to support the goal of Zero Waste of Resources, that energy produced from incinerating waste is also a resource that should not be wasted.

Open Forum

No comments were made during the open forum.