

Summary of Engineering and Planning (E&P) Subcommittee August 6, 2020 Meeting for August 2020 MWPAAC General Meeting

Clean Water Plan – SEPA Scoping Comments

Due to Covid-19, WTD was not able to conduct an open house to receive public comments on their SEPA Scoping for the Clean Water Plan. At MWPAAC's request, WTD extended the comment period for another month, WTD's outreach program tried to reach diverse groups to ensure that their input was considered. King County received input from 24 persons/entities, including MWPAAC. WTD is compiling the comments and will release a report in the next several weeks.

Biosolids Proviso

In June 2019, the King County Council asked WTD to explore alternatives to the existing Class B biosolids program, including the ability to expand or diversify the marketability of the product. Currently, 74% of the Class B biosolids produced are used in agricultural application, 24% in forestry application, and 2% for compost (sold as GroCo, although that percentage will now be less since the partner producing GroCo is now closed). WTD evaluated continuing current operations as well as two new alternatives: pyrolysis that converts Class B biosolids to a carbon-rich biochar that can be used as a soil amendment, and Class A biosolids through digester upgrades, soil blending, and composting, to generate a suite of products including one similar to City of Tacoma's Tagro, which we toured a few years ago at our July field trip. WTD found that while continuing to produce Class B biosolids is the lowest overall cost, transitioning to at least some Class A biosolids appears to be feasible as Brightwater, Westpoint, and South Plant undergo upgrades. Such future diversification may help resolve periodic transportation issues such as when the mountain passes are closed and meet local demands for soil amendments. Note that a change in the King County Code would be needed to allow the production of Class A biosolids.

Questions?

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