

King County Solid Waste Advisory Committee

July 16, 2021 - 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

Meeting Minutes

<u>Members Present</u>
April Atwood, Marketing - Chair
Gib Dammann, Interested Resident
Karen Dawson, Manufacturing
Phillipa Kassover, Sound Cities Association
Bill Louie, Interested Resident
Penny Sweet, MSWAC
Heather Trim, Recycling Industry
Wendy Weiker, Waste Industry

<u>King County Staff</u>
Navera Ahmed, SWD staff
Margaret Bay, SWD staff
Joy Carpine-Cazzanti, SWD staff
Nori Catabay, SWD staff
Jenny Devlin, SWD staff
Jeff Gaisford, SWD staff
Brian Halverson, SWD staff
Karen Herndon, SWD staff
Pat McLaughlin, SWD Director
Jazmine Patten, SWD staff
Dorian Waller, SWD staff
John Walsh, SWD staff
Andy Smith, SWD staff

<u>Others</u>
Eyasu Ayalew, Public Health – Seattle & King County
Nat Bennett, Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget staff
Michell Mouton, Hazardous Waste Management Program

Call to Order and Introductions

Chair Atwood called the meeting to order at 9:30.

Minutes

Review of SWAC’s June meeting minutes was postponed until quorum was achieved.

Public Comments

There was no public comment.

Updates

McLaughlin provided the SWD update:

Northeast Recycling & Transfer Station (NERTS)

Siting efforts for the new transfer station are continuing, and thus SEPA process is not yet initiated. SWD received new information about a prospective property in Woodinville and will be assembling the siting advisory group soon to evaluate alternatives. A final decision for which properties will be advanced through the SEPA process will occur within next 45 days. Meanwhile, the Core Cities of Kirkland, Redmond, Woodinville and Sammamish are working with SWD staff to finalize documents to be posted on the project website.

Customer verification

To preserve critical waste disposal services for King County service area customers, SWD will now require customers to show proof of residence or business within King County’s service area when disposing of their waste and recycling at King County recycling and transfer stations. Over the last 30 days, SWD served 55,000 customers, with nine incidents of significant customer reactions that required escalated support.

Rate Proposal

Thank you for the SWAC letter of support, which Executive Constantine included in the legislation package sent to the King County Council on June 3. SWD expects the Budget and Fiscal Management Committee to take it up July 20 and go before the full Council after that, in time to meet our deadline of adoption in early September per the 90-day rule in the interlocal agreements.

Hot weather-related facilities closure

Due to the extreme temperature on June 28th, SWD closed all transfer stations and the Cedar Hills scale house because the A/C units in the scale houses could not keep up with these temperatures. The temperatures, without effective A/C, presented a significant risk to the health of our employees; fortunately, commercial haulers had completed their trips and there was already minimal self-haul traffic at stations.

There was a question about Councilmember Dunn's proposal to form a Waste to Energy (WTE) Facility Siting Committee. McLaughlin said the proposal has not gone before Council yet as a discussion item, but it has been assigned to the Regional Policy committee. DNRP leadership has expressed concerns this presupposes an outcome of disposal SWD had not made yet, especially given the significant amount of work planned and already completed. SWD staff will closely monitor the issue and will update advisory committees as more information is available.

MSWAC Update

There was a request for an update from the Sound Cities Association (SCA) meeting. Carpine-Cazzanti said the Public Issues Committee (PIC) included a report on the SWD rate proposal, but SCA staff recommended no action since the rate proposal was similar to a recent proposed wastewater treatment rate increase, with a similar smooth rate trajectory. The report is available in the PIC packet posted online at the SCA website.

SWAC Recruitment

There are four vacant positions in SWAC for representation for a landfill neighbor, the waste industry, agriculture, and an interested resident. Later this fall, there will be three other vacant position: two interested residents, and one marketing industry. McLaughlin is reviewing three applications from two interested residents, and one waste industry representative.

Minutes

With quorum achieved, SWAC's June meeting minutes were reviewed.

There was a request for an update about the flow control arbitration process: SWD is working with cities to identify prospective participants but has secured no commitments yet. While two cities consider participating, SWD is considering proceeding without having city representatives at arbitration. SWD is seeking letters of opinions or support and will inform city staff and elected officials. There was a suggestion the Sound Cities Association might be interested in learning more about this topic.

There was a request to schedule a presentation by Ardagh, a glass recycling facility. McLaughlin said he would soon receive a briefing from King County's Facility Management Division (FMD) about the lease with Ardagh and will provide an update to committee members in August.

There was a unanimous vote to approve SWAC's June meeting minutes.

South County Recycling and Transfer Station (SCRTS) Update

Herndon presented a project summary of the SCRTS project in Algona. The new station accommodates recycling services and moderate risk waste disposal for households and small businesses

Sustainable building features. The building will include sustainability features, public art, on-site ecological enhancements and other community benefits. The project includes stream relocation and wetland mitigation, stormwater management and road improvements.

The project is at 60% design, which shows the locations and features of facility components such as scale house and plaza which will resemble the Bow Lake RTS, the administrative building, the transfer station with trailer bays, and traffic flow, site grading and retention walls. The total acreage of the developed site is nine acres.

Changes made to the project since it was at 30% design include parking lot, landscaping, and a canopy over the fueling facility to improve rainwater management. The stream will be realigned to its original bed to the north to give it more space to meander space, moving to north brings it to original stream bed but with additional woody debris and riparian plantings.

This project is striving to meet the International Living Future Institute's Living Building Challenge Energy Petal Certificate, the first facility of its kind to apply for this level of certification. To meet the certification requirements the facility must produce onsite energy, so design includes solar panels on the roof and face of the building. Other petal certificates are being pursued: equity, place, and beauty.

Community benefits include a courtyard patio, a lobby with environmental messaging, and a multipurpose room available as a community meeting space. The artists selected to produce the public art include a member of the Muckleshoot Tribe and an art instructor from Evergreen College.

Later this summer there will be several opportunities for the community to provide feedback on the project at this 60% design phase including during an online open house, and at an event with the City of Algona on August 14th. These opportunities will be promoted on social media, on the SWD website, and a mailer. SWD staff are also seeking community input to learn how to better engage with BIPOC or other under-represented communities on this project to learn what could be added to the design that could promote social equity and accessibility at the facility.

So far, apart from facility design features, in partnership with a local food initiative to promote farming in south King County, the project contributed funding for a solar pump to be used at a community farm for immigrants and refugees. The project also includes a partnership with Dirt Corps to provide apprenticeship opportunities in green jobs. The project is also funding add interpretive sign and other amenities to the Interurban Trail.

The project is scheduled to finalize up to 90% of its design in fall 2021, when the community will have more opportunities to review design and provide feedback. The project should reach final design by spring 2022 and is expected to be ready for construction bids in summer and fall 2022. The facility is expected to be open for business by 2025.

There was a suggestion to include in the design of the facility a re-use area where customers can bring useable items for others to take home for free and another suggestion to include an organic waste collection area.

Re+

Smith began by sharing the Re+ Task Force framework of actions and recommendations. SWD staff will soon draft a final plan reflecting input from advisory groups for publication next year. Then he summarized how Re+-driven policies and technology might align in sequence in a system-level framework, starting with encouraging consumer behavior changes and investment in technology.

Priority actions include accessing local benefits through improved local infrastructure and innovation. As an example, rethinking food waste management by diverting 100,000 annual tons from the landfill could lead to climate benefits and economic benefits, creating a circular economy.

Smith said the key to viable processing technologies is unlocking useable feedstock via source separation. If we don't pursue source separation, then some processing technology won't be available, and options are narrowed. Source separation relies on consumer behavior and would avoid virgin production of more waste material. New policies and legislative actions are needed to encourage waste reduction and increase diversion. Smith says the key to policy development is dialogue and the achievement of a critical mass of support for the effort.

There was a discussion about how cities could model the King County Cities Climate Collaboration (K4C) group to analyze options and make decisions to reduce materials going to landfill, which is included in King County's Strategic Climate Action Plan.

The discussion turned to source separation and how it is likely more feasible with commercial entities who produce relatively clean waste such as grocery stores and production facilities, rather than residential curbside. SWD is interested in providing technical and perhaps financial support (grants) for local businesses and organizations.

SWD predicts, with Re+ efforts, the waste stream will change to include source separated materials, comingled materials that could be decreased through increased outreach about waste prevention, and contaminated materials that would require new technology to further process.

The Re+ Task Force is exploring how to make equitable market development and will soon post a report online with recommendations to attract potential markets through requests for proposals. SWD will work with a consultant who will present recommendations to the advisory committees for input with hopes to process new material in 2024 to be on track for 70% reduction in waste disposal by 2030.

Discussion followed about the costly and complicated burden of work that falls on cities and haulers to redo contracts, coordinate logistics, and educate consumers. It was noted many small businesses, such as delis and coffee shops, likely do not have the physical space to do source separation and comply with public health standards, even if there was technical assistance and financial support from SWD. Ensuing comments varied between expressing an urgency to act with a focus on waste prevention, and the need to allow time for stakeholders to get on board and get organized.

Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan Update

Walsh presented on the Comprehensive Plan Update plan, which technically need not be updated every five years, merely reviewed. Yet SWD has several potential updates to make including a decision for a long-term disposal option, updates to the chapters on materials management (Re+) and finance (rate restructure), a

possible update to the interlocal agreement (ILA) amendment process, and including the Contaminated Recycling Outreach Plan (CROP). These will be discussed more in-depth next year.

Before determining the long-term disposal option, SWD needs to determine what year the landfill is expected to reach capacity, which depends on what decision is made for last developable portion of the landfill, Area 9. Without Re+ efforts, the landfill could reach capacity in 2028 if SWD pursued the “Do-Nothing” option but this is not a realistic since SWD is legally obligated to provide regional disposal services. The other Area 9 options forecast reaching capacity in years 2037, 2038, or 2046. The decision for Area 9 is expected to be made in Q4 2021.

Walsh noted the ILAs require SWD to engage with city representatives about long-term disposal options at least seven years before the projected closure but these discussions would likely begin much sooner due to lead needed for the next disposal option. He discussed analysis from the 2019 Arcadis study comparing waste export to WTE and how they projected siting, permitting, and building a WTE plant could take 8-10 years. Therefore, SWD needs to finalize the comp plan update by 2026. A discussion followed about the urgency of developing a plan soon, given the time required for legislative bureaucracy, and siting, permitting, and constructing a facility, and the burgeoning effects of climate change. Walsh will draft a timeline to show how the plan will be updated by 2026.

Walsh said SWD will soon hire consultant support to study how Re+ efforts will affect content and decisions in the comp plan, and after a six-month procurement process the consultant will present findings to the advisory committees for decisions to be made by mid-2023.

There was a discussion about the permitting approval process for developing Area 9, which is largely about identifying environmental and operational impacts of relocating existing facilities elsewhere at the landfill and any associated mitigation.

Walsh concluded his presentation with a reminder the long-term disposal option must be a decision made in the comp plan, and not in the ILAs. Walsh is seeking to secure Re+ commitments from city partners, then get everyone to agree on a long-term disposal decision, then secure long term ILAs, and finally adopt comp plan. There was a suggestion to make sure the consultant would be objective and independent and not use the resulting report as a sales pitch for their own product.

Member Comments

No member comments.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:30.