

**King County Solid Waste Advisory Committee**  
**June 15, 2018 - 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**  
**King Street Center 8th Floor Conference Center**

Meeting Minutes

<b><u>Members Present</u></b>	<b><u>King County Staff</u></b>	<b><u>Others</u></b>
April Atwood - Vice Chair	Jamey Barker	Cynthia Foley, Sound Cities Association
Karen Dawson	Jennifer Devlin	Phillip Schmidt-Pathmann, NEOMER
Phillippa Kassover	Jeff Gaisford	
Keith Livingston	Beth Humphreys	
Ken Marshall	Meg Moorehead	
Stephen Strader	Terra Rose	
	Dorian Waller	
	John Walsh	

**Minutes**

Due to lack of a quorum, the May SWAC minutes were reviewed but not approved.

**Updates**

**Solid Waste Division (SWD)**

Dorian Waller, SWD’s Government Relations Administrator gave the following SWD updates:

**SWANA Excellence Award**

The Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) announced that King County Solid Waste Division has been named the winner of the SWANA Gold Excellence Award in the Transfer Station category for our Factoria Recycling and Transfer Station. The award will be presented at SWANA’s annual conference, WASTECON®, on Wednesday, August 22, 2018, in Nashville, Tennessee. Replacing the aging, undersized Factoria Recycling and Transfer Station with a modern, LEED Gold-certified facility allows King County to meet customer demands for the next 50 years,” said Doug Chin, project manager. “The new 70,000-square-foot station improves efficiency and decreases truck trips to and from the site; and recycling and diversion efforts will keep 5,000 tons of waste out of landfills annually.”

**Public Art Network Year in Review Award**

Al Price’s artwork, Still Spinning, at the Factoria Recycling and Transfer Station has won a 2017 Public Art Network Year in Review Award! Given by Americans for the Arts, this is the only national award program that specifically recognizes public art. Our project is one of only 49 from around the country being recognized.

**Industrial Waste Program Award**

The Solid Waste Division was awarded the DNRP Industrial Waste Program 2017 Gold Award for our work regarding wastewater discharge at the Algona Transfer Station.

**Local Hazardous Waste Management Program (LHWMP)**

Jeff Gaisford, SWD Recycling and Environmental Services section manager, reported LHWMP will be presenting a third rate increase proposal to the Board of Health on June 21. The new proposal is for a 5.4 percent rate increase every year for the next four years beginning in January 2019.

### **Municipal Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee (MSWMAC)**

Meg Moorehead, SWD Strategy, Communications, and Performance section manager, reported the June MWSMAC meeting had the same agenda as today's SWAC meeting. She noted there was an interesting discussion about the signing off on the draft advisory letter. There were different views about authorization to endorse a MSWMAC letter of support. Some members said they needed to consult with their councils after seeing the final Executive-transmitted plan before they could sign an advisory committee support letter. Others felt the advisory committee could express support now while still reserving each city's ability to approve (or not approve) the plan after County approval. She noted the division will try to send MSWMAC the department-transmitted version of the plan prior to the next meeting. There is not enough time for further comments on that version but seeing the revised text might help the committee's July discussion of the support letter. The Comp Plan is scheduled for transmittal to the Executive on July 5 and to Council on July 26.

### **China Sword (Responsible Recycling Task Force)**

Gaisford reported on the progress of the Responsible Recycling Task Force which held their second meeting on June 1. After reviewing agendas for upcoming meetings, the task force had two discussions, the first being about what ought to be included in the comingled recycling bins and the problems of the current market for materials. The Comingled Recycling Work Group has categorized materials based on ability to collect, process and market materials. Some materials are recommended to be collected in a comingled bin, some are recommended to be included after consulting with your hauler, MFR and end markets, and some are recommended to not be included in a comingled cart. The work group has recommended taking plastic bags and film, and shredded paper out of the comingled bin because of the challenges in processing those materials. Glass is one material that is accepted in comingled carts in King County because there is a local secondary processor for the material and a local end user that turns the glass cullet into new wine and beer bottles.

Gaisford also reports on the process made by the Communications Consortium, a group of communications staff from Seattle Public Utilities, SWD, the City of Bellevue, and the three hauling companies. The consortium will be creating a tool kit of talking points and messages for web and newsletter content as well as developing a public education campaign. Stephen Strader citing a blog post about the confusing state of recycling, suggested it might be too late to get these messages out there. Gaisford said there will be press releases after every task force meeting, and so far King 5 and Q13 Fox have picked up the story, and the task force will be deliberate about getting the correct messages out there.

Ken Marshall said it should be acknowledged the task force has only met twice, and there is a lot of discussion going on in a room full of smart and knowledgeable people who know their industries and are getting involved. They are creating these messages as the discussion of recycling criteria is happening and it takes time to make sure the proper messaging goes out. Keith Livingston asked if the task force had any insights into how they will educate people. Gaisford acknowledged it will be challenging and cited the amount of plastic film found in the City of Seattle's recycling bins even as plastic bags have been banned.

Gaisford said the third meeting will be this Monday and the topic will be Disposal Waivers and a guest from Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC) will be in attendance to speak to the surcharges they have approved for haulers. Other topics on the agenda include city contracts and current provisions, risk share, and surcharges.

Marshall said he was sorry Pat was not in attendance in today's SWAC meeting because Marshall wanted to know if the division was going to do anything about the fact that one of the contracted haulers has been landfilling 700 tons a month without obtaining a waiver from King County. Per the contract, any material taken to a recycling facility that cannot be recycled needs to go to the Cedar Hills

Regional Landfill, and if it does not, then the division is deprived of that revenue. Gaisford said letters have been sent to haulers reminding them that the waste belongs at the landfill, but he acknowledged Republic accepts waste from jurisdictions beyond King County's regional system and more information is needed about where each jurisdiction's waste is going. Gaisford said more conversations with all the parties is needed to understand the situation and resolve any differences.

Gaisford said a report will be the end product of the task force meetings, which are scheduled through November. With the draft Comp Plan nearing adoption, the agenda for the advisory committee meetings will open up to accommodate presentations about responsible recycling policy issues.

Karen Dawson asked if the task force meetings were open to the public; Gaisford said yes, but space is a challenge, also this is an ad hoc working group with varying attendees. Dawson said she would like someone from Cedar Grove in attendance. Gaisford said agendas and meeting notes will be available online with the advisory committee information.

Livingston asked if there is any sense China is pleased with this process, and if they would change their minds. Marshall said China is still getting the material, just by way of Indonesia and Vietnam, but now Vietnam has pulled out saying there is no more room for the contaminated materials in their country. Marshall expects Indonesia will say the same thing. Livingston asked if the worldwide markets are less favorable to these materials. Marshall said yes, Australia is having the same problem as the U.S. Livingston said maybe the task force needs to think of this problem globally to make sure we are not generating something that requires disposal and has no value. Marshall remembered Penny Sweet said she wanted to reach out to other places to see what they've already done.

Phillippa Kassover says from her European perspective, they are more focused on the upstream and are regulating packaging materials and are phasing out certain types of plastics and fused things. They are funding research into compostable and biodegradable materials and making changes over time. Kassover says we have exceeded our capacity to recycle. Livingston says the 70 percent recycling goal should be revisited and we should begin a discussion with legislators to re-regulate and not rely on free-markets because we cannot manage this only on a local level.

### **Comp Plan Comments**

Moorehead presented on the final round of comments she received from the cities on the draft Comp Plan before it goes to the Executive's office on July 5. The five cities to provide comments were Federal Way, Lake Forest Park, Kirkland, Redmond, and Woodinville. Most comments were in regard to edits, typos, and the updated data. The chapters that had options in the public review draft plan have been streamlined to include recommendations. It was also recommended more context about the China Sword situation be added to the text of the draft plan. Actions 26-S and 37-S were highlighted as actions that allow for collaboration and flexibility in response to tumultuous markets.

The cities also commented on the complicated method for voting on the approval of the draft Comp Plan; Moorehead noted the formula was written into the cities' interlocal agreement (ILA) that all 37 cities signed, but is open for revision when the current ILA expires.

Moorehead acknowledged the thoughtful letter submitted by the City of Lake Forest Park which included a concern that expanding the landfill is not a permanent solution as the landfill is expected to reach capacity within the next 20 years. This issue sparked a discussion at the June MSWMAC meeting where they discussed when would be an appropriate time to begin the discussing the next disposal option, with some thinking the conversation should start as soon as the draft Comp Plan is approved, while others felt taking the issue up prior to the next plan update would allow more time for technological advances that would inform the discussion. Moorehead invites advisory committee members to add this topic to their future work plans. Marshall said the conversation about where to put

a new northeast transfer station started in 1997, and he thanked Kassover for bringing the matter to attention.

Moorehead said one line of thinking was if the discussion began in 2019, waste disposal technology will not have advanced very far beyond what we already know, and perhaps it's too soon especially while there are other pressing issues such as waste prevention take precedence. She noted state law requires the division to review the Comp Plan every five years, so MSWMAC felt that would be a good time to begin the long-term disposal discussion; and what does everyone think of that idea?

Kassover said a representative of the city who raised the issue, she feels there is a false sense of security in the Comp Plan since it does not acknowledge the next decision will be difficult and will require education of ourselves, our leadership, and the public. It will require analysis beyond our country, and the electric grid, and environmental issues to analyze and permitting – it will be a long and complex undertaking. She said there is a sense on the Lake Forest Park Council that we must take more responsibility and tough, hard decisions; if we back away we are not doing our job. Moorehead proposed amending the text to emphasis a need to get started with advance notice prior to the next Comp Plan update.

Moorehead reiterated the earlier statement that the near-final version of the Comp Plan will be distributed to the committee before their next meeting to inform the July discussion of an advisory committee letter of support. Because of the timing, the division is not asking for feedback on these chapters, but at least the committees will see what the department is transmitting.

Marshall said if we take half the products out of the blue bin they have to go somewhere else and they will shorten the life of the landfill; MSWMAC should not say 'wait five years' when in two years we might have devastation. Today is too soon but by 2019-2020, we will know more and that is when we need to be on it. Moorehead said the division looks at what is coming into the system and are always editing the capacity date. The division can keep the advisory committees regularly updated so the committees can set their work plans, stay informed, and help the division plan for the best options beyond Cedar Hills. Kassover said her council is of a mind on this and may not support the advisory letter or Comp Plan if the disposal option beyond Cedar Hills is not immediately addressed, and will be sending a letter to the Executive and county council. Moorehead said that is entirely within a jurisdiction's ability to do so.

Strader said November 2012 was the first time talk of updating the Comp Plan, but that got put on hold until they figured out the transfer stations; something always gets in the way so it is reasonable to move forward with the plan now recognizing that some issues will need to be addressed in the future.

Speaking of transfer stations, Moorehead noted Kirkland says it is willing to host the new transfer station and the other cities were happy to hear it; the division received feedback that the division needs to include community and cities in the process for the new northeast station. Moorehead said the division now has a lot of experience siting transfer stations with the south county and Factoria stations and will draw on this experience while adapting to the needs of the northeast area.

### **Comp Plan Advisory Letter**

SWAC Vice-Chair April Atwood introduced the draft SWAC Advisory Letter, saying it was basically acknowledging SWAC has worked with and been engaged by the division throughout the draft Comp Plan process. This letter says it asks the council to accept the plan and the recommendations for a new northeast facility and expanding the capacity of the landfill. Atwood asked if anything else ought to be added to the letter or anything removed. Kassover suggested the sentence at the bottom of the first page include "...as a next step" after the word "Landfill" to make it clear there are future steps to be taken. There was no opposition to Kassover's recommended edit.

Strader asked why call out the northeast facility and the landfill if we say we accept the whole plan. Moorehead said MSWMAC wanted to call them out separately since those recommendations are new since the release of the public review draft plan.

Atwood reminded the committee there used to be strong opinions about the division's use of the online survey during the public comment period. She said it was such a tiny part of the process that including it in the letter unnecessarily elevates it, but on the other hand, it could be added in as a "by the way." Strader says he would not call out the survey; it is what it is; he read through the comments and if anyone else did they would get a sense of who filled it out. Marshall agreed.

Since the SWAC meeting lacked a quorum, no decision was made on the status of the letter. Atwood said she will make the requested changes and send it to everyone to vote on next month.

### **Member and Public Comment**

There were no additional member or public comments.

Respectfully submitted by: Jenny Devlin