

**Solid Waste Interjurisdictional Staff Work Group Meeting  
Summary  
March 30, 2005  
King Street Center**

**Meeting Attendees:**

City Staff:

Sharon Hlavka – City of Auburn  
Alison Bennett – City of Bellevue  
Elaine Borjeson – City of Kirkland  
Rika Cecil – City of Shoreline  
Desmond Machuca – City of SeaTac  
Frank Iriarte – City of Tukwila  
Valarie Jarvi – City of Woodinville

County Staff:

Peggy Dorothy – Council Staff  
Brad Bell – SWD  
Neil Fujii - SWD  
Jeff Gaisford – SWD  
Greg Holman - SWD  
Kevin Kiernan - SWD  
Josh Marx – SWD  
Bert Tarrant - SWD  
Diane Yates - SWD  
Gemma Alexander - SWD

**I. Introductions**

Members introduced themselves.

**II. SWD Updates**

- On April 6, the Solid Waste Division (SWD) will update the Regional Policy Committee (RPC) on the Analysis of System Needs and Capacity report.
- The City of Issaquah recently completed a competitive procurement process and has awarded Waste Management a contract for collection of solid waste and recyclables.
- Beginning May 9, Factoria transfer station will no longer accept yard waste for recycling. Because of space constraints and the increase in garbage coming to the station, there is not room to handle yard waste separately. Yard waste recycling services are available from the private sector. Consistent with other King County transfer stations, yard waste will be accepted as garbage at Factoria. Following reconstruction, the First NE transfer station will accept separated yard waste for recycling.

**III. Recycling Briefing – Zero Waste of Resources**

SWD Recycling and Environmental Services Manager Jeff Gaisford discussed the importance of beginning the planning process to determine the future direction of waste reduction and recycling policies and programs. The division would like input from the cities on this planning effort.

Three methods for input were discussed.

- 1) Form a subcommittee of the ITSG to discuss recycling issues monthly. The committee would be structured and operate similarly to other ITSG

subcommittees. This option would require the greatest level of commitment and involvement from the cities.

- 2) Begin with one or two workshops to scope out recycling issues and lay the foundation for planning. The first workshop could be “Recycling 101” to familiarize attendees with the issues. The second could involve discussion of alternatives. Workshops could serve either as an alternative to a committee or a preparation for committee development. Workshops could be open to cities staff, policy-makers, SWAC and MSWMAC. In the past, the division has offered workshops at the start of the Comp plan update process.
- 3) The division would research recycling options independently, then present cities with options. ITSG input would guide the further development of the ideas presented. This option would require the least involvement from cities.

In response to a question, Gaisford said the existing recycling coordinators group is an information sharing group and does not serve in an advisory position. Cities’ response to recent bans of mercury, electronics and sharps indicated that a higher level of involvement by cities in recycling planning was needed. ITSG member Sharon Hlavka said MSWMAC and recycling coordinators should both be included in waste planning. In some cities one person is responsible for both solid waste and recycling programs, while other cities have separate staff for solid waste and recycling. Although there was mistrust in the beginning of the waste export planning process that is no longer the case.

The group agreed that workshops are the best way to bring solid waste and recycling staff together as well as policymakers to discuss regional recycling goals and the means for attaining them. A regular committee may form following the workshop(s). There may be two levels of involvement in the committee- active attendance and email only. The group agreed that the first workshop should be in June at the Tukwila Community Center.

Handouts on “2003 Total Waste Disposed at KC Stations” and “2003 Total Single Family Waste Disposed and Recycled Curbside” were distributed and discussed. The group agreed that the contents of the handouts would be part of the workshop. The workshop could also include:

- A summary of past actions to promote recycling, including building infrastructure, voluntary programs and public education.
- An evaluation of current recycling issues, including impacts of operational changes like single stream operations and automation.
- Discussion of possible strategies for the future, such as continuing voluntary and educational programs, fee changes, policy and waste acceptance regulations, product stewardship, and adding collection of new materials.

The division will send an email inviting ITSG members to participate in workshop planning and/or a regular recycling planning committee. Auburn, SeaTac and Shoreline staff indicated their interest in helping to plan the workshop.

#### **IV. Last Two Milestone Reports**

- **Analysis of Options for Public & Private Ownership and Operations of Transfer and Intermodal Facilities**

SWD Engineering Services Manager Kevin Kiernan presented a diagram illustrating the current solid waste system. The three component waste streams are Municipal Solid Waste, Recycling, and Construction, Demolition and Landclearing (CDL).

- CDL debris is primarily privatized. Small self haulers can take CDL to King County transfer stations, but most CDL goes to private stations where it is processed and recycled or disposed in private landfills.
- Recycling is also primarily privatized through curbside pickup and processing. Only a very small amount goes to county transfer stations.
- Curbside garbage collection is entirely privatized. About 80% of the solid waste that comes to King County transfer stations is collected curbside by private companies, with the rest coming from self haulers. Depending on several factors, 12 to 25 percent of solid waste generated in King County goes to private transfer stations.
- Currently all municipal solid waste in King County's solid waste system goes to Cedar Hills. Once Cedar Hills closes, disposal will be privatized. Waste will be exported to a remote private landfill. Federal, state and local codes require that maintenance of the Cedar Hills landfill continue for several decades after closure.
- Once solid waste is exported, the solid waste system will include a new function, intermodal, which may be private or public.

The division has met with Waste Management and Rabanco, and will meet with Waste Connections. Waste Connections is a national company that recently purchased Northwest Containers.

The division has begun to identify options informed by the meetings with the commercial collection companies. The options include a fully public transfer system, a fully private transfer system, and a mixed public/private transfer system. A public/private system would include some combination of existing and/or new county transfer stations and existing and/or new private stations. It may also be possible to develop mixed operational facilities with a publicly operated scalehouse and privately operated tipping floor.

The division will identify other operational choices such as the level of recycling capacity at transfer stations, as well as options for designating certain stations or hours of operation for commercial or self haul only.

The commercial haulers have indicated that they would not want to make capital investments without 15 to 20-year contracts. Such contracts could allow the division to determine how much waste is sent to each transfer station. ITSG suggested the contracts could include commercial recycling. Possible compensation methods include negotiated cost per ton and "put or pay," which is guaranteed waste quantities.

Intermodal options also range from entirely public to entirely private, with the possibility of a public/private jointly operated intermodal facility in between.

The third report will identify options and pros and cons of each option, but will not include recommendations.

- **Preliminary Transfer and Waste Export Facility Recommendations**

The fourth report will be more data intensive. A major challenge will be collecting cost information for the private alternatives since this data is usually considered proprietary. The division will probably use cost information from jurisdictions that have used the alternatives under consideration.

## **V. Ordinance Deliverables and Due Dates**

Both MSWMAC and SWAC have approved motions in favor of postponing the Waste Export System Plan due date to April 30, 2006.

The division will present an outline of the public/private alternatives to MSWMAC at its April meeting. ITSG will receive copies of this outline as well as the current transfer system diagram by email in early April.

ITSG agreed with division staff that the deadlines for two other Ordinance 14971 deliverables: the Solid Waste Interlocal Forum's recommendation on the continuation of ITSG and ITSG's recommendation on interlocal agreement issues should be changed from December 2005 to April 2006 to be consistent with the revised due date for the waste export system plan.

The group agreed to reschedule ITSG meetings from the fourth Wednesday of the month to the third Wednesday of each month. Meetings will continue to be at King Street Center from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. The recycling planning workshop may take the place of the June meeting.

## **VI. Next Steps**

- **MSWMAC Discussion of Criterion 17**

Discussion of Criterion 17, "Other Local and Regional Considerations," is on the MSWMAC agenda for April 8. It will follow the second report as an addendum.

- **Meetings With Commercial Haulers**

The division will continue meetings with the haulers. Their input will be included in the outline of identified alternatives sent to ITSG. At its April meeting, MSWMAC will decide whether to invite the haulers to the May meeting for discussion of the draft third report.

- **Meetings With Unincorporated Area Councils**

On April 20, the division will update the Unincorporated Area Councils on the waste export system planning process.