

**King County Solid Waste Advisory Committee
January 20, 2017 - 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	Jamey Barker	Roger Benson
David Baker	Jenny Devlin	Doreen Booth, Sound Cities Association
Elly Bunzendahl	Jeff Gaisford	Algona Mayor David Hill
<u>Gib Dammann</u>	Matt Hobson	Andres Mendez, interested resident
Karen Dawson	Beth Humphreys	Yolanda Pon, Public Health-Seattle & King County
Jean Garber, Chair	Pat D. McLaughlin	Philipp Schmidt-Pathmann
Mason Giem	Meg Moorehead	
Kim Kaminski	Olivia Robinson	
Kevin Kelly, Vice Chair	Eben Sutton	
Keith Livingston	Diane Yates	
Ken Marshall		
Barbara Ristau		
Stephen Strader		

Minutes:

SWAC reviewed and approved minutes from the September, October, November, and December meetings.

Updates

SOLID WASTE DIVISION (SWD)

New Sampling and Analysis Plan results in cost savings

In 2015, Public Health approved a revised Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP) for collecting environmental samples at Cedar Hills. The plan revisions focused on streamlining monitoring programs to eliminate redundant and excessive monitoring that was required under the previous SAP. The changes to monitoring programs, which were implemented beginning on Jan. 1, 2016, include a 33 percent reduction in groundwater monitoring and an 80 percent reduction in surface water monitoring. All told, the changes resulted in cost savings of nearly \$160,000 in laboratory analytical costs in 2016. Similar cost savings are expected annually hereafter.

New Pipeline and Booster Blower

The new pipeline from the North Flare Station to BioEnergy Washington has been installed but is not yet in use. Connections at both ends of the pipeline were completed in December and the new pipeline has been pressure tested. The remaining items to be performed are installation of new larger capacity blowers, programming of new PLC's (Program Logic Control Units) for improved communication between BEW and NFS, and commissioning of the pipeline

and control features. The power supply to support the larger capacity blowers was upgraded yesterday (a new transformer was installed). The project is anticipated to be completed and the new pipeline in operation by mid to late February.

Safe Medicine Disposal Program Launches

Board of Health voted to place 87 drop boxes to collect unwanted medicine at many area pharmacies. King County is committed to adding more drop boxes, as there are nearly 300 potential sites to consider. More information can be found on the new website:

<https://kingcountysecuremedicinereturn.org/>

SWANA: On the Road to Zero Waste

On Friday, February 24, 2017, SWANA Evergreen Chapter is hosting a Technical Session, 'Material Diversion 4: On the Road to Zero Waste' from 9:15 AM - 3:00 PM in the 8th floor Conference Room of King Street Center in Seattle, WA. Information about the event will be emailed to advisory committee members.

MSWMAC

The January meeting of MSWMAC had the same agenda as today's meeting. Following the same update on Demand Management, they discussed three different motions advising against moving forward with the Demand Management pilot study. MSWMAC could not reach consensus and did not pass a motion.

Comp Plan Presentation: The Planning Chapter

SWD staff Matt Hobson presented an [overview](#) of the information that will be included in the Planning Chapter of the draft 2019 Comp Plan. The purpose of the Planning Chapter is to provide context for the policies within the Comp Plan, beginning with a summary of the current solid waste system in King County, an examination of industry trends, and tonnage and population forecasts through 2040.

Many of the policies described in the Planning Chapter are required by law, such as reporting on the types and sources of materials that enter the transfer and disposal system, and short- and long-term tonnage forecasts, all of which inform demand for solid waste facilities and operations. Current projections estimate by 2040 that the population of the King County service area will increase by 230,000 people, annual tons of waste generated will be 2.9 million tons, and annual tons of waste disposed will be 1.2 tons.

Without changes to the system and customer behavior, the rate of recycling will increase from 54 percent to 57 percent by 2018, but will then plateau. The recycling rate forecast is a baseline from which to measure the impact of changes to policies and actions within the 2019 Comp Plan. As policies are discussed in future meetings, SWD staff will adjust the recycling rate forecast to account for these changes. These predictions anticipate that the greatest increase in population growth will occur in the Bow Lake, Algona, Houghton, and Factoria transfer station service areas. Based on approved landfill development policies, Cedar Hills Regional Landfill is projected to provide disposal capacity through 2028, although plans for substantially extending current capacity are currently in development for presentation to the advisory committees in April.

State law also requires the division to monitor and report on waste prevention efforts, recycling activities, and commodity markets. State law, county code, and interlocal agreements require the division to work with advisory committees. County code requires the division to consider equity, social justice, and climate impacts when making plans.

King County's Equity and Social Justice Strategic Plan evaluates the effects of service choices in focus communities with an emphasis on service access, rate affordability, and communication in languages other than English, access to economic opportunity such as living wage jobs, and environmental impacts. For the division, this means ensuring equitable access to disposal, recycling services, and educational materials, as well as assessing and mitigating any negative effect on vulnerable populations (focus communities) when considering policy changes and system upgrades.

King County's Strategic Climate Action Plan established division goals to achieve carbon neutral operations by 2025 and a 70 percent recycling rate by 2020. At next month's joint advisory committee meeting, the agenda will include a policy discussion about how the county might reach this goal while still ensuring autonomy to city partners.

The presentation concluded with a proposal to hold a joint advisory committee meeting with SWAC on Friday, February 17 from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. where the meeting will be divided into two sections: a visioning exercise and a discussion of the Waste Prevention and Recycling Chapter.

Discussion followed the presentation:

The discussion began with a request for clarification about the relationship between the two charts showing Annual Tons Disposed and the Areas of Population Growth. It was agreed that graphs are needed to communicate the tonnage of waste predicted for disposal at each transfer station.

In response to a question about the necessity of closing the Houghton transfer station, Hobson reminded SWAC that they will cover the transfer system later this year. Keith Livingston shared his observation that the graph illustrating the average single-family household waste generation allocation are similar city to city and state to state due to the culture of consumerism in our country. Livingston noted that one of SWD's core challenges will be to help people understand that individual habits are replicated 500,000 times in households across the county.

In regards to the predicted 57 percent plateau of the recycling rate, Gib Dammann asked SWD to consider looking at targeting recycling efforts at "low-hanging fruit" stating the recycling rate for multi-family housing is at 11 percent and the commercial sector is at 27 percent. SWD staff Jeff Gaisford stated that the recycling rate for multi-family housing in King County is about 15 percent and the commercial has the highest recycle rate for all sectors at 67 percent, although the commercial sector still produces a considerable amount of trash. Time for a more in-depth discussion about recycling efforts is scheduled at next month's meeting. Kenmore Mayor David Baker then asked about where one could properly dispose small pieces of untreated or treated

wood. Gaisford said that some transfer stations accept wood debris, but typically small pieces of untreated wood can be disposed in yard waste bins; to be certain one ought to contact their local service provider.

Demand Management Update:

SWD staff Meg Moorehead began the Demand Management update with an overview of eleven milestone tasks in the year leading up to the pilot as [outlined in a Gantt chart](#) per the request of a MSWMAC member. The one-year pilot will take one year to prepare for, which allows time to complete a traffic study, haulers to re-map their routes, and the cities to renegotiate contracts with haulers, if needed. A consultant will be hired to do baseline monitoring which will be conducted and adjusted for year-round seasonality.

Livingston asked what measures of success SWD will use for evaluating the Demand Management pilot. Moorehead said the pilot will be held to service level targets per standards outlined in the 2007 Solid Waste Transfer and Waste Management Plan. Although customer satisfaction will be one of the metrics measured, Livingston suggested the term *customer* include cities and haulers as they will be heavily impacted by the pilot study. Moorehead assured Livingston that customer satisfaction will be monitored and the division is aware of the potential hardships this pilot may impose on cities and haulers and looks forward to working together to mitigate them.

Barbara Ristau expressed concern about the likelihood of an increase in illegal dumping. Moorehead acknowledged the possibility and said SWD will be monitoring incidents of illegal dumping.

Ken Marshall reported that haulers are already operating at capacity and the industry is having difficulty hiring drivers who will stay with the job (Kevin Kelly later stated that the industry currently has 750,000 vacant positions). Marshall said that the Demand Management pilot will see most haulers driving extended hours in violation of state law or will be going to transfer stations in Snohomish County to avoid doubling-back to the Shoreline Transfer Station. Moorehead said SWD predicts 10 percent of Houghton's customers will go to the Shoreline station during the pilot. SWD is also working with Snohomish County to capture data reflecting any impacts of the pilot on their operations.

Chair Jean Garber commented that the tonnage per station graph is a clear argument for a new station given how much waste the Houghton transfer station currently takes in. Garber maintains that an EIS (Environmental Impact Study) for the Demand Management pilot would include a list of alternatives that would include a new northeast transfer station. Dammann echoed Garber, saying "You (King County) could do a feasibility study or an environmental study, but you're trying to create pain and then measure the pain." (Dammann's quote is included in the minutes per the request of Chair Garber).

Kim Kaminski asked for clarification about the decision-making timeline. Moorehead explained that SWD has a March 30 deadline to deliver an implementation plan for approval by King County council in April, although SWD would like to get the document to council in February. Although council has already decided to launch the pilot, there will be other legislative actions

(the passage of ordinances to adopt peak pricing and to suspend operations at the Houghton station) that need to occur before pilot can begin. There will be public hearings ahead of these legislative actions where the public will have an opportunity to voice their opinions. Mayor David Baker stated his view that the Demand Management pilot should go forward at this time.

Chair Garber invited SWAC members to review a draft motion to recommend council immediately reallocate Demand Management pilot funds for the siting of a northeast transfer station or failing that, then to close operations at the Houghton transfer station for the duration of the pilot.

April Atwood moved to change the phrase in the Significant Adverse Impacts section of the motion from “potential for” to “likelihood of” illegal dumping.” Atwood also moved to amend the second recommendation in the motion from “. . . close the Houghton transfer station to commercial and self-haul garbage disposal during the pilot.” to “. . . close the Houghton transfer station to commercial and self-haul garbage disposal *and recycling* during the pilot.”

Livingston moved to pass the proposed motion. The [motion](#) passed with 10 yeas, one nay, and two abstentions.

Open Forum

There were no comments.