

**King County Solid Waste Advisory Committee
 March 17, 2017 - 9:00 a.m. to 11:25 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
Elly Bunzendahl	Jeff Gaisford	Karl Hufnagel, Parametrix
Karen Dawson	Matt Hobson	Ian Sutton, Parametrix
Jean Garber, Chair	Beth Humphreys	Heather Trim, Zero Waste Washington
David Hill	Jake Mayson	Clue Westmoreland, Cedar Grove
Kevin Kelly, Vice Chair	Meg Moorehead	
Barbara Ristau	Olivia Robinson	
David Storaasli	Terra Rose	
Stephen Strader	Glynda Steiner	
Penny Sweet		

Minutes:

SWAC reviewed the minutes from the March and April meetings. The March minutes were approved by unanimous consent. Chair Garber submitted an amendment to her comments regarding WTE in the April minutes. The April minutes were approved as amended by unanimous consent.

Updates

SOLID WASTE DIVISION (SWD)

Introduction of New Assistant Director

New Assistant Division Director Glynda Steiner was introduced. Her first day on the job was May 1. Thanks were expressed to Eben Sutton for his work as Interim Assistant Division Director.

Councilmember Meeting

On April 19, SWD Director Pat McLaughlin and Strategy, Communications, and Performance Manager Meg Moorehead met with King County Councilmember Kathy Lambert to discuss long-term disposal options. The third-party review of the division’s analysis of disposal options, once the scope is agreed upon, will be complete in 90 days.

Landfill Neighbor Meeting

On Thursday, April 20, the division held a landfill neighbor community meeting at the Issaquah Library. Seven members of the public attended the meeting to hear updates on landfill operations, how the division is actively pursuing continuous improvement, upcoming and completed projects, and work at BioEnergy Washington. A few neighbors expressed concerns about ongoing odors, and personnel took the opportunity to explain how the division is constantly working to mitigate odors and be good neighbors. These meetings are held twice a year. The next meeting will be held in October.

Building Management Change

King County is taking over management of King Street Center on June 1. This means we will be embarking on changes including who sets up the room, security, and potentially parking staff. The division is hoping and planning for this to be a smooth transition, but please bear with us if things are a little different for the next couple of months. The division will continue to pay for parking validation for committee members.

Women in Trades Event

The division had good representation at the annual Women in Trades event held on May 12 at the Seattle Center. Staff in attendance included carpenters, truck drivers, human resources, engineers, and many more were on hand to speak with young woman and encourage them to consider a career in the trades.

MSWMAC Update

The MSWMAC meeting followed the same agenda as this meeting. MSWMAC Chair Sweet asked that staff share with both committees a letter from the County Executive in response to an advisory note MSWMAC sent about Demand Management. Responses acknowledging the communication have been sent by most recipients.

Comp Plan Presentation: Disposal (Part One)

SWD staff Matt Hobson [presented](#) proposed Comp Plan policies and actions related to disposal. Hobson asked if the committee supports proposed policy D2, “Maximize the capacity and lifespan of the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill, subject to environmental constraints, relative costs to operate, and stakeholder interests.” In answer to a question, he said the policy does not rule out early export.

Several committee members emphasized that the disposal policy must have flexibility to react to changes in technology or circumstances. Hobson commented that maximizing the life of Cedar Hills is the only disposal option that does not require a long-term contract.

While environmental review and permitting is required for all landfill development options, some will require more extensive review and a greater number of new permits. The current landfill EIS assumes a maximum landfill height of 800 feet; some design options would develop the landfill to a height of 830 feet.

In answer to a question, Hobson said that if committees reject the policy, the alternative would be to develop a prescriptive alternative policy that would require a long term disposal option to

be implemented by a specific date. Such a policy would be counter to feedback received throughout the planning process.

Pending the third party review on Waste to Energy, the draft Comp Plan calls for specific actions by the division to begin siting and design work for Area 9 at Cedar Hills. The third party review should be completed in August. The consultant is Normandeau, an East Coast firm with local branches.

Community involvement for the potential expansion of Cedar Hills would begin after engineering details and technical questions can be answered. The draft Comp Plan and the environmental review for Area 9 require separate public processes.

Chair Garber commented that the EPA model for landfill gas production uses national averages that do not reflect current waste composition or local practices. The third party review will only be valuable if it uses local data.

For the third party review, WTE is defined as technologies that can handle mixed municipal solid waste (the material that passes through our transfer stations) at the scale currently managed by the Cedar Hills landfill. Technologies that require specific waste streams or include the separation of recyclables and compost from the waste stream are not useful for comparison. The division remains committed to maximizing recycling. The third party review of WTE will look at, among other factors, cost, recycling rates, and reliability and resiliency after a major event.

Refuse Derived Fuel, known as RDF, makes fuel pellets out of waste and burns those. Members discussed whether WTE should be referred to as “mass burn or incineration” since that is the specific type of WTE under consideration. It was discussed that the division and committees should stick with using the same term throughout discussions and WTE has been the main terminology used.

Karen Dawson asked about residents in rural King County who burn garbage. The Puget Sound Clean Air Agency website states that burning garbage is prohibited.
(<http://www.pscleanair.org/priorities/outdoorburning/Pages/default.aspx>).

Regardless of what long-term disposal method is selected, an updated transfer system is necessary. New transfer stations improve system efficiency with the ability to compact the garbage and to increase recycling.

Seattle exports its waste to a Waste Management landfill in Eastern Oregon. Snohomish County exports to a Republic landfill in Southeastern Washington. Intermodal facilities connect trucks to rail.

Comp Plan Presentation: Disposal Chapter (Part Two)

SWD staff Beth Humphreys [presented](#) on the lifecycle of landfill operations and maintenance. Natural settling and increased compaction efficiency have made the landfill denser over time.

After the landfill gas pipeline break a few years ago, a new, redundant pipeline was built. It is now fully operational.

The former privately-owned landfill in Newcastle was used for C&D. It does have landfill gas collection and nearby houses have methane barriers. The site is now used as a golf course.

Since none of the closed landfills have completely stabilized, continued maintenance and monitoring is necessary beyond the prescribed post-closure period. This cost has been moved from a reserve fund to operating expenses. Only one landfill in Washington has filed for approval to cease monitoring (Horse Thief in Eastern Washington in 2014), but the request has not yet been accepted. Cedar Hills has a liner and collection systems that should make its closure less problematic than older landfills. The division is budgeting for the mandated 30-year reserve for Cedar Hills' post-closure maintenance, which cost will be incurred regardless of the landfill's closure date.

Joint Meetings Discussion

Penny Sweet reported that MSWMAC overwhelmingly favors combined meetings. Members stated that they learn a lot from SWAC.

Garber commented that SWAC members tend to have more technical expertise and interests than policy-oriented MSWMAC members and the cross-pollination is valuable.

Members agreed that there is value in joint meetings, but do not want to have back-to-back joint meetings, as there are topics and processes that are better managed in SWAC-only meetings. Joint meetings on Comp Plan (and other "parallel track") issues in alternate months were widely supported.

Garber noted that each committee should receive copies of any action taken by the other committee.

It was noted that joint meetings are usually held during MSWMAC's midday time slot, which results in poor attendance from SWAC members. Regardless of which time is chosen, there will be scheduling conflicts, but SWAC members would like to alternate.

By unanimous consent SWAC agreed to hold joint meetings in June and August, with one meeting at each committee's regular time.

Open Forum

Doreen Booth announced that she is taking a new job with the City of Kirkland and will no longer be attending SWAC for the Sound Cities Association. She thanked SWAC for all their good work.