

**King County Solid Waste Advisory Committee
November 15, 2019 - 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
King Street Center 8th Floor Conference Center**

Draft Meeting Minutes

<u>Members Present</u>	<u>King County Staff</u>	<u>Others</u>
Kevin Kelly—Chair	Alejandra Calderon	Cynthia Foley, Sounds Cities Association
Gib Dammann	Hilary Leonard	Rory O’Rourke
Phillipa Kassover	Pat McLaughlin	Lane Covington
Karen Dawson	Jeff Gaisford	
Stephen Strader	John Walsh	
April Atwood-Vice Chair	Josh Marx	
Lee Momon	Doug Chin	
Heather Trim	Lindy Honaker	
Robin Freedman		
Barbara Ristau		
Penny Sweet		
James Borsum		

Minutes

Minutes of the October SWAC meeting were approved as presented.

Public Comments

There was no public comment.

Updates

New Members

Lee Momon, Operations Manager for the City of Seattle Solid Waste Division joined SWAC in the role of Interested Resident.

SWD Director Pat McLaughlin provided SWD updates:

Waste-to-Energy Feasibility Study

The Waste-to-Energy (WTE) Feasibility Study and the Organic Market Development Plan were passed out of the Committee of the Whole (COW) on November 4 and will be placed on the consent agenda for an upcoming Council meeting.

Media Highlights

Waste Today published a story on October 31 detailing SWD’s grant opportunities related to construction and demolition debris recycling. King5 and Komo News each ran a story about the WTE study and the Committee of the Whole Meeting where the study was discussed.

Landfill Neighbor Meeting

On October 29 SWD hosted the biannual meeting for neighbors of Cedar Hills to provide an opportunity for neighbors to ask questions and learn about current projects. About 15 neighbors were attendance.

New Wastewater Treatment System

Last month, SWD completed installation and began operation of a new wastewater pretreatment system at the Enumclaw Recycling and Transfer Station. The intent is to improve the water quality discharged from the facility and meet pretreatment requirements. The system satisfies the terms of a settlement agreement reached with Waste Action Project, an environmental advocacy group that seeks to uphold the requirements of the Clean Water Act.

Comp Plan

We received a letter yesterday from Ecology officially approving our Comp Plan. We will forward you a copy of the letter.

December SWAC

Special joint meeting on Dec 13. The meeting agenda will be sent out next week.

Kassover asked if there were any updates on the Ardagh Glass Recycling Plant. McLaughlin responded that he had discussed SWD's goals with the Director of the Facilities and Maintenance Division (FMD), the group in charge of making the land use decision. In January we can provide a more substantive update. Gaisford added that we heard SWAC's request for a presentation from stakeholders and would like feedback on where it would fit in the workplan priorities.

Trim asked SWD to send out information on the land use decision timeline because it will inform when the SWAC presentation should be scheduled.

Atwood asked for an update on the plastic bag and film collection. Gaisford responded that the marketing campaign is set to begin at the start of 2020 with social media and billboard ads. The American Chemistry Council hired someone to work at the grocery store level with implementation, but there's no update yet. Atwood noted her Nextdoor community has been actively discussing plastic bags and there were rumors circulating that the bags are not being recycled. It points to the critical issue of getting people to trust the collection. McLaughlin added that they're talking about ways to develop some measures for the campaign for tracking.

Kelly commented that one of the MRF manufacturers did a study of different geographic areas and found that despite the Pacific Northwest's higher rate of regulations around plastic bags, more plastic wrap ended up at the MRFs than in any other region. Dawson noted that it could be due to a higher amount of "wishcycling" in this region.

MSWAC

Sweet reported that MSWAC got a short update on the mattress recycling pilot. 90 mattresses have been collected at Shoreline since September. MSWAC talked about Ardagh and is interested in hearing about the results of the stakeholder talks.

2020 SWAC Work Plan

Various SWD staff presented topics for the 2020 Advisory Committee Work Plan

McLaughlin recapped successes from 2019 including passing the 2019 Comp Plan update, launching CleanUp LIFT, and laying the foundation for the plastic bag and wrap collection. Long term disposal planning must not stop now. Focus needs to shift to the 70 percent of waste taken to the landfill that could have been recycled instead of buried. In order to pursue a broader set of options beyond Landfill versus Waste-to-Energy, we need to rethink our business model. Our current model is in direct conflict with our regional goals of Zero Waste of Resources. This situation calls for local government, business partners, and customers to come together to construct a model that is aimed at our regional goals.

Kassover noted that during a recent Lake Forrest Park council meeting Republic Services asked the council to pay a surcharge for recyclables and they painted a bleak picture for creating domestic markets. We looked at the profits for Republic Services and we don't feel burdening the consumer is acceptable.

Trim commented that NorPac in Longview is opening a new building to accommodate processing all paper in Washington State.

Kelly commented that there will be millions more in tonnage capacity domestically and internationally by 2022. It's not good right now, but the market place is responding.

Sweet commented that she agrees with the goal of zero waste, however, there will be tension in terms of how long and how much can be endured for the cost of recycling. The cost of recycling and buying recycled products is going up compared with using virgin materials. McLaughlin responded that we must go back to what we're trying to achieve and whether it's zero waste or it is feeding a disposal system because that will change our approach. We do know valuable commodities are being buried every day.

Gaisford commented that it's good to talk about what the consumer is willing to pay. Consumers currently pay for the packaging of a product and they pay to get rid of it. We're talking about changing how the system places burden on the consumer.

Kelly noted that the energy industry has faced similar challenges and is trying a decoupling model. McLaughlin noted that Wastewater has faced similar challenges as well and John's team is looking into some decoupling ideas. Whatever we chose, it must incentivize our goal and currently that's not how we're set up.

Gaisford presented on the 2020 Legislative Session. The 2020 session will be short at only sixty days. A preview of anticipated bills includes the introduction of the Plastic Bag Ban (HB 1205/SB5323), a battery stewardship bill, a sharps stewardship bill, and a bill for container deposits. Gaisford asked the committee if they would like blank letter of support/ do not support ahead of bills and the general consensus of the group was yes.

Trim commented that also of interest is a potential bill related to food service single use plastics, a bill on standardizing labeling expiry dates, and there's a change to the solar panel bill that came out about 3 years ago.

Kelly commented that the chairs of SWAC and MSWAC met and discussed the committees being more active in their advisory functions in the coming year.

Walsh presented on Regional System Planning in 2020. Discussion topics will include the Zero Waste of Resources Plan, extending ILAs, updating the Comp Plan, future business models, and long-term disposal planning.

Trim noted that the workplan document doesn't include measures for zero waste and asked that a line be added. Walsh answered that it could, and the document handed out is not the latest version. A corrected workplan will be sent out to the group.

Walsh presented on the Responsible Recycle Task Force. 2020 topics will include a presentation on the results of the Materials Recovery Facility residuals study and implementing the process discussed in 2019 for Action 3A, the recycling and compost bin best practices list for materials collection.

Honaker presented on the 2021-2022 Rate and Rate Restructure. The rates charged by SWD are approved by the King County Council on a biennial basis. SWD will brief the advisory committee on the rate process, proposed rate, and a rate restructure for the 2023-2024 biennium.

Marx presented on delivering a Regional Organics Plan. A big part, one third, of the waste landfilled that had value and could have been diverted is organics. The Council moved forward on our Organics Plan as part of the budget proviso. In 2020, SWD will bring forward the residential contamination reduction research and outreach, the Universal Compost Contract, and provide an update on the Organics Plan implementation.

Trim asked for the committee to receive a copy of the Organics Plan. Marx responded it would be emailed out.

Chin provided an update on the South County Regional Transfer Station. SWD will provide updates on the design process throughout the year and seek committee feedback.

Trim asked if there will be space for the public to exchange moderate risk waste products like oil-based paint. Chin responded that there will be moderate risk waste collection the puts items into reuse as soon as possible, but they hadn't yet considered an onsite product exchange. There's potential for that to be added.

Creegan presented on the Northeast Recycling and Transfer Station (NERTS). SWD will provide updates on the design process throughout the year and seek committee feedback.

Trim asked if NERTS could was also considering a moderate risk waste facility and if a product exchange would be possible. Gaisford responded that the service is funded by the Hazardous Waste Management Program and they will determine if there's a regional service need depending on where the facility is sited.

Calderon presented on Equity and Social Justice (ESJ). SWD will conduct ESJ trainings on community engagement practices, diversity hiring practices, and illegal dumping in 2020 for the committee to engage with, ask questions, and share their own efforts.

Trim asked if a visit can be added to the workplan to discuss the environmental impact and ESJ impact in relation to solid waste facility locations. Walsh noted that we have a lot of demographic information, but not as much data on environmental justice impacts of our solid waste facilities.

Dammann asked if the 50 percent of diverse hires in 2019 included women. Calderon responded that gender is not part the diversity measurement, but women were among the diverse hires.

Dawson commented it could be useful to have an ESJ representative onsite during Cedar Hill Neighbor meetings.

Borsum asked what changes were made to the application process to be more inclusive. Calderon answered that a lot of things were examined and adjusted including any superfluous position requirements and outdated job descriptions.

Pyle presented on the Mattress Recycling Pilot Project. SWD began collecting mattresses at Bow Lake in June 2017. The program expanded to Shoreline in September 2019 and will expand to Enumclaw by the end of 2019. Since the inception, 33,079 mattresses have been collected. In 2020 we'll offer an update and seek feedback.

Sweet commented that more information on the impact of mattress diversion would be useful.

Lui presented on the Cedar Hill Site Development Plan. Once a draft of the Environmental Statement (DEIS) is ready SWD will share it with the committee in March or April for feedback. In September SWD will recap the DEIS and preview the final Environmental Impact Statement.

Kassover asked at what point SWAC should provide feedback, before or after the EIS is published. McLaughlin responded that until the draft is ready, SWD will not have anything formal for the committee to respond to.

McLaughlin presented additional topics for the committee to consider for the workplan including the Ardagh Glass property, multi-family recycling, and the Hazardous Waste Management Program. We can insert our progress measures around plastic film and wrap, multi-family recycling, etc. but there may not be significant changes one month to the next.

Attwood commented that she would like to see more on multi-family issues, issues related to building recycling capacity, successful examples of incorporating new tech such as in British Columbia, and more dialog with upstream partners in retail and manufacturing. Gaisford responded that some of these could be woven into the existing topics.

Sweet commented that many of Attwood's suggestions could be addressed through written reports.

Kelly noted that there are a lot of topics set out to be covered in a short period of time and it would be interesting to incorporate other formats for sharing info such as more written reports.

Kassover commented that she would like to hear more about the nexus between wastewater and disposal, especially around microplastics and producer responsibility.

Dammann reiterated Trim's request for a zero waste column tracking monthly progress, especially efforts being made at the community level like the Fix It Cafes. As a committee we could try to reinvigorate community reuse activities.

Strader suggested adding C&D updates, new streams for material recovery, SWD managed funds, and member recruitment to the list of potential topics. Kelly noted that recruitment would fit under attendance, bylaws, and vacancies in the existing topic list.

Kassover expressed concern on the Ardagh glass recycling issue. The glass recycling plant is essential for accomplishing our waste reduction goals and I'm hoping the County can provide support for the company to meet their obligations for clean air and water. We will miss the boat if we don't do our part to keep that business in King County.

Dawson added that every processor in King County should be acting with operational integrity and one specific section should not be treated differently than the rest. The wellbeing of the surrounding community can not be sacrificed.

McLaughlin responded that he would bring more substantive updates on the Ardagh plant in January.

Member Comment

There was no member comment.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 11:25