

# Solid Waste Interjurisdictional Technical Staff Work Group (ITSG)

**Approved February 27, 2008**

**King Street Center**

## **Meeting Attendees:**

City Staff:

Sharon Hlavka – City of Auburn

Tom Spille – City of Bellevue

Sabrina Combs – City of Bothell

Rob Van Orsow – City of Federal Way

John MacGillivray – City of Kirkland

Stacey Breskin-Auer – City of Redmond

County Staff:

Jennifer Broadus, SWD

Jeff Gaisford, SWD

Jane Gateley, SWD

Josh Marx, SWD

Bill Reed, SWD

## **I. Review Agenda and Minutes**

Everyone present introduced themselves. ITSG member Sharon Hlavka announced that she is leaving the City of Auburn to work as an environmental consultant under Green Solutions, Inc.

The draft January meeting notes were approved as submitted.

## **II. SWD Updates**

Intergovernmental Relations Liaison Diane Yates reported that the legislation to make ITSG permanent was reintroduced at the King County Council on February 25<sup>th</sup>.

The division has developed a website for ITSG and the Metropolitan Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee (MSWMAC) meeting materials and reports. It is not available to the general public. The website can be found at:

<http://www.metrokc.gov/dnrp/swd/about/MSWMAC-ITSG-resources.asp>

## **III. ITSG Role and Follow up to February MSWMAC meeting**

Yates said Chair Jean Garber presented a draft ITSG work plan at MSWMAC's February meeting. The work plan included questions for ITSG to respond to in writing, however, many of those questions relate to the next presentation that is still being developed. MSWMAC will continue their discussion of ITSG's role at their March meeting.

ITSG considered the process by which ITSG could best support MSWMAC. Members expressed concern about the level of coordination and lead time required to plan for each meeting if ITSG became an on call committee. It is already challenging to ensure that staff with the correct expertise attend, and to achieve wide representation of cities at the meetings. There was consensus that ITSG should have a regular meeting schedule.

Members expressed uncertainty about the kind of feedback MSWMAC wants, and there was consensus that MSWAC should give ITSG specific direction.

ITSG considered whether the meeting minutes could serve as the written report for MSWMAC. The division stated that there is not enough time to finalize the minutes before materials are distributed for the MSWMAC meeting. Additionally, the ITSG notes reflect the discussion but

do not provide formal recommendations or the level of analysis desired by MSWMAC. Noting that MSWMAC benefits from the leadership of a Chair, ITSG member Sharon Hlavka suggested ITSG might also select a Chair to facilitate meetings and prepare the MSWMAC report.

ITSG discussed which committee should view presentations first. One suggestion was for ITSG to provide input on presentations in advance of MSWMAC, and then answer MSWMAC's specific questions after MSWMAC views the revised presentation.

Yates said that there are many different ways to structure the planning process. The division will be happy to comply with whatever process the cities agree upon.

ITSG members agreed that their report to MSWMAC should include city and county attendance at ITSG meetings, and more information about ITSG's input during the development of the presentations. In addition, the report should include ITSG's recommendations for MSWMAC's responses to questions posed by the division, and answers to specific questions posed by MSWMAC to ITSG.

#### **IV. WPR: Goal Development Part 1: Presentation/Discussion**

Division staffperson Josh Marx presented the powerpoint MSWMAC viewed at its last meeting titled, "WPR: Goal Development Part I." This can be found at:

<http://www.metrokc.gov/extranet/dnrp/swd/Goals2MSWMAC02082008.ppt>

ITSG discussed the term Zero Waste. ITSG member Tom Spille said Bellevue's position is that the term Zero Waste is confusing to the general public. Other members commented that the term has become a standard in the industry.

There was consensus that the Comp Plan goals should be achievable. Cities noted that some goals, such as the overall and commercial goals, may be more meaningful for the county than for cities, because the available data is not city specific, cities cannot measure their progress against the goal.

ITSG discussed how the numbers were generated for the waste generation goal. ITSG considered the merits of a per capita versus a total tonnage goal. Members generally preferred the per capita goal. There was consensus that regardless of how the goal is stated, the division should track as much data as possible. ITSG was concerned that a goal of reducing waste generation by 15 percent might not be achievable.

Spille said that he would like to see individual commodities goals. Marx said that the reason the division did not choose these as goals was because existing programs and data are typically organized around generators as opposed to materials, and that recycling of individual commodities is market driven and can change regardless of government programs.

#### **Next Steps:**

ITSG member Rob Van Orsow volunteered to give the ITSG update at the March MSWMAC meeting. Spille will prepare the ITSG report in April.