

**Solid Waste Interjurisdictional Staff Work Group Meeting
Summary
May 18, 2005
King Street Center**

Meeting Attendees:

City Staff:

Sharon Hlavka – City of Auburn
Alison Bennett – City of Bellevue
Elaine Borjeson – City of Kirkland
Nina Rivkin – City of Redmond
Desmond Machuca – City of Seatac
Rika Cecil – City of Shoreline
Frank Iriarte – City of Tukwila

County Staff:

Peggy Dorothy – Council Staff
Mike Huddleston – Council Staff
Beth Mountsier – Council Staff
Kevin Kiernan - SWD
Theresa Koppang - SWD
Bert Tarrant - SWD
Diane Yates - SWD
Gemma Alexander - SWD

I. Introductions & Updates

Members introduced themselves. Kevin Kiernan introduced Theresa Koppang, the Solid Waste Division’s new lead planner. She has been with the division for eleven years, most recently in Recycling and Environmental Services, where she led the county’s green building program.

Kiernan announced that the division has settled the lawsuit that was brought by Rabanco.

Snohomish County is experiencing a container shortage due to rail issues. This serves as an example of the importance of planning for emergency storage capacity as part of a waste export system.

BNSF railroad may abandon its Eastside line, which makes use of that line an unlikely possibility for waste export. It now appears that the area from South King County to Renton is the only area likely to support rail for waste export.

Council Staff Peggy Dorothy reported that the Natural Resources and Utilities committee will take up the motion to approve the second report, “Analysis of System Needs and Capacity,” on May 19. The report is scheduled to go before the full council on May 31.

II. Analysis of Options for Public & Private Ownership and Operation of Transfer and Intermodal Facilities

Kiernan reported MSWMAC had a presentation from three hauling companies at its meeting last week. The haulers emphasized the need for 15-20 year contracts to justify capital investments. They also agreed on the need for a transfer system with an optimal number of transfer stations rather than a single intermodal facility.

ITSG discussed the draft third report, “Analysis of Options for Public and Private Ownership and Operation of Transfer and Intermodal Facilities,” and agreed that policy questions should be prominent in the report. The group suggested the following changes to the draft report:

- Add a paragraph to page 2 discussing the relevance of ILAs to the waste export planning process. County staff member Mike Huddleston volunteered to provide this language.
- On page 3, insert language to explain how the trend toward single stream recycling is blurring the line between recycling facilities and transfer stations.
- Flesh out the variables, such as regional direct fee, that impact private haulers’ use of public transfer stations on page 4.
- Return language from the earlier draft describing service variables in more detail than the bullet points used in the current draft.
- Expand the final sentence on page six to clarify that many elements are affected, not just those listed.

The division asked ITSG to provide input on Table One: Public/Private Characteristics. Characteristics 13 and 14 are blank. If no suggestions are made to fill these boxes they will be removed. ITSG reviewed Bellevue’s comments on the table. The final bullet on characteristic 4 was removed, and language was changed in characteristic 11.

III. Independent Review

The division will not be involved in development of the independent review, since it is an evaluation of the division’s work.

Huddleston suggested using the review that was done of the Regional Wastewater Services Plan as a model for this process. He distributed three hand outs related to that review. He suggests that ITSG begin thinking about what issues should be included in the review and characterizes those issues as things that require a second opinion. ITSG decided not to bring this topic to MSWMAC at this time.

IV. Next Steps

- Huddleston will provide the division with additional language for the introduction to ILA and policy issues.
- The division will revise the draft with the group’s comments and provide the revised draft documents to ITSG members for review by email. Email comments on the next draft will be sent to the entire group for consideration.
- The division will produce a white paper on solid waste governance to serve as an introduction to the topic for the June meeting.