

King County Solid Waste Advisory Committee
June 17, 2022 - 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

Meeting Minutes

Members Present	King County Staff
Taylor Atkinson, Vice Chair, Citizen Representative	Mai Bui, SWD staff
James Borsum, Labor Representative	Brian Halverson, SWD staff
Karen Dawson, Manufacturer	Karen Herndon, SWD staff
Robin Freedman, Waste Industry	Kinyan Lui, SWD staff
Bill Louie, Citizen Representative	Pat McLaughlin, SWD Director
Ken Marshall, Labor Representative	Amy Ockerlander, SWD staff
Penny Sweet, Local Elected Official	Mary O’Hara, SWD staff
Leah Tischler, Public Interest Group	Theresa Place Thurlow, SWD staff
Heather Trim, Recycling Industry	Yolanda Pon, Public Health Seattle/King County
	Andy Smith, SWD staff
	Isabelle Trujillo, SWD staff
	Dorian Waller, SWD staff
	John Walsh, SWD staff
Guests	
Phil Allen, non-member citizen	

Call to Order and Introductions

Vice Chair Atkinson called the meeting to order after introductions at 9:42 a.m.

Prior to the agenda and minutes review, Trim shared the agenda for the upcoming WA Litter Summit in the chat.

WA Litter Summit

Registration: <https://bpt.me/5363529>

July 19th 12-3:30 pm

Opening Keynote: Jeff Kirschner, CEO of Litterati.

Session 1: Homeless encampments

Bart Potter, WA DES.

Julie Gilbertson, Vancouver, WA.

Harold Odom, Lived Experience Coalition

Sayde Heminger, City of Tacoma.

Session 2: Prevention/Messaging

Amber Smith, WA Department of Ecology.

Renee Bator, SUNY Plattsburgh.

Olga Kachook, GreenBlue.

Susan McCleary, City of Olympia and Paige Morris, City of Burien.

July 20th 9:00 am – 12:30 pm

Cleanup/Technologies

Steven Williams, WA State Department of Ecology.

Jule Schultz, Spokane Riverkeeper.

Chris Lopez, Tacoma Eastside Collaborative.

Jessica, Oscar's Enemies.
Liz Schotman, Surfrider

Policy/Effective Programs/Best Practices/Effectiveness assessment
Omkar "Om" Aphale and Bethany Drahota, Cascadia Consulting Group.
Talia Wise, WM.
Randy Hartmann, Keep America Beautiful.
Heather Trim, Zero Waste Washington.

Closing keynote: Nancy Lee, Social Marketing Services

Agenda and Minutes

Atkinson moved to approve the June 2022 agenda. Sweet motioned and Trim seconded. Atkinson moved to approve the May 2022 minutes. Sweet motioned and Marshall seconded. There were no changes to the agenda and the meeting minutes were passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Allen shared that he's happy that the NERTS project team has followed through with one of his suggestions. He then stated that he has two suggestions, and the other suggestion refers to a way to look at existing data to find an optimal placement for the new transfer station. He hopes that if he keeps bringing this suggestion up, the NERTS project team will use it.

Waller commented that since the SWAC is a public meeting, Allen is always welcome to attend as a member of the public.

SWD Updates

McLaughlin provided the SWD update:

Tonnage report

We are up 2.5% for the year. Last month we received roughly the same volume of tons as in May 2021. Commercially collected tons recovered are up by 6% compared to May 2021 and continue to rise.

Vashon Island Community Meeting

On June 7, we hosted a community meeting for the residents of Vashon Island. SWD has been working with Zero Waste Vashon and other island partners to consider the costs and benefits of processing organic waste produced by Vashon. This work included a recently completed Vashon Organics Processing Feasibility Study and community survey to learn more about public opinion on the topic. This community survey had a high level of engagement and participation. Attendees heard an overview of the feasibility study, the results of the community survey, and some potential options for future projects. Project staff also answered questions from the public and discussed potential steps for Vashon Island organics processing and next steps on citing a facility on Vashon. SWD is continuing to look for ways to process organics directly on the island.

Trim wanted to know what the options are on Vashon Island for dealing with organics and what is the timeline that SWD is looking at. McLaughlin responded that SWD is currently looking for compost and space on the property as one option to manage organics on the island. Another option is looking at an organization like Impact Bio Energy and see how they're processing food waste. We are looking at composting on the island but haven't made a decision to add composting yet.

Smith stressed the importance of HB 1799 and stated that SWD will listen to the community and their desires with dealing with organic waste. As well as figure out how the material will get to a facility to be processed.

Walsh added that we are currently in phase one of options and study. Phase two will study the feasibility of having composting on site and what the collection aspect would be like. The second phase will be wrapped up next year and then we will decide whether to have composting on site.

Trim followed up asking if the compost facility would be County run. Walsh responded that the County would have to explore more on if we would run the facility or if a 3rd party would.

Trim asked for the report from the Vashon Organics Feasibility Study. Halverson shared the information about this study and results are available here: <https://kingcounty.gov/depts/dnrm/solid-waste/facilities/vashon-compost.aspx>.

'23-'24 rates legislation

The rate package was transmitted to Council on June 15. Thank you to committee members for your letter of support for the proposed rate. We are currently briefing KCC members about the rate legislation.

Secure your load events

SWD partnered with WSP and Department of Ecology to support Secure Your Load outreach starting June 6, which is the national Secure Your Load Day. The last two Saturdays, on June 6 and 13, SWD staff held events at two of our transfer stations raising awareness for our customers around the importance of securing your load.

Customers were provided free cargo nets that were provided by Department of Ecology, handed out informational brochures, and answered any questions customers might have. SWD brought in additional staff, as well as members of management, to staff both events and support the project.

First heavy-duty all-electric vehicle

On June 8, SWD leadership joined the Executive, representatives of Kenworth Trucking Company in Renton, and local media to celebrate the roll-out of a battery-electric heavy-duty truck, kickstarting a new market for a zero-emissions vehicles.

The electrification of heavy-duty trucks is a critical step to reducing on-the-road greenhouse gas emissions, pollutants, and noise. SWD is proud to be one of the first waste management agencies in North America to operate a Class 8 battery-electric truck, which will haul waste from Enumclaw Recycling and Transfer Station to the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill. The full delivery will be next month.

KOMO Radio and KIRO TV covered the event, and King-5 expressed future interest when SWD takes delivery of the truck later this month.

We are making an early debut of the electric truck at Kirkland's 4th of July festival.

Marshall wanted an update on the lawsuit with the City of Seattle regarding residual fees and wanted an update on the agreement with Snohomish County and when SWD will be sending loads to the Roosevelt landfill. He added that some of his drivers are being impacted due to this agreement. McLaughlin responded that there is flow control occurring with Seattle and we are exchanging drafts of an agreement which would resolve the residual issues and the King County MRF for tonnage. McLaughlin stated that he is encouraged with the draft exchange and the attorneys are meeting next week to discuss the drafts. He is hoping to share a more tentative agreement at the July SWAC meeting.

Marshall commented on the compensation aspect of the agreement with sending loads to the Roosevelt landfill and wanted McLaughlin to be aware that this will impact his drivers.

McLaughlin asked Marshall if the drivers take their loads to the railyard. Marshall responded that they don't because they load it right at the facility. Marshall added that this started with an investigation that he did but did not intend for

money to be taken from the drivers to go to the County. McLaughlin stated that he appreciated the feedback and that he and Marshall will talk more about it.

McLaughlin then provided an update on the other issue regarding the Snohomish tonnage exchange. SWD hasn't received additional tonnage in 3-4 weeks and aren't expecting anymore. However, Snohomish County has signaled that they aren't out of the woods yet and that there might be more tonnage sent to the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill. We are beginning the shift of tonnage that would have been brought of the MRF's to the Roosevelt landfill. He added that we will keep going until all 8,500 tons sent to King County have been addressed and that we will get the revenue from the load disposal at Roosevelt.

Marshall commented that the drivers are being impacted by this agreement with Snohomish County and believes that he should have been included in this decision. He added that his drivers are being told that they will not know more about compensation until the 1st of the year.

McLaughlin stated his appreciation to Marshall for this feedback and thanked him.

Re+ pledge

Waller provided the RE+ pledge update.

The RE+ pledge is ready and a draft letter of support of RE+ efforts will come to the SWAC committee in the next couple of weeks. We are in the process of scheduling meetings with elected officials which was brought on from the Sound Cities Association Tour of the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill on May 23.

MSWAC Update

The MSWAC agenda mirrored the SWAC meeting except for comments and discussion.

Sweet requested that the SWAC sees the draft letter so that it can have as many eyes on it as possible.

2023-2024 Rate Proposal Update

Halverson presented on the billing changes that will be coming in January 2023. With the rates restructure there will be a fixed-annual charge with a reduced tonnage fee in the implementation year. Billing will still be monthly, and the fixed annual charge will be billed out each month, equal to 1/12th of the annual total each month. We're working on a letter for cities with context on the new fixed-annual charge and how it will work. Depending on the contract, the fixed-annual charge may go through the hauler or the city.

City contract language will need to be updated and it can be difficult to get these contracts updated to handle FAC charges. SWD can't be party to negotiations, but we've provided some limited funding to pilot cities and haulers to assist in developing template language. The pilot was created to alleviate the burden of updating contracts for smaller cities. We'll provide that template language to all cities by end of August. Cities do not have to wait to contact their haulers. There will be letters with the information forthcoming.

House Bill 1663

Thurlow presented on House Bill 1663 that passed this year. The bill addresses reducing landfill methane emissions. Our landfills currently must comply with an umbrella of clean air and emissions regulations from the EPA, State of Washington, and Puget Sound Clean Air Agency. Cedar Hills Regional Landfill has a gas collection and control system with over 815 gas wells and approximately 25,000 linear feet of gas conveyance pipe. We're conducting a new pilot to make gas collection more efficient through installing LOCI valves and sensors. We also have a request in our 2023 budget to rebuild 4 internal headers.

Trim asked what the difference is between the red and green lines on the graph shown and what LOCI is.

Thurlow responded that LOCI is a company that has real time well adjustment for landfill gas systems. Their company is the only company that does adjustments in real time, and they will be doing a pilot project to see how SWD can increase our efficiency by real time adjustment of the value. Right now, SWD has real people going out to adjust the wells.

The different colored lines just represent the different headers, which are the collection pipes, and they mostly coincide with landfill cell closures. Each line identifies the time that they went in and that is why they are different colors. For example, the yellow header line on the right-hand side is what SWD calls the central header.

Currently we use the handheld serpentine method dictated under EPA rules to monitor methane, but it is slow and cumbersome. We're investigating using drones as a diagnostic tool to better pinpoint areas of the landfill that may have an issue like a leakage where there is escaping gas. These drones could help us respond quicker to leaks in the liners.

Our closed landfills also have gas collection systems and may be subject to House Bill 1663. The closed landfill gas collection and control system has a different purpose. It's focused on effects like assessing impacts from landfill gas on groundwater.

Our end goal is to terminate post closure maintenance and our efforts are geared toward the end goal of terminating post closure maintenance. We are doing different pilot projects to see what we can do to collect emissions off the landfill and possibly have bio-organic processes (bugs) eat the methane so that we have no emissions.

Development of HB 1663 was guided by similar legislation adopted by California and Oregon to regulate methane emissions from landfills. We have already meet many of the requirements dictated by the bill.

Requires installation, proper operation, monitoring, recording, and reporting of gas collection and control systems at all landfills with greater than 450,000 tons of waste in place that received waste after 1992. Cedar hills will fall under these guidelines.

Over the next year, Ecology will develop standardized rules for implementation and reporting. For instance, they will need to work out information on open flares in the bill that doesn't line up with federal code, which is a conflict in legislation with 40CFR60.18. They also need to work out new conditions for closed landfills.

We will not be able to determine impacts until Ecology's rule making process is finished. We are due to start in August.

Trim wanted to know if we will be using the high elevation of planes and satellites for our landfill. Thurlow responded that she hasn't heard of this and that the only type of aerial measuring she knows of is the drone type. The EPA has method 34 which is how SWD must measure for reporting,

Trim added an article link in the chat that relates to this aerial measuring: <https://www.jpl.nasa.gov/news/a-third-of-california-methane-traced-to-a-few-super-emitters>

Atkinson asked if SWD is worried about jobs being displaced with the automation of these aerial readings. Thurlow responded that based on an early assessment, we do not anticipate this happening. Depending on the rules from Ecology, there might be an increase in personnel rather than a decrease.

NERTS UPDATE

O'Hara presented an update on the Northeast Recycling and Transfer Station (NERTS) project.

Our current Houghton station, built in the 1960's, has outlived its useful life. The amenities and size of the station have created limitations with recycling and garbage services.

We worked with regional partners to outline a commitment to replacing the transfer station with a modern facility in the 2019 Solid Waste Division Comprehensive Plan. Transfer stations play a central role in reducing a community's environmental impacts by reducing waste and increasing possibilities for product reuse. Modern facilities focus on redirecting recyclable content from the waste stream and preventing hazardous materials from contaminating the environment. They're integrated into the neighborhoods they serve and include features such as public art, walking trails and educational space. Prior to modern designs, transfer stations were often called "dumps" and essentially functioned as such— a place to dump trash before it's taken to the landfill. Previous stations didn't account for the impacts of odor, noise and traffic.

The County has a six-step process to evaluate suitable sites. SWD began meeting with the Core Cities (Kirkland, Redmond, Sammamish, Woodinville) in late 2019 to begin the NERTS siting process. In August 2021, the Core Cities raised concerns around the selection process and the County took a pause and shared all siting data to allow the cities to conduct their own review. We were asked to review an additional parcel and chose to not move it forward due to environmental constraints. The final four sites under consideration include two locations in Kirkland and two in Woodinville.

On May 12, we hosted a virtual open house and information session and provided an overview of the project and siting process. Over 200 people attended the event and there were 70 questions submitted live and 47 questions submitted in advance. On May 19, we hosted our eighth siting advisory group meeting to provide a recommendation on which three sites should move forward.

This month we'll decide which sites will move forward based on the environmental review, equity impact report, financial viability, and socio-economic analysis. All of these will be presented to KCSWD Director McLaughlin which will help make the decision. Once the sites are selected the SEPA process will begin. We expect EIS scoping will take place this fall and the draft EIS should be issued in September 2023.

Waller wanted to remind the committee that we normally don't have the public comment during the presentations but that it is up to Vice Chair Atkinson. Atkinson stated that the committee members will speak first, and then non-committee members can speak.

Trim had two questions. She wanted to know what the suggestion was that Allen made, and if there was a clear consensus from the Siting Advisory Group members after the most recent SAG meeting. O'Hara responded that in the interest of being thorough and complete, we are going through the parcels again to make sure that we did not miss anything in earlier reviews. We started off 70,00 sites and did a progressive search to narrow down the number of sites to find the best suited parcel of land for the new transfer station. We are currently reviewing 5–8-acre parcels of land to see if there are any other feasible sites that exist. Regarding the SAG meeting, there was a mixed reaction from the SAG members on which of the two Woodinville sites they preferred.

Marshall thanked the County for the presentation and update and expressed his concern over the availability of the three possible candidate sites that the County doesn't own throughout the entire process. He then asked what the contingency plan is if one of the sites becomes unavailable throughout the process. O'Hara responded that the County does not have a specific plan for this, but we can look further into this and send out details.

Marshall followed up saying that one of the sites that King County had originally looked at on NE 124th St is under development as we speak. He is concerned about the project being further delayed if one of the sites were to become unavailable.

Trim commented that she has always liked the wastewater treatment center in New York that has a park on top of it. She wanted to know if the County will be doing something like that with the new transfer station and believes there should be true multi-use of the facility. O'Hara responded that this will be looked at during the upcoming EIS and we will get input from the community on what they really want in the new transfer station, as well as how we can offer amenities that the community can enjoy.

Allen stated that he feels that there is a mismatch between a statement made during the slideshow presentation and what was asked of the SAG members during the last meeting. O'Hara responded that the SAG members were asked to say which of the two Woodinville sites they preferred to move in the process. We have decided that the two Kirkland sites and only one of the Woodinville sites will move on.

Cedar Hills Regional Landfill Site Development Plan

Lui presented a brief update on the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill site development plan.

The final EIS was published in March 2022 and followed by a FEIS appeal period which ended on April 8. There were no appeals. We anticipate selecting a preferred alternative and relocation option by Q2 2022. Once the preferred alternative is selected, we'll work on Area 9 design and permitting. We expect Area 9 construction to begin in 2025 with a Spring 2028 opening. There will be no gap between permitting and construction.

South County Recycling and Transfer Station

Herndon presented an update on the South County Recycling and Transfer Station (SCRTS) project.

We're at 100% design and will have the consultants submit the design deliverables on June 20. Some of the design elements include enhanced onsite stormwater collection with three large detention vaults and stormwater piping that will be segregated and filtered before flowing into the watershed. We collaborated with the Muckleshoot Tribe to create fish-passable habitat as part of onsite stream realignment, which added additional cost and time to the project.

There were also some offsite design elements. Across the West Valley Highway and into Algona, we are going to upgrade the nearby sanitary sewer line as part of project coordination. We're also working to re-align West Valley Highway to improve sightlines for traffic safety.

Herndon proceeded to show the available 3D renderings of the inside and outside features of the transfer station.

Marshall wanted to know if SWAC members can get this 3D rendering. Herndon responded that it will be available on our website soon and that she will work with Waller to get this rendering out to SWAC members. There will be significant amount of art from the Muckleshoot tribe throughout the station.

We're tracking towards meeting our Living Building Challenge petal certification goals. We are pursuing four of the seven petal certification goals: place, energy, equity and beauty. The major petal that we are pursuing is our energy petal. Our energy plan for the project will produce 105% of the energy needs onsite. We had to get creative with incorporating solar panels into the canopy above the building entrance to supplement the panels covering the roof. These will produce about half the energy needed for the site.

For Equity and Social Justice actions, we're partnering with DIRT Corps to kick-off a training program with participants from south county municipalities. Trainees get hands-on experience in wetland restoration, including plant salvage activities. We also partnered with Local Food Initiative and Public Health to support south county farming and will be partnering with King County Parks to add amenities to segments of the Interurban Trail.

Throughout the fall, our primary focus will be permitting. We expect the bidding period to begin shortly after in late 2022.

Atkinson asked how KCSWD intends to maintain the health and integrity of the stream onsite. Herndon responded that the station has been designed in a way that will include a self-maintaining stream. We currently have not identified anything for maintaining the stream, but we are under contract and obligated to maintain the riparian plantings that will protect the stream.

Member Comments

Atkinson proposed an idea to help Vashon Island deal with organic material. She suggested that neighbors create their own compost sites to help in the interim. McLaughlin responded that he appreciated the idea and wants to continue more education around composting, such as what is it and how it can benefit people.

The meeting adjourned at 11:03.