

KING COUNTY METROPOLITAN SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

March 14, 2008

11:45 – 2:30 p.m.

King Street Center, 8th Floor Conference Center

Meeting Minutes

Members in Attendance

<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Title</u>
Bill Peloza	City of Auburn	Councilmember
Shelley Coleman	City of Auburn	Finance Director
Susan Fife-Ferris	City of Bellevue	Conservation & Outreach Program Manager
Joyce Nichols	City of Bellevue	Utilities Policy Advisor
Sabrina Combs	City of Bothell	Special Projects Administrator
Joan McGilton	City of Burien	Mayor
Jessica Greenway	City of Kirkland	Councilmember
Daryl Grigsby	City of Kirkland	Public Works Director
Carolyn Armanini	City of Lake Forest Park	Staff
Jean Garber	City of Newcastle	Councilmember
Jon Spangler	City of Redmond	Natural Resources Division Manager
Linda Knight	City of Renton	Solid Waste Coordinator
Kirsten Weinmeister	City of Snoqualmie	Recycling Coordinator
Frank Iriarte	City of Tukwila	Deputy Public Works Director

Others in Attendance

Solid Waste Division

Gemma Alexander, SWD Staff

Ann Berrysmith, Finance & Administration Manager

Jennifer Broadus, SWD Staff

Kevin Kiernan, Division Director

Jeff Gaisford, Recycling and Environmental Services Manager

Jane Gateley, SWD Staff

Bill Reed, SWD Staff

Alexander Rist, SWD Staff

Thea Severn, Interim Lead Planner

Diane Yates, Intergovernmental Relations Liaison

Cities

Zach Schmitz, City of Woodinville

Sabrina Kang, Suburban Cities Association

1 **Call to Order**

2 MSWMAC Chair Jean Garber called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. Everyone
3 present introduced themselves.

4
5 MSWMAC member Bill Pelozza announced that Sharon Hlavka is no longer with the City
6 of Auburn and has accepted a position with Green Solutions consulting firm. On an
7 interim basis, Shelley Coleman will be attending MSWMAC.

8
9 Garber introduced new MSWMAC member Kirsten Weinmeister from the City of
10 Snoqualmie.

11
12 Garber said that she had the pleasure to attend MSWMAC member Daryl Grigsby's talk
13 on his book, In Their Footsteps: Inspirational Reflections on Black History for Every
14 Day of the Year. Grigsby thanked Garber for her kind words.

15
16 **Approval of March Meeting Minutes**

17 **MSWMAC member Jessica Greenway moved to approve the March minutes.**

18 *The March minutes were approved by consensus.*

19
20 **Updates: SWD/SWAC/Legislative Update/Other Updates**

21 **SWD:**

22 Division Director Kevin Kiernan reported that the Shoreline Recycling and Transfer
23 Station has been open for one month. The division ran an ad in the local paper thanking
24 the Shoreline community and the City for its support, patience and cooperation during the
25 closure and reconstruction. There has been some media attention on the art at the new
26 station. There is some opposition to public art, but it is required by county code.

27
28 From the period of February 16th to March 5th, 3,130 lbs. of metal has been collected at
29 Shoreline for recycling, necessitating a larger collection bin. As a result, the division is
30 looking more closely at providing metals recycling at other transfer stations.

31

32 Kiernan said the \$24 million construction cost that is often quoted for the Shoreline
33 facility does not include the cost of property acquisition, or design and permitting. The
34 total project cost is more than \$30 million. The project cost for Bow Lake will be higher.

35

36 The landfill gas to energy contract has been signed. The State Environmental Policy Act
37 (SEPA) checklist is being prepared.

38

39 The division has purchased a ten acre Washington State Department of Transportation
40 (WSDOT) property adjacent to the Bow Lake Transfer Station. This acquisition provides
41 the space for a larger station to be constructed. The purchase price for the ten acre site
42 was less than had been anticipated.

43

44 Pelozza said the master schedule should replace the word “construction” with a more
45 accurate term, such as “renovation” or “reconstruction.” MSWMAC member Joan
46 McGilton asked what kinds of service interruptions are expected during reconstruction of
47 Bow Lake. Kiernan said the facility receives about one third of the system’s tonnage and
48 is the only station to operate 24 hours a day. One of the advantages of acquiring the
49 property north of the station is to allow some level of service during the construction
50 period. There will be some restrictions on self-haul service, but the facility will continue
51 to maintain 24 hour commercial operations.

52

53 The two properties required for the Factoria Transfer Station reconstruction have been
54 purchased. Land use permit meetings have begun.

55

56 The Skykomish Drop Box is now open to the public, but still does not have a roof.

57

58 The current Green Building ordinance requiring King County agencies to meet green
59 building standards has been extended to July while King County Council considers the
60 new ordinance.

61

62 The division and the third party consultants, Gershman, Brickner & Bratton (GBB), made
63 a presentation to Council on the division's proposal to in-source recyclables hauling from
64 the transfer stations. Discussions will continue on this topic.

65

66 Kiernan said it might be useful for MSWMAC to meet jointly with the Solid Waste
67 Advisory Committee (SWAC) to complete the waste prevention and recycling (WPR)
68 discussion in April. SWAC's membership includes the haulers and recycling industry
69 representatives. Garber suggested the joint meeting be held at MSWMAC's regularly
70 scheduled time. Garber asked if MSWMAC had any objections to the idea. Armanini
71 said that SWAC will discuss the idea of meeting jointly at their March meeting.

72

73 ***MSWMAC decided by consensus to meet with SWAC in April pending SWAC's***
74 ***decision.***

75

76 Legislation Update:

77 Garber said that she had asked Intergovernmental Liaison Diane Yates to contact council
78 staff for clarification on the interlocal agreement (ILA) budget proviso and to find out
79 when the R.W. Beck Conversion Technologies Report would be on the council's agenda.

80

81 Yates said council staff told her that the ILA proviso was added to the budget at council's
82 direction. The intent of the proviso was to encourage discussions between the county and
83 the cities to begin this year to establish a decision-making process on the ILAs in
84 expectation of the division's need to sell bonds in order implement its long term capital
85 program.

86

87 Yates reported that the Governance Report is scheduled to be on the Regional Policy
88 Committee's (RPC) agenda for the March 26th meeting. Council staff indicated that the
89 Conversion Technologies Report will be scheduled soon.

90

91 SWAC:

92 Armanini said that the SWAC minutes are available electronically if anyone is interested
93 in reviewing them. Several MSWMAC members asked to be added to the electronic

94 SWAC distribution list. Yates asked that members email her to let her know if they wish
95 to be added to the SWAC email list.

96

97 Other Updates:

98 Garber said she recently attended a presentation sponsored by Enterprise Seattle on
99 conversion technology at Seattle Central Community College. The speakers were Dr.
100 Schnurrer the former head of the German equivalent of the Environmental Protection
101 Agency (EPA), the head of the German Green Party and Philip Schmidt-Pathmann.
102 Enterprise Seattle is a local economics organization that receives some of its funding
103 from suburban cities. Garber said she spoke up at the presentation as a private citizen,
104 and was concerned about the misinformation being disseminated by the proponents of the
105 conversion technologies industry. The most critical inaccuracies were their statements
106 that:

- 107 • ***Conversion technologies have lower greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions than***
108 ***landfilling.*** This is counter to what R.W. Beck reported. Landfills in the
109 northwest region have significantly higher gas collection rates than the 50% used
110 in the presentation.
- 111 • ***In Hamburg Germany, they have a two percent residual waste deposited in the***
112 ***subsoil.*** That residual is fly ash and is considered hazardous. Two of the
113 particles in the ash are mercury and lead. In Germany, the fly ash is disposed in
114 salt mines. That is not an option here.
- 115 • ***It was stated that all landfill liners eventually fail.*** The presenters gave an
116 example of one landfill with ten feet of leachate over the liner. King County
117 would export their waste to an arid landfill where leachate is less problematic.
- 118 • ***It was also stated that incineration does not affect recycling programs.*** R. W.
119 Beck found that as the recycling rate approaches 70 percent there is an impact.

120

121 Garber said that after she raised the points about local conditions Dr. Schnurrer began
122 clarifying his language to specify conditions in Germany. MSWMAC member Susan
123 Fife-Ferris expressed concern that cities are paying, through Enterprise Seattle, to
124 promote one vendor of a certain technology. Fife-Ferris said residents of Councilmember
125 Lambert's district received a four page glossy brochure promoting conversion

126 technologies. She said she would like to know who paid for that mailing. Garber said
127 there was an article that said when the Spokane facility was built, elected officials only
128 were presented with the vendor's viewpoint. It also stated the only time the incinerator
129 produces a profit is when it is shut down, and the waste is exported. Garber said it is of
130 questionable ethics to use council chambers to allow one vendor to promote their goods.
131 She said that presenting a panel of conversion technologies providers would be a better
132 way to promote the technology.

133

134 Garber said the vendor WRSI asked R.W. Beck some highly technical questions on the
135 Greenhouse gas findings in their report, and R.W. Beck did a good job defending their
136 calculations.

137

138 Pelozo said that he had received an invitation to tour the Spokane incinerator. Garber
139 suggested that cities or elected officials who are offered this presentation or who attend
140 the tour should be objective and skeptical. The presentation is from a vendor and they
141 are not objective. MSWMAC member Joyce Nichols suggested that Enterprise Seattle
142 could host a forum with panel members from different view points, such as Allied or
143 Waste Management.

144

145 Greenway said the invitation to the Spokane tour opened with incorrect information.
146 MSWMAC members might be aware of the actual facts, but the general public would
147 not. Armanini said one vendor of one technology has had the floor for years with no
148 public push-back, since things are handled privately or there is no response at all from
149 officials.

150

151 Garber said she is concerned that local conditions are not being considered. Landfills
152 have existing permitted capacity and allow the flexibility of ten-year contracts. To build
153 an incinerator requires a long term commitment. She would like to start a new discussion
154 with the agreement that landfilling and conversion technologies are both environmentally
155 acceptable, and move on to a discussion of the economics.

156

157 Greenway announced the City of Kirkland’s battery recycling program has been very
158 successful. The idea for that program originated in MSWMAC. In less than a year, the
159 program has collected 2,700 lbs of batteries and added a new drop off location.
160 Greenway said she would provide Yates with further information on the program for
161 distribution to interested members. Lake Forest Park and Bothell also have battery
162 recycling programs.

163

164 **Business Plan Required by Ordinance 14971: Review / Comments**

165 Interim Lead Planner Thea Severn said Ordinance 14971 required a Business Plan that
166 would address nine specific issues. She asked if MSWMAC had any comments on the
167 draft before it is transmitted to Council.

168

169 Greenway commented that on Page 2, the last paragraph cites King County Code Title
170 10, which states a goal of Zero Waste of Resources by 2030. She asked why there is any
171 discussion of conversion technologies if there will be no waste in 2030. Gaisford said
172 Zero Waste of Resources simply means recycling everything that has value.

173

174 Armanini questioned the third paragraph of Page 9, which speaks of lowering operating
175 costs while item 6 states that more staff will be needed to operate the new transfer
176 stations. Severn replied the sentence indicating lower operating costs should have
177 specified that the operating costs were lower than those of other alternatives considered
178 in the milestone reports. She said the paragraph will be revised to include that
179 information.

180

181 Garber said that in the third paragraph first sentence on page 13, the words “are not
182 needed” should be removed for clarity. Greenway suggested a comma would be a better
183 alternative. Garber agreed, and the words remained intact in the copy.

184

185 In response to a question, Garber said the county has ILAs with 37 cities, however only
186 19 cities participate on MSWMAC.

187

188 Kiernan said the Business Plan is in draft format and still has to be approved by the
189 Department of Natural Resources and Parks, the Executive’s office, and the Council.
190 During that process there might be further changes. The division will provide
191 MSWMAC members with a copy of the final, approved document.

192

193 **Armanini moved that MSWMAC believes the Business Plan complies with the**
194 **requirements of Ordinance 14971.**

195 *The motion passed with Bellevue, Bothell and Snoqualmie abstaining.*

196

197 **ITSG’s Role: Discussion**

198 Garber said the ITSG Meeting Protocol and ITSG Guiding Principles that were
199 distributed prior to the meeting should be approved by motion. Garber added that based
200 on the notes from ITSG’s last meeting, ITSG agreed with the ITSG Guiding Principals.

201

202 Pelozza suggested in Item 4, instead of “placeholders on their calendars” the wording
203 “meeting dates” should be used for clarity.

204

205 Greenway said Item 2 conflicts with the consensus of ITSG to have a regular meeting.

206 Kiernan said the ITSG consensus was to have a meeting scheduled at a regular time,
207 because it is easier to cancel a meeting from attendees’ calendars then to schedule each
208 meeting individually. MSWMAC and ITSG member Sabrina Combs confirmed that was
209 the consensus from ITSG.

210

211 **Pelozza moved to accept the ITSG Guiding Principles proposed by Chair Garber as**
212 **amended.**

213 *The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.*

214

215 Garber said the ITSG Meeting Protocol was drafted before the ITSG report. The ITSG
216 report to MSWMAC from the February 27th ITSG meeting records ITSG’s consensus
217 that the current system of ITSG reviewing presentations before MSWMAC is preferred.

218 Garber said under the current practice, MSWMAC can only give generic direction to
219 ITSG, rather than the specific direction that both MSWMAC and ITSG have asked for.

220 Garber said MSWMAC can only give ITSG specific direction after seeing a presentation
221 where the division is expecting action.

222

223 Armanini said ITSG members can also participate directly in MSWMAC without a
224 separate process. Garber said the meeting protocol is not meant to restrict ITSG; if ITSG
225 has something to add to the questions asked by MSMWAC they should do so.

226

227 **Greenway moved to accept the ITSG Meeting Protocol as proposed by Chair**

228 **Garber.**

229 *The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.*

230

231 Garber said the draft MSWMAC participation letters were held pending the outcome of
232 the ITSG role discussion. Garber said if there are no objections they will be distributed
233 now.

234

235 Greenway said she appreciated having different letters for member and nonmember
236 cities, and the text acknowledging that the division welcomes input.

237

238 Nichols said she liked the use of the wording “dedicated staff.”

239

240 Knight suggested listing the participating cities on the letterhead. Garber said the
241 letterhead could be changed before the letters were distributed. MSWMAC member Jon
242 Spangler said the point of the letter is to get cities to join. It would make sense to wait
243 until more cities are participating before adding the cities to the letterhead. Garber said
244 the letters would be distributed on the current letterhead, and a template for the new
245 letterhead will be presented at the next meeting.

246

247 Pelosa said in the first line of the last paragraph, the use of the word “possibly” weakens
248 the meaning of the sentence and another word be used. Armanini suggested potentially.

249

250 *The MSWMAC participation letters were approved as amended by consensus.*

251

252 **WPR: Recommendations I: Presentation and Discussion**

253 Gaisford gave a presentation on Waste Prevention and Recycling Recommendations. It
254 can be viewed at:

255 <http://www.metrokc.gov/extranet/dnrp/swd/Reccomend1MSWMAC03142008.ppt>

256

257 Pelosa asked how mattresses were going to be handled at the urban stations. Gaisford
258 said other areas of the country are breaking mattresses apart to recover component
259 materials. The division is monitoring the development of this approach. Armanini said
260 mattresses and other bulky materials are good candidates for product stewardship.

261

262 Pelosa asked about banning mattresses from landfill disposal. Kiernan said through the
263 division's waste acceptance policies a ban could be affected at the transfer stations.

264 Currently only a certain number of mattresses can be disposed of per transaction, and that
265 figure can be further analyzed. Pelosa stated that he wants King County to look at a way
266 to break down mattresses for recycling.

267

268 Fife-Ferris asked whether the recommendations will enlarge the footprint of planned new
269 transfer stations. Gaisford said the new stations are being designed to be flexible in the
270 services provided within the available space.

271

272 In response to a question, Gaisford said the recycling rate for self-haulers is three percent
273 of the total system tonnage.

274

275 Armanini asked about Vashon Island collection service. Gaisford said that Vashon has a
276 Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC) certificated hauler but
277 they are not required by King County code to provide embedded curbside recyclables
278 collection. Curbside recycling service on Vashon is by subscription. Gaisford said this is
279 being reevaluated for this Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan (Comp Plan)
280 update.

281

282 Armanini asked how bans would affect mixed loads at the transfer stations. Greenway
283 said customers can pack their loads so that it is convenient to remove materials as they

284 move through the different recycling areas at the station. Kiernan said the division's
285 intention would not be to enforce fines initially, but to provide information first.
286 Customers would first receive information from the scale operators, then a warning, and
287 then finally some sort of enforcement action after director approval. Nichols said public
288 education would be critical on this issue; if given the chance, people will do the right
289 thing.

290
291 Armanini said that carbon emissions have to be considered in relation to increased
292 frequency of curbside collection. The total cost of recycling might be more than the cost
293 of landfilling the material.

294
295 Fife-Ferris said she would like to see ITSG's opinion on the continued need for recycling
296 events. Although the events are popular, staff time could be saved if residents could take
297 material to a transfer station. Fife-Ferris said she would like to see recycling events that
298 are smaller in scope by 2013. Knight said the events originated because there wasn't a
299 place to recycle those materials. As markets develop and services are added, there should
300 no longer be a need for special recycling events.

301
302 Armanini said that space for multifamily recycling should be examined, but service
303 options, such as the approach used by CleanScapes, should also be considered.

304
305 Fife-Ferris said she thinks both recycling and food waste collection services for
306 commercial customers should be added to cities' contracts. Developers and permittees
307 are not considering disposal space as they develop. Armanini said this might be a place
308 for the public sector to push the private sector into examining other options.

309
310 Armanini asked how the division planned to ban commercial paper disposal when only
311 38 percent of business have recycling services. Severn replied that there are paper
312 recyclers that will take paper at no charge, regardless of city recycling contracts.

313 Pelosa said enforcement of bans should occur before the third year. Spangler agreed.

314 Garber said it appeared that MSWMAC was in consensus with accelerating bans.

315 Gaisford said the dates for the ban were based on the City of Seattle's approach.

316

317 Pelozza said the commercial food scraps ban date was too late. Knight asked if there is a
318 reason for the 2016 date. Gaisford said 2016 is the target date set for all the
319 recommendations, based on the projected closure date of Cedar Hills, but programs may
320 be implemented before their deadlines.

321

322 In response to a question, Gaisford said the recycling rate for food scraps in the
323 commercial sector is less than ten percent.

324

325 Armanini asked why the food bank pilot does not include grocers. Gaisford said that the
326 food banks have well established relationships with grocers, but there isn't a connection
327 between restaurants and other places that prepare meals. Gaisford said the pilot is for
328 food recovery and not compost production.

329

330 Spangler said waste prevention should be the first priority, and every recommendation
331 should have an item on prevention. Armanini said she too would like to see stronger
332 waste prevention goals.

333

334 Knight suggested that ITSG could develop a fact sheet on organics recycling throughout
335 the county, and identify which health codes may need to be changed to support program
336 expansion.

337

338 Armanini asked about the strategies for increasing diversion of yard waste, wood, and
339 scrap metal. Gaisford said there aren't any strategies for public sector action at this time,
340 but the division will monitor the private sector's progress. Knight responded that is
341 vague and a better idea would be to have parameters in place.

342

343 Fife-Ferris said that whatever the goal is, it should be measurable. She said she would
344 like to see ITSG's input on goals and their ideas on waste prevention.

345

346 Armanini said she would like to see further analysis of the special recycling events. If
347 the recycling events ended, those funds and other grant funds could be used to subsidize

348 bulky item collection or other services. Knight said bulky service is infrequent, which
349 increases the cost of that service. An emphasis on regular curbside collection of bulky
350 waste would help defray the cost. Bulky collection could be included in cities' contracts.
351 Gaisford said regular bulky collection programs elsewhere in the nation could be
352 analyzed. Fife-Ferris said Bellevue staff was unsuccessful in winning approval to imbed
353 the cost of bulky curbside collection in its new collection rates.

354

355 For the single family food scrap recommendations, Fife-Ferris suggested the term "food
356 scraps" be removed because it has a negative connotation. Knight said her city discussed
357 this, and thought it was better to get away from the word "waste."

358

359 Armanini asked how the food scrap rate would be measured. Gaisford said that would be
360 calculated using the waste characterization study.

361

362 Knight said product stewardship for plastic bags should be accelerated, as they have
363 received a lot of attention lately and it may be easier to act now than later. She added that
364 plastic bags create a litter problem, and have a bigger impact on the environment and on
365 the cost of government services than their tonnage would imply. Gaisford said the
366 division wants to work with retailers on collection first because no one has really
367 approached them yet. Garber added that plastic manufacturers have made a huge push
368 against plastic bag bans.

369

370 Gaisford said that product stewardship of carpets will be discussed in the presentation on
371 construction and demolition waste. The presentation on evaluation criteria will be
372 deferred to the next meeting.

373

374 Direction from MSWMAC to ITSG

- 375 • ITSG's opinion on the continued need for special recycling events given
376 additional recycling opportunities.
- 377 • Background information on who is currently providing organics collection
378 services; information on the full spectrum of the current infrastructure and the
379 current health codes – Develop an "Organics Fact Sheet".

- 380 • Are the goals and dates in the presentation appropriate for each category?
- 381 • Add waste prevention goals for each category with methods for measurement
- 382 • Review and comment on single family curbside collection standards.
- 383 • Suggestions on how best to develop bulky waste collection.
- 384 • How do cities currently require space for multifamily recycling? Are there model
- 385 codes, or other code options?
- 386 • Review and comment on options for plastic bags.

387

388 **Adjourn**

389 The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

390

391 Submitted by:

392 Jennifer Broadus, SWD Staff