

**Solid Waste Interjurisdictional Technical Staff Work Group**  
**Meeting and Governance Discussion Summary**  
**August 18, 2006**  
**King Street Center**

**Meeting Attendees:**

City Staff:

Sharon Hlavka – City of Auburn  
Rob Van Orsow – City of Federal Way  
Elaine Borjeson – City of Kirkland  
Linda Knight – City of Renton  
Amy Ensminger – City of Woodinville  
Valarie Jarvi – City of Woodinville

County Staff:

Beth Mountsier – Council Staff  
Kevin Kiernan - SWD  
Mark Buscher - SWD  
Diane Yates – SWD  
Gemma Alexander - SWD  
Jeff Gaisford – SWD  
Bill Reed – SWD  
Tom Karston - SWD  
Jane Gateley – SWD  
Alexander Rist – SWD  
Bobby Dutton – SWD  
Josh Marx - SWD

**I. Review Agenda and Finalize Notes**

ITSG deferred approval of the draft July 27 minutes and reconsideration of the June 28 minutes until its next meeting.

**II. Updates**

Kevin Kiernan introduced Mark Buscher, who has returned to the division as lead planner. Buscher is returning to the division after two years with Wastewater. He has worked on previous Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plans.

The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Transfer and Waste Export System Plan received two written comments. Washington DOT submitted generic comments on the scoping notice. It is anticipated the EIS will be completed by September 1.

The recycling white paper that ITSG worked on earlier this summer has been revised. An introduction has been added and graphs have been updated with more recent data. It will be included as an appendix to the Transfer and Waste Export System Plan

**III. Discussion of Draft Transfer and Waste Export System Plan; Ordinance 14971 Section 5B Response Document; Rate Study and Recycling Goals**

The export plan has not generated much discussion. MSWMAC and SWAC have not made any comments. Both committees have decided they will vote on a conditional approval of the plan pending results of the third party review.

ITSG did not have any comments on these documents.

**IV. Disposal Forecast and Recycling Model**

Division Economist Alexander Rist and Recycling and Environmental Services Staff Bill Reed gave a presentation on the disposal forecast, which is based on solid transfer and

disposal data, and on the recycling model, which is more of an estimate of possible outcomes and scenarios. The presentation is available at:

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

The division asked the cities for input on its data improvement methodology, called 'smoothing.' The division feels that although other jurisdictions do not follow this practice, smoothing provides a more accurate estimate of recycling rates by filling in the missing data. The division asked how much methodological detail should be presented to MSWMAC. Sharon Hlavka of Auburn said MSWMAC members will have a lot to say about recycling, and won't have enough time if too much detail is provided. Valarie Jarvi of Woodinville agreed, and suggested that the smoothed data should be presented as the best available data without going into the methodology. She said MSWMAC is more interested in discussing goals. All members agreed that MSWMAC members are very interested in recycling and will want sufficient time to discuss the topic. ITSG did not think that it was necessary for the consultants to be present at MSWMAC to explain smoothing.

The division asked the cities whether CDL recycling rates should be included in the general recycling rate. ITSG members commented that a combined recycling rate could be perceived as "cheating" by some, and may lead others to believe that more work is not needed. It was noted that the distinction between MMSW and CDL is sometimes artificial, and ITSG members agreed that all recycling should be captured somehow. Elaine Borjeson of Kirkland suggested that a two-tiered rate such as "60% MMSW and 75% total" could be used. Division staff Josh Marx commented that is similar to the distinction between "recycling" and "recovery" that is sometimes made. Hlavka said that she liked that approach.

ITSG members discussed wood recycling, noting that the data for wood was inconsistent with trends for other materials. The division said that the data for wood is questionable, and may be eliminated from the final presentation. Hlavka suggested that the county should create incentives for the cities to fold yardwaste collection rates into their garbage rates so that the service is more widely available. Reed said that was an excellent idea and would be added to the list of strategies. He said there is data on the impact of embedded rates on recycling.

ITSG discussed mandatory service. About half of the cities have mandatory service. The division said that its assumptions about efficiency and participation are by necessity somewhat speculative, but they are based upon experiences with other programs.

ITSG agreed that care is needed in presenting information about bans, which are usually seen as negative by elected officials. ITSG members felt that bans are a legitimate and useful strategy that must be presented in a positive light to be seriously considered. The hammer icon on the strategies handout will be replaced. Engineering Services Manager Kevin Kiernan said it's important that the region be clear that bans will not be considered until there is adequate infrastructure, conveniently located with sufficient capacity to handle the material.

The division asked for input on the multicolored “King County 2005 Recycling Summary” handout. Elaine Borjeson of Kirkland said the colors are useful, if the corresponding pie charts are provided as well. She also suggested that the division explain the difference between recycling and diversion. Hlavka said that the smoothing explanation is not necessary. Linda Knight of Renton said the division needs to be clear that the 2005 numbers are not “real” because the final data is not available yet. Otherwise, people will think the numbers are final, and be confused by any changes when the final data does become available. Some ITSG members suggested that the 2005 data might be eliminated altogether, with only finalized data shown.

ITSG suggested that the last bullet on the first slide of the presentation be changed to past tense because it describes a strategy that has already been implemented.

ITSG agreed that this presentation is very helpful and informative for MSWMAC members. The division will present this information to MSMWAC at its next meeting, with the changes discussed. The division will make it clear that this is part of the Comp Plan discussion and does not impact the Transfer and Waste Export System Plan.

## **VII. Next Steps**

Intergovernmental Staff Liaison Diane Yates will email ITSG after Labor Day to schedule the next meetings. Many members are on vacation right now, and will not respond until after the holiday.