

King County Solid Waste Advisory Committee

April 16, 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
Phillipa Kassover, MSWAC
Bill Louie, Interested Resident
Ken Marshall, Labor
Penny Sweet, MSWAC
Leah Tischler, Public Industry Group
Heather Trim, Public Industry Group

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

<u>Others</u>
Keith Livingston
Rory O'Rourke, Public Health Seattle – King County
Aleks Posielski, KC Council staff
Jackie Wheeler, Sound Cities Assoc.

Call to Order and Introductions

Vice Chair Atwood presided over the meeting, which she began at 9:34 with a request McLaughlin introduce attendees.

Minutes

Sweet moved to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Marshall. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Updates

Division Director Pat McLaughlin provided the SWD update:

Potential Northeast Recycling and Transfer Station Sites Announced March 31: After considering input from a number of stakeholders that included city representatives on the Core Cities group, residents, and a community-based siting advisory group, King County identified the following sites to study in an environmental review process under the State Environmental Policy Act:

- 16111 Woodinville-Redmond Rd NE, Woodinville 98072 (Site of Winsome Trading and an adjacent undeveloped property owned by Northwest Utilities)
- 11724 NE 60th St, Kirkland 98033_ (Houghton Transfer Station)
- 7024 116th Ave NE, Kirkland 98033 (Houghton Park and Ride)

The environmental review process will start with scoping in summer 2021, when the public will be invited to comment on the proposed siting alternatives, impacts, and potential mitigation measures to study in the EIS. King County will then prepare a Draft EIS due out for public review and comment in early 2022.

King County will continue to work with the cities, property owners, near neighbors, stakeholders and community members to understand and respond to their questions and concerns around the project, and to provide opportunities for input that will ensure the new station is a good neighbor and a community asset.

Community Online Meeting April 21: Newsletter with information arrived in mailboxes this week, and via GovDelivery email sent last week. Joy included the newsletter with your MSWAC materials.

- Meeting topics:
 - High-level overview of Landfill
 - Site Development Plan update
 - Construction and Environmental Monitoring Activities update
 - Operations update
 - Bio Energy Washington update on landfill gas-to-energy plant activities

SWAC recruitments: The division is recruiting members of Solid Waste Advisory Committee which is comprised of representatives. Vacant positions include: interested resident near landfill, people who work in the marketing/education, waste industry, agriculture industries, and other interested citizens.

State Legislative Update

Gaisford read from the division's legislative update. Trim provided additional updates on two other bills passing through committees.

MSWAC Update

Sweet said the committee reviewed a draft letter of support for the division's proposed rate increase and requested edits for final approval at the next meeting.

New SWAC Chair Elected

SWAC Chair Kevin Kelly accepted a new position as Director of Solid Waste in Snohomish County and will be resigning from Recology and SWAC. An election to select the new Chair and Vice Chairs of SWAC will occur in September. In the meantime, the committee unanimously voted Vice Chair April Atwood to an interim Chair position. The interim Vice Chair position will be elected at the May meeting. The division will send the current member roster with term expiration dates to committee members before the next meeting.

2022 Rates

Halverson began his presentation with an overview including an update on the Executive briefing about the proposed 2022 rate, a review of a draft letter of support for SWAC to consider sending to the Executive, and a concept for alternative bond terms for major projects.

Halverson said the division briefed the Executive on the proposed rate increase for 2022 and shared the feedback from the advisory committees. The Executive supports the division's proposal to increase rates from \$142 per ton to \$154 per ton in 2022 and keeps increases to the curbside rate under a dollar per year through 2026 when the rate is projected to reach \$220 per ton.

The proposed rate supports comprehensive plan actions, requires no cuts to service levels nor delays progress on the development and construction of the two new transfer stations, and continues investment toward zero

waste efforts. A legislative package formalizing the recommendation will be submitted to the Executive in May.

Rate Support Letter

The draft letter of support from SWAC to the Executive as written requires editing to make it clearer no one is excited about increasing the rate, but committee members recognize the need to do so to maintain service levels, improve access to the facilities, create jobs during recovery, support zero waste of resources, and support Cleanup LIFT. The letter says while the committee supported no rate increase in 2021, it does not support any service level cuts that would be necessary in order to for maintain the current rate in 2022.

A discussion followed about using the same language as in the edited MSWAC letter in addition to editing the first bullet point in the list of reasons to support an increased rate in 2022. It was noted the Sound Cities Association voiced support for no rate increase in 2021 but there is an indication they may be willing to voice support for a rate increase in 2022, pending a decision next week by their Public Issues committee and Board of Directors.

Bond Financing

Halverson next presented a slide showing the impact on future rates if the division changed the bond maturity terms beyond 2040, the year when the bonds are currently set to mature given they are tied to the expiration of the Interlocal Agreements (ILAs). The shorter the bond term, the more the division has to pay out on an annual basis. He said the County and Cities could amend or extend ILAs to allow for longer bond terms.

Halverson showed a graph comparing the status quo against the concept to extend the bond term to the expected lifetime of the facilities with staggered maturity dates between 2023 and 2060 via 30-year terms.

Sweet asked if the division would begin preliminary analysis on the amount of debt it would be seeking when determining a long-term disposal option. A discussion followed as to the merits of including future debts in this analysis given uncertainty of those future debt amounts. The division agreed to begin preliminary analysis of long-term disposal option bond scenarios using the estimated figures published in the 2016 Comprehensive Plan.

Further discussion about generational equity - the fairness over who pays for infrastructure over the lifetime of the asset, and whether cities would be willing to extend the ILAs with the division without knowing what the long-term disposal option will be. McLaughlin clarified the proposed extension of the ILAs would only be in regard to current financial obligations under the bonds and not require a commitment to belong to the future regional waste disposal system; the proposal is akin to refinancing a 15-year mortgage with a 30-year mortgage for smaller payments over a longer period of time.

Zero Waste of Resources/Re+

Walsh presented the division's branding of the Zero Waste of Resources effort: Re+ (pronounced: Re Plus) wherein the prefix "Re" is added to a variety of verbs as a way to inspire our ratepayers to make conscientious choices about waste disposal. A discussion followed in support of the branding with its emphasis on actions people can choose over disposal.

Humphreys presented an update by the Re+ Task Force (formerly Zero Waste of Resources Task Force), who will have recommendations for the consideration of committee member within the month. She said

according to Washington State Department of Ecology, King County, with 28% of the state population, is responsible for contributing 43% of the state's total residential curbside recycling collections. But there is room to improve: King County residents (excluding the cities of Seattle and Milton) throw away 800,000 tons of waste a year versus the division's goal to reduce that amount to 200,000 tons.

The division's Re+ effort focuses on reducing the amount of paper, plastic, food, and yard and wood waste disposed at the landfill because these materials make up the bulk of the waste stream and have end-market challenges. This effort requires the region to shift from a linear extraction-based economy to a circular economy based on re-use. Circular economy principles are outlined in the county's Strategic Climate Action Plan.

The Re+ Task Force created four key intersecting criteria for decision making: 1) Diversion – how significant is the impact on diverted tons 2) Climate – zero waste is a key SCAP commitment 3) Cost – who pays, how much when 4) Equity – how to ensure a just transition toward an equitable future. With these criteria, the necessary new lines of business will be in sync with other broad county initiatives.

The Re+ Task Force has met regularly for a year, and will soon have high-level recommendations about technology and policies for the advisory committees in May, ahead of a public launch of the branding initiative in Q3 – Q4 2021, in time to launch the next steps by Q4. They have been learning about organics, curbside recycling, and have taken several eTours about current and advanced technologies. They are not discussing long-term disposal options as that topic is out of their scope.

The Re+ Task Force has discussed two approaches for the region: one where King County takes the lead or where the region commits to the same actions, which requires a critical mass to make progress. Unlocking progress will require greater effort with more political and financial capital, and behavior change, cost, operational changes, etc. Yet, even with a regional approach it is unlikely the county will reach the annual goal of a maximum 200,000 tons of waste disposed. It is likely a statewide approach will be needed.

In May, the advisory committees will consider Re+ recommendations, followed by an eTour about opportunities for small businesses. In June, the conversation will continue to confirm the approach and release a plan for public comment in Q3.

A question followed about how the division defines region when suggesting a regional effort would be needed. The current King County Solid Waste system consists of unincorporated King County, the 37 partner cities, and the hauling companies – in this conversation, Seattle is included as a partner; a region could include "MRF-sheds" in which a material recovery facilities serves multiple counties; or a region could be statewide.

Flow Control

McLaughlin said the division has discussed an interim approach with the City of Seattle to split the revenues incurred with the disposal of MRF residuals delivered to Seattle from King County customers. The parties have

indicated a willingness to pursue binding arbitration but need to invite a representative from two of the 18 affected cities - each with a contract with one of the two affected hauling companies - to participate.

A question followed about the quantity and enforcement of flow control of residual waste sorted out from yard and wood waste collections. While the division did not have information at hand as to the quantity, there was agreement flow control violations may be occurring there as well and the situation will receive attention.

Member Comments

Trim invited committee members to participate or other interested parties to join her in a discussion this summer about an organic waste management bill to divert organic waste from landfills. The conversation will be about identifying beneficial uses for the organic material, especially food waste.

Carpine-Cazzanti reminded members to turn in financial disclosure forms.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:21