

King County Solid Waste Advisory Committee

March 19, 2021 - 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.

Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

Meeting Minutes

<u>Members Present</u>
Taylor Atkinson, Interested Resident
April Atwood, Marketing - Vice Chair
James Borsum, Labor
Gib Dammann, Interested Resident
Karen Dawson, Manufacturing
Robin Freedman, Waste Industry
Phillipa Kassoover, MSWAC
Bill Louie, Interested Resident
Ken Marshall, Labor
Penny Sweet, MSWAC
Leah Tischler, Public Interest Group
Heather Trim, Public Interest Group
Wendy Weiker, Waste Industry

<u>King County Staff</u>
Margaret Bay, SWD staff
Joy Carpine-Cazzanti, SWD staff
Jenny Devlin, SWD staff
Jeff Gaisford, SWD staff
Brian Halverson, SWD staff
Pat McLaughlin, SWD Director
John Walsh, SWD staff

<u>Others</u>
Dwight Miller, Parametrix, Inc
Aleks Posielski, KC Councilmember Kathy Lambert staff
Jackie Wheeler, Sound Cities Assoc.

Call to Order and Introductions

Vice Chair Atwood presided over the meeting, which she began at 9:30 with a request for McLaughlin to introduce attendees.

Minutes

Atwood asked for a review of the February SWAC minutes. Sweet made a motion to review the minutes, Marshall seconded the motion. SWAC members discussed the desired level of detail to include in the minutes, with a decision made to request a high-level summary of topics discussed and decisions made with less detail. The February minutes were approved unanimously.

Public Comments

Marshall said he is a committed member of SWAC and thanks SWAC for their patience with his recent schedule conflicts with the SWAC meeting schedule.

Updates

Division Director Pat McLaughlin provided the SWD update:

No Pipe Bomb at Factoria Recycle & Transfer Station (FRTS)

A King County resident inappropriately disposed gunpowder and tree trunk removal materials at FRTS. King 5 News suggested the materials were components of pipe bombs, but there were no indications of malintent.

Bow Lake Intersection Improvements

The division is working with the city of Tukwila to reconfigure and restripe the intersection just outside the Bow Lake Recycling and Transfer Station to improve safety and visibility this summer.

New SWAC Members Approved by King County Council

Weiker, Louie, and Tischler were approved to join SWAC by King County Council on Wednesday, March 17. Atkinson will be confirmed shortly.

There are vacant positions for representation from a landfill neighbor, an interested citizen, and someone working within the marketing and education sector and the recycling industry. SWAC members discussed the possibility of recruiting from colleges, consultant or contract businesses, or community-based organizations such as ECOSS. Members also discussed how the requirement to meet in-person in downtown Seattle is a barrier to participate and perhaps the post-pandemic meeting schedule could be a hybrid such as most meetings could be virtual except for one in-person meeting per quarter. Another suggested the division's request to recruit from SWAC member's affiliations is the reason for lack of diversity in SWAC.

State Legislative Update

Gaisford read from the division's legislative update.

MSWAC Update

Sweet said the MSWAC meeting included a discussion about potential sites for the Northeast Recycle and Transfer Station (NERTS) and whether it was appropriate for MSWAC to advise on the topic. There was not enough time for the Flow Control update.

2022 Rates

Halverson presented the division's updated tonnage forecast, new cash flow forecast, and recommendation for yard and wood waste recycling and mattress handling fees.

The division recommends a \$30 mattress handling fee to offset the costs of transporting the mattress to the processor. For the benefit of new SWAC members, there was an explanation how the fees offset the division's costs of disposing these materials. Walsh explained the proposed \$12 minimum yard and wood waste fee is charged for up to 320 pounds. Beyond that weight, the fee would be prorated from the \$75 per ton amount, so half a ton would be half the tonnage rate. Staff explained how the Clean Up Lift program offers a discount to customers who show evidence of qualifying for other low-income relief programs.

During a discussion about the infeasibility of the county hosting recycling events, such as a mattress collection event for college students, Marshall noted all major hauling companies offer bulk service, wherein customers can call in to request a special pick-up for bulky materials.

SWAC members discussed concerns about whether mattress processors actually recycle mattress components or if they charge a recycling fee just to dump mattresses in the landfill, and would the division be doing the same when collecting mattresses at stations that do not offer recycling. McLaughlin explained this is the reason why the proposed fee is called a 'handling fee,' since not all mattresses will be recycled. He notes mattresses take up space in the landfill and take a long time to dispose. Gaisford said division staff visit processing facilities and receive monthly reports as to the marketability of recycled materials. He said he would investigate the existence of some kind of mattress association and find out if they know what happens to used mattresses collected by mattress retailers. There was a request for a report to SWAC regarding how many mattresses go through the county's system.

In answer to a question about the possibility of banning mattress disposal at the landfill, McLaughlin said the division has not determined if there is adequate capacity in the market for used mattresses, but other

jurisdictions such as Pierce County and Seattle charge handling fees as well. SWAC members are interested in more data about the disposal and recycling of used mattresses in the region.

Then there was a discussion about how charging separate fees may or may not incentivize recycling, and the importance of educating consumers about their disposal and recycling options, including the associated costs and fees since recycling is not free and requires end-markets for reuse.

Halverson then presented the three proposed paths for managing the schedule for rate increases with the announcement the division would like to recommend the smoothest path for rate increase (Option C), which would add less than \$1.00 to a monthly curbside collection bill. He noted the upcoming project to restructure how the rate is charged, such as an account or volume fee, would align with this rate proposal and still be revenue neutral. As with MSWAC, SWAC members said they support the two options with the smoothest, most stable paths of either Option B or C. In answer to a question about the division pursuing grants to offset costs, Gaisford said the division applies for opportunities that support our efforts and was recently awarded with two grants of \$50,000 each for market development.

Halverson shared the schedule for the rate increase project.

Flow Control

McLaughlin said he has no substantive update on the matter of Flow Control beyond a verbal agreement to split MRF residuals 50-50 with the City of Seattle. He will have another update to share during the April SWAC meeting.

Potential Sites for Northeast Recycling and Transfer Station (NERTS)

McLaughlin said the division is preparing for the environmental review process of the four potential sites for NERTS. Describing each in a high-level overview, he said none of them are ideal and all of them have challenges. Then he described the results of a community survey about the sites.

SWAC members agreed that none of the sites seemed ideal and expressed concern about the financial and reputational costs associated with putting forth unpopular options. Many offered support for the suggestion the location and design of the facility ought to provide public recreational amenities, such as the facility built on a small parcel in Seattle.

Member Comments

Sweet announced the City of Kirkland is organizing a virtual tour of the North Seattle transfer station for their community and council. She said she would send the link to Carpine-Cazzanti to share with SWAC members.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:36