

**King County Solid Waste Advisory Committee
January 19, 2018 - 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
King Street Center 8th Floor Conference Center**

Meeting Minutes

Members Present	King County Staff	Others
April Atwood – Vice Chair	Jamey Barker	McKenna Morrigan
Elly Bunzendahl	William Chen	Phillip Schmidt- Pathmann, NEOMER
Karen Dawson	Gerty Coville	Heather Trim, Zero Waste Washington
Keith Livingston	Jeff Gaisford	
Ken Marshall	Beth Humphreys	
Barbara Ristoff	Ross Marzoff	
Penny Sweet	Meg Moorehead	
	Yolanda Pon	
	Terra Rose	
	Glynda Steiner	
	Dorian Waller	

Introductions

Meg Moorehead introduced John Walsh, the new Strategic Planning Manager in the Solid Waste Division.

Minutes

After review of the minutes, a motion to approve the November 2017 SWAC minutes was made and seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Updates

Glynda Steiner, Assistant Solid Waste Division (SWD) Director, gave the following updates:

Comp Plan

Now ready for public review and comment are the Draft Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan (draft plan) and a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (draft EIS) - (01/08/18 – 03/08/18). We’re offering presentations and briefings for stakeholders. We will also have 3 open houses throughout the county:

January 24, 2018
5:30-7:30 p.m.
Kingsgate Library
(Kirkland)

January 30, 2018
5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Kent Senior Center
(Kent)

February 7, 2018
5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
King County Library Service
Center (Issaquah)

South County Recycling & Transfer Station

The interlocal agreements (ILAs) between the City of Algona and the County were executed by the County on 12-5-17. In response, the City dismissed its appeal of the project environmental impact statement (EIS) on 12-14-17. This cleared the way for SWD to finalize the design

consultant selection process. In response to a request for proposals advertisement, three consultant proposals were received. After evaluating the written proposals and interviewing the top two proposers, the selection committee selected HDR. Contract negotiations with HDR are underway. It is anticipated that the notice to proceed for the preliminary design phase will be issued by the end of the first quarter, 2018.

Mud Slides

On 12-29-17 and 1-11-18 we had mud slides at Cedar Hills from a stockpile of dirt. The stockpile is dirt that has been excavated for the development of the new Area 8. The slide came down behind the cat shack. No injuries occurred, however the facilities did incur some damages. The stockpile is still unstable with more dirt sloughing off. Scarsella, the contractor developing the area, was working in the area and one of their excavators was damaged. The project is slightly behind schedule, delayed by weather impacts.

Fire

On 12-30-17 a trailer caught fire at the Factoria station and the fire department was called. The Transfer Station Operators moved the trailer to the side of the loading area away from customers. The fire department extinguished the fire with the application of water and foam. Once it was cleared by the fire department, was hauled safely away to Cedar Hills and unloaded without further incident. There were no injuries to staff, customers, or equipment during incident.

Mattresses

Jeff Gaisford, Recycling and Environmental Services Manager, shared news that SWD piloted mattress collection and recycling at Bow Lake from June through November 2017. SWD put a bid out for collection and recycling recently, but didn't get good responses. The plan for 2018 is as follows:

- Continue piloting collection for now at Bow Lake through an amended contract (not a full program roll out with promotion, signage, and education)
- Add collection at several other stations as markets develop while simultaneously working on product stewardship (CA, CT and RI have programs).
- Focus additional efforts on product stewardship with industry stakeholders,
- Through the rate making process, establish a mattress fee to be paid at all transfer stations to pay for mattress recycling services, beginning as soon as 2020.

SWAC member Keith Livingston asked if there really is a market for mattresses and what are they being made into. Jeff Gaisford responded that Springback is the vendor, a small Tacoma-based business. Working on figuring out markets, disassembly, etc. SWD is looking at California as a model and may modify the program to suit conditions here in King County. The California program includes a cost at the time of a mattress purchase for recycling at the end of life.

SWAC member Penny Sweet gave a brief update on the January MSWMAC meeting. She said that MSWMAC's agenda was similar to SWAC's with an update on the Comp Plan public outreach. MSWMAC also had a presentation on anaerobic digestion – the same presentation that SWAC had in September. She said that it was a good first meeting of the year.

Meg Moorehead, Strategy, Communication and Performance Manager then began the [presentation](#) on the public outreach for the Comp Plan. She described what SWD is doing to make people aware of the Comp Plan, including notification of the public review period, three open houses, and the review and adoption timeline. Moorehead said that SWD is asking people to respond to an on-line survey that includes three main three major policy choices:

- What actions should King County take to reach the goal to recycle 70 percent of the waste stream?
- What are the most important services that should be provided at King County's garbage and recycling transfer facilities, including at facilities in northeast King County?
- How should King County dispose of its garbage over the long term?

Livingston asked if SWD had reached out to unincorporated areas. Moorehead responded that she had attended a West Hill Unincorporated Area Council (UAC) meeting on Tuesday night and that more meetings were being scheduled with other groups. Livingston followed up with questions about city adoption. He asked whether all of the cities have to vote on the plan and if a city has issues with a certain section of the plan, can they say they don't like that part? He also asked how informed the cities are? Moorehead responded that SWD is offering to brief cities on the plan. Sweet said cities are taking the Plan very seriously and they are working together. Moorehead also said the County is working through the Sound Cities Association.

Livingston asked whether the real decision makers have taken the time to understand it. The County is up against a timeframe to make a decision. Timing is concentrated in this 120 day period. Keith said that this is complicated. City officials can undo a lot of the effort that has been put into the plan. Sweet said Kirkland is trying to educate its residents by doing a lot of outreach.

Karen Dawson asked how the comments are captured at the UAC meetings. Moorehead responded that SWD is presenting at the meetings, but that we are not taking formal comments. The purpose of the presentations is to encourage people to go to our website to submit comments.

Dawson asked how public the public comments will be. Moorehead answered that SWAC will see a responsiveness summary and the responses to the on-line survey.

SWD staff Beth Humphreys continued the presentation by discussing the results so far of public outreach efforts. She showed the webpage, on-line survey and one of the short videos that SWD has created. Results to date are:

- Online Survey - As of Thursday (1/18) evening, there were 103 responses with the average response time taking three minutes. The Spanish-language survey has one response.
- Three Public Open Houses - (Kirkland, Kent, Issaquah) -To further promote the open houses, Facebook events were created:
https://www.facebook.com/pg/KingCountySolidWaste/events/?ref=page_internal
- SWD Homepage rotator - Seen here: <http://kingcounty.gov/depts/dnrp/solid-waste.aspx>

- SWD Comp Plan webpage – includes 4 informational videos on Comp Plan, King County’s solid waste system, and key issues identified in Comp Plan
- Seattle Times Legal Notice
- Stakeholder electronic mailing via GovDelivery (to more than 1,100 recipients) - Open rate for this message was 29 percent, with 420 unique opens
- SWD Facebook page - Several unique posts about this, and we’ve been including a Comp Plan message in just about everything we post (same for Instagram)
- Paid Facebook ads - As of Thursday evening, the ads have received:
 - 382 link clicks (driving them to our webpage)
 - 15,301 reach (the amount of people who actually saw the ad)
 - 22,988 impressions (the number of times the ads appeared on a screen)
 - Spanish-language ads will go live next week (were awaiting translation and wanted to see how the English ads performed in case we wanted to make any adjustments. We will also include this as a post on the SWD Facebook page and on Recicla Mas.)

Livingston asked how much weight SWD would be putting on the survey data. Humphreys responded that it is not statistically valid since participants are self-selected. The survey provides useful information.

Barbara Ristou wanted to know if the information on the Plan would be translated into other languages. Humphreys said that both the survey and Facebook ads were translated into Spanish.

Dawson suggested the SWD get the cities to advertise the public comment period, etc. in their newsletters and other communications with the community. She said the cities may have ways to engage with more diverse groups.

Gaisford introduced SWD staff member Gerty Coville to [present the findings](#) from a pilot cart tagging program about trying to move the needle on reducing organics contamination. Coville also introduced McKenna Morigan from Cascadia Consulting, the consultants who with subconsultants Coelheur and Cohen conducted the [pilot study](#). Coville said that SWD wanted to understand more about the usefulness of tagging residents’ organics carts to educate them about organics recycling.

This statistically representative study was conducted beginning in November 2015 and concluding in March 2017. This study was conducted after a 2013 Republic Services study which indicated tags could improve curbside sorting behavior. The Republic study was an anecdotal study.

The study was conducted on nine residential organics routes in three study areas to determine the frequency of tagging necessary to influence proper sorting, focusing on organics.

1. City of Kenmore = Republic Services
2. City of Burien = Recology CleanScapes
3. Unincorporated Redmond Ridge, Sammamish, Woodinville = Waste Management

Two elements to this study:

1. Cart tagging: Within each study area there were two study groups. One received four tags in a year the other received two tags in a year. Both the garbage and organics carts were tagged. The tags were intended to remind and prompt behavior. Approximately 3400 households got tags, either two times (biannual) or four times (quarterly).
2. Cart content analysis-sorts: Random interval sampling was conducted pre, mid and post study. The cart sorts measured the organics content and the level of contamination in the organics cart detected as the result of delivering the cart tag. Sorting was conducted on carts from 150 households (50 on each of three routes per round of sorting).

The final important takeaways from the pilot:

- Households with an imbedded service fee structure which includes all three carts and weekly collection had highest participation levels.
- Working with households new to food scrap diversion can be most impactful compared to households who have had that service for some time. Cart tags influence new households to participate at high levels.
- Participation increased with more tags.
- We see trends to indicate higher contamination with tagging but we didn't have enough data to make a definitive statement about contamination and tagging.
- Households who generate little food waste may not be willing to compost.

Questions:

SWAC member Sweet asked what the most common contaminants were. Consultant McKenna Morrigan indicated there seemed to be a correlation between more food scraps and food service packaging. Coville added that information from the organics group she participates on indicates non-compostable paper, stickers and plastic film are the biggest contaminants.

Ken Marshall stated that collection has changed and that drivers used to be able to see what was in the carts being dumped, but now that collection is mostly automated, the drivers don't see what is being dumped. He said he doesn't want the drivers being the garbage cop. It's OK for the County to educate customers.

Morrigan stated this was not a feedback tag. It is a prompt – the driver doesn't need to see what is in the cart. The tag is delivering the message more directly to the customer – it is placed on the cart after collection by an outreach team that was going around after the garbage and organics were collected.

Marshall asked how the study concluded behavior had changed. Morrigan responded that representative samples were taken before the garbage or organics drivers got there. Samples were taken before the tags were introduced, at a mid-point, and at the end. They used a capture rate to make sure that it accounted for the fluctuations in yard waste and food waste over the year. All of the samples were hand-sorted and weighed.

Ristou asked if people knew they were part of the study. Morrigan said that residents were not notified in advance. The study teams had identification on them and could provide information

to the residents if asked. For the final round of the study, a letter was sent out to see if it increased or decreased concern. Of the almost 4000 people who received a letter, approximately 30 people opted out. In the other rounds, only about 10 people opted out.

Elly Bunzendahl asked about compostable packaging and product stewardship. Coville indicated that there is a statewide group working on product stewardship.

Marshall stated that people are probably on their best behavior while they were receiving tags and asked if SWD had checked back to see if people are still “behaving”. Morgan said that people weren’t notified in advance about the tags. The final audit was about 2-3 months after the last tagging to see if behavior had changed. They found the capture rate was higher at the end.

Marshall suggested to add the above information in a slide.

Bunzendahl stated she had noticed that the tags were different. Some were more visual and some had more words. Coville stated one hauler preferred the items were shown without the “No” cross-out. For this study, the tags were not tested first. If another study is conducted, SWD will be testing the tags first.

Moorehead lead a conversation about potential topics for 2018. She stated that SWD will be coming back to SWAC with Comp Plan information throughout the year and also information about the rate proposal.

Members suggested these topics:

- Sustainable materials management
- New NE transfer station/and or upgrade of Houghton
- More discussion around getting to 70%
- More discussion on the China Sword
- More conversations about public/private partnerships – i.e. Product Stewardship and technology
- Multi-family education
- More discussion about the Food: too-good to waste program
- How do we get the unincorporated areas more involved?
- More information on composting more locally – instead of large compost facilities
- Discussion on new technologies for reprocessing and reusing plastics – feels like there are opportunities

There was also a suggestion to tour Seattle’s new North Transfer Station.

Moorehead wrapped up the discussion by saying SWD would propose a schedule with some of these topics.

Open Forum:

Phillip Schmidt-Pathman commented that the Comprehensive Plan should not have been released because it did not include accurate information. He did not finish his comments, however, because he ran out of time.