

KING COUNTY METROPOLITAN SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

November 14, 2008

11:15 a.m. – 2:20 p.m.

King Street Center, 8th Floor Conference Center

Meeting Minutes

Members in Attendance

<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Title</u>
Jeff Viney	City of Algona	Councilmember
Joan Clark	City of Auburn	Recycling Coordinator
Rich Wagner	City of Auburn	Councilmember
Susan Fife-Ferris	City of Bellevue	Conservation & Outreach Program Manager
Sabrina Combs	City of Bothell	Special Projects Administrator
Lisa Clausen	City of Burien	Government Relations Specialist
Barre Seibert	City of Clyde Hill	Councilmember
Dini Duclos	City of Federal Way	Councilmember
Rob Van Orsow	City of Federal Way	Solid Waste & Recycling Coordinator
Jessica Greenway	City of Kirkland	Councilmember
John MacGillivray	City of Kirkland	Solid Waste Coordinator
Jean Garber	City of Newcastle	Councilmember
Jon Spangler	City of Redmond	Natural Resources Division Manager
Kirsten Weinmeister	City of Snoqualmie	Recycling Coordinator
Frank Iriarte	City of Tukwila	Deputy Public Works Director
Justina Tate	City of Woodinville	Representative

Others in Attendance

Solid Waste Division

Gemma Alexander, SWD Staff

Ann Berrysmith, Finance and Administration Manager

Jeff Gaisford, Recycling and Environmental Services Manager

Jane Gateley, SWD Staff

Kathy Hashagen, SWD Staff

Kevin Kiernan, Division Director

Thea Severn, Planning and Communications Manager

Diane Yates, SWD Staff

Cities

Sabrina Kang, Suburban Cities Association

1 **Call to Order**

2 After hearing the Governance Committee Report in caucus, and breaking for lunch,
3 MSWMAC Chair Jean Garber of Newcastle called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.
4 Meeting attendees introduced themselves.

5
6 **Approval of October Meeting Minutes; Review Agenda**

7 **Barre Seibert of Clyde Hill moved to approve the October minutes.**

8
9 *The October minutes were approved by consensus.*

10
11 **Updates: SWD/SWAC/Other/Master Schedule**

12 **SWD:**

13 Solid Waste Division Director Kevin Kiernan reported that Executive Sims has
14 negotiated a tentative agreement with the Labor Council to furlough most King County
15 workers for ten days in 2009. The King Street offices will be impacted by the proposed
16 furlough days. The transfer stations and landfill will remain open because it is not clear
17 that their closure would result in a net savings.

18
19 Two of the furloughs have been scheduled on February 13th and April 10th; which are
20 regular MSWMAC meeting days. Intergovernmental Liaison Diane Yates will contact
21 members for their preferences regarding alternate meeting dates.

22
23 The division continues to experience tonnage declines as the economy slows, which Ann
24 Berry Smith will discuss in her presentation on the 2009 budget.

25
26 Over twenty prime contractors attended the pre-bid meeting for the Bow Lake Transfer
27 Station project. The division is scheduled to open bids this month. This level of interest
28 combined with decreased materials and fuel costs may result in more competitive bids.

29
30 The Factoria Transfer Station consultant shortlist will be released this month. Consultant
31 proposals have been shortlisted. Interviews will be scheduled shortly.

33 Regarding the impact of recent events on the investment pool, firm data is not available at
34 this time, though it appears to be more of a long term than a short term impact. The
35 division will report to MSWMAC when better information is available.

36

37 Transit provides their own collection of garbage at Park and Rides. It is a direct cost to
38 them and adding recycling would impact their budget. The division will continue to help
39 them consider longer range solutions, but financial concerns make rapid action unlikely.

40

41 The division has received several awards recently. They include awards for the Shoreline
42 Recycling and Transfer Station from the Northwest Construction Consumer Council for
43 the *Green Project of the Year* and the *Grand Award – Project of the Year*. Shoreline also
44 received the American Institute of Architects *Honorable Mention – What Makes it*
45 *Green?* and the *Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Platinum* designation.

46

47 The division was the recipient of two *Totem Awards* from the Public Relations Society of
48 America for the television ads supporting the *Recycle More It's Easy to Do* campaign.
49 That campaign also earned a *Silver* award from the Solid Waste Association of America
50 (SWANA) for Communication Education and Marketing. SWANA presented the
51 division with two awards for the Integrated System Plan; the *Silver* award for Planning
52 and Management and the *Innovation* award.

53

54 Gemma Alexander is leaving the division. The group thanked her for her excellent
55 support. Kathy Hashagen will be taking MSWMAC meeting notes.

56

57 Master Schedule:

58 Planning and Communications Manager Thea Severn reported there were no major
59 changes to the Master Schedule. An updated schedule will be distributed at the next
60 meeting.

61

62 **SWD 2009 Budget**

63 Finance and Administration Manager Ann Berrysmith distributed the 2009 Executive
64 Proposed Budget Summary to attendees. The 2009 budget reflects a six percent decrease

65 in tonnage from what was projected for the 2008 budget. Tonnage for 2009 is projected
66 to be 987,000 tons. The Division noticed that tonnage was decreasing in late 2007 into
67 early 2008. The revised projection for 2008 tonnage is eight percent lower than the
68 original projection – 1,048,000 tons to 960,000 tons. The tonnage decrease is consistent
69 with that experienced by other solid waste agencies.

70

71 Revenues from grants historically fluctuate from year to year, and are currently down.

72

73 The Landfill Gas to Energy plant is conservatively budgeted at six month's worth of
74 revenue for 2009.

75

76 All operating sections of the Solid Waste Division were asked to defer purchases and to
77 be conservative when preparing their 2009 budget requests. Kiernan said the division
78 adjusted labor costs by reducing overtime and the number of hours worked by Regular
79 Part Time (RPT) employees. RPT employees work in response to the needs of the
80 division and are not guaranteed a specific number of hours. Reducing RPT hours allows
81 SWD to respond to changes in tonnage without instituting lay-offs. These actions are
82 consistent with those taken by the division throughout 2008 to respond to decreasing
83 tonnage.

84

85 The Transportation budget was increased based on July 2008 diesel prices, which have
86 since dropped. The Landfill Gas and Wastewater budget increased in response to an
87 increase in wastewater charges.

88

89 The division re-established the Planning and Communications Section in 2008. The 2009
90 budget reflects that change. MSWMAC Vice Chair Jessica Greenway of Kirkland asked
91 why the section had been re-established. Berrysmith replied that in 2004 staff in that
92 section were distributed throughout the division, but the division found that a centralized
93 group was more efficient. The 2009 budget officially recognizes the Planning and
94 Communications Section. Kiernan added that it was a real challenge to write a
95 Comprehensive Plan for the division when the planners were dispersed.

96

97 Susan Fife-Ferris of Bellevue asked why the budget proposed a \$1 million decrease in the
98 in the amount transferred from the Operating fund to the Construction fund. Berrysmith
99 replied that it is a result of decreased revenue. This decrease will increase the proportion
100 of construction expenses funded by bond sales.

101

102 Barre Seibert of Clyde Hill asked why the Overhead allocation increased. Berrysmith
103 replied that overhead is the amount paid to the county current expense fund for
104 information technology infrastructure, human resources and finance services, phones and
105 more. The increase is a result of the increased cost of providing those services. Kiernan
106 commented that the utilities audit currently underway will specifically target overhead
107 expenses. Results of that audit are expected in the second quarter of 2009.

108

109 In response to a question, Berrysmith commented that rent for the Cedar Hills Landfill
110 appears in the budget as part of the Cedar Hills Disposal Section.

111

112 Kiernan said the council is currently considering the proposed budget, and is likely to act
113 on it before Thanksgiving.

114

115 **Comp Plan Working Chapter Review: WPR Chapter: Discussion**

116 Severn noted that MSWMAC members may provide comments on the Waste Prevention
117 and Recycling (WPR) chapter through December 1st. The draft plan could also be
118 changed during the public review process.

119

120 Garber noted that no formal action from MSWMAC related to the WPR chapter is
121 needed at this time.

122

123 Jon Spangler of Redmond said the chapter should be shorter. Severn responded that his
124 comments were consistent with those received from internal reviewers. It is possible that
125 redundancies that could be edited will be found when the completed plan is reviewed.

126

127 Spangler asked if terms used in the document would be clearly defined. Greenway
128 agreed that a glossary and list of acronyms would be useful. Recycling and

129 Environmental Services Manager Jeff Gaisford asked that MSWMAC members identify
130 words, phrases or acronyms they believe should be defined.

131

132 Spangler said that waste prevention is not sufficiently highlighted. He suggested that
133 some notation of waste prevention be included in each section of the chapter.

134

135 Rob Van Orsow of Federal Way said that the need to improve markets for recycled
136 materials should have greater emphasis in the document. Current conditions make it even
137 more necessary than when the chapter was originally drafted. Kiernan responded that
138 though conditions have changed since August the plan is written to focus on the future as
139 opposed to responses to current conditions.

140

141 Van Orsow suggested that there may be an opportunity for synergy between the state's
142 Beyond Waste efforts and the Comp Plan. Severn responded that actions passed at state
143 level before the plan is finalized will be reflected in the document.

144

145 Policies

146 Fife-Ferris asked if WPR-1 allows for prioritizing waste to energy over landfilling.

147 Kiernan responded that energy production also includes landfill gas to energy, anaerobic
148 digestion and other new technologies. More policies and information about waste to
149 energy will be included in the disposal chapter. In response to a question Gaisford said
150 that avoided energy costs were addressed in WPR-7 as part of environmental criteria.

151

152 Spangler suggested that the word "promote" in WPR-2 be changed to something stronger
153 like "advocate" or "advance."

154

155 Seibert and Spangler suggested that the language of WPR-3 be changed to emphasize that
156 the goals be challenging to achieve. Fife-Ferris disagreed saying that prior documents
157 with goals that were too ambitious were ignored. Garber suggested that the goal be stated
158 in two sentences with the concept of achievability being mentioned in the second
159 sentence. Spangler said goals should include language such as "minimize" or
160 "maximize" to show the direction of goals for readers unfamiliar with solid waste.

161

162 Spangler suggested expanding WPR-7 to explain why the benefits should be measured.

163

164 Pages 1-3

165 Greenway suggested that the second sentence on page two referencing the number of
166 people that recycle and vote be deleted. Spangler suggested that the final sentence in the
167 third paragraph be reworked for clarity. He also suggested highlighting the reduction in
168 the amount of garbage discarded per person between the late 1980's and 2004.

169

170 Pages 4-7

171 Garber suggested that the first bullet on page four be changed to show the increase in
172 recycling rates from the year the effort began until 2007. Greenway suggested that more
173 detail be added showing what materials were diverted when increased recycling rates are
174 discussed. In response to a question, Gaisford said that residuals from recycling centers
175 are not included in the recycling rate.

176

177 Seibert asked to see more emphasis on the key principles of education and making
178 recycling easier for individuals. He suggested consistent collection standards between the
179 cities. Gaisford remarked that collection standards are recommended in the Comp Plan.

180

181 Greenway suggested that the information under financial benefits on page seven include a
182 visual reference such as the number of times the tonnage could have filled Seahawks
183 stadium to show the amount of tonnage diverted from disposal.

184

185 Spangler suggested that figures be stated as both numbers and percentages in the
186 document. Kirsten Weinmeister of Snoqualmie suggested the addition of a separate
187 statistics page to make the information more accessible to the reader.

188

189 Severn noted that the division is still finalizing the numbers in the graphs throughout the
190 chapter and that the draft chapter has not been through graphics yet.

191

192 Pages 8-18

193 Spangler suggested the first paragraph of page eleven be simplified to show that the cost
194 for recyclable and organics collection is embedded in the garbage rates. He also
195 suggested that the graph be altered to combine food waste and yard waste.

196

197 Greenway suggested that language be added in the first paragraph on page twelve to
198 show that some multi-family buildings do not have enough space to allow recyclable
199 collection in order to set the stage for how that lack of space could be changed in future
200 buildings. Spangler suggested language be added to the second paragraph discussing
201 how the increasing number of multi family units may present recycling challenges in the
202 future. Spangler also suggested that the graph be changed to show how much of the
203 disposed materials could have been recycled.

204

205 Greenway suggested that commercial organics collection through city hauling contracts
206 be added to the second sentence of the first paragraph on page fourteen.

207

208 Spangler suggested the division cease collection of curbside recyclables at transfer
209 stations. Kiernan responded that there is reluctance from some stakeholders in making
210 this type of change of service at this time. Banning recyclables from disposal at transfer
211 stations in areas that offer curbside recycling is one of the division's recommendations.

212

213 Spangler suggested the division require commercial C&D materials to be recycled rather
214 than disposed. Kiernan replied that the division currently offers financial incentives to
215 encourage recycling of C&D. Gaisford added that the main recommendation in this
216 chapter for C&D is to review those incentives for their effectiveness.

217

218 Pages 19-25

219 Fife-Ferris suggested that the language in the third paragraph on page twenty be changed
220 from "are recycled" to "are designated as recyclable." Fife-Ferris asked to include a
221 verification requirement that recycled electronics are handled domestically in the plan.
222 Gaisford replied that WPR-6 attempts to address the concern that materials are handled
223 and processed using methods that are protective of human health and the environment.

224

225 In response to a question Gaisford said that a bottle bill is not recommended in this plan.

226

227 Greenway suggested that jugs be added to the description of recyclable plastic containers
228 in the table on page twenty one. She also suggested that shredded paper be moved to the
229 organics column of the same table. Fife-Ferris commented that different haulers handle
230 shredded paper differently.

231

232 Spangler suggested that data showing the number of electronics recycled would be useful
233 to show scale on page twenty three.

234

235 Garber suggested reversing the order of the chapter to present the recommendations first.

236

237 Kiernan noted that the division changed the dates for the overall recycling rate goals to
238 match the projected approval and upcoming review dates of the Comp Plan. Spangler
239 commented that a decrease in the recycling rate wouldn't be bad if it were a result of a
240 decrease in waste generation. Gaisford agreed and said that is why the plan includes
241 multiple goals. Spangler suggested that the rest of the dates be changed for consistency.

242

243 Garber said additional comments on the WPR chapter are due by December 1st.

244

245 **Direction to ITSG**

246 MSWMAC did not have any direction for ITSG.

247

248 **Public Comment**

249 There was no public comment.

250

251 **Adjourn**

252 The meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

253

254 Submitted by:

255 Kathy Hashagen, SWD Staff