

**KING COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SWAC)
February 15, 2008**

Approved Meeting Minutes

Members in Attendance

David Baker
William Beck
Bob Dixon
Jerry Hardebeck
Joan McGilton
Suellen Mele
Max Pope
Carolyn Prentice
Ray Schlien
Relaena Sindelar
Dave Whitley

Others in Attendance

Gemma Alexander
Pamela Badger
Terri Barclay
Jennifer Broadus
Krista Camenzind
Jeff Gaisford
Sharon Hlavka
Kevin Kiernan
Laura Moser
Thea Severn
Angela Wingate
Diane Yates
Bill Ziegler

Action Items

Lines 07-08: Approval of January minutes.

1 **Call to Order and Introductions**

2 In Chair Carolyn Armanini's absence, SWAC Vice-Chair Jerry Hardebeck called the
3 meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

4 Everyone in attendance introduced themselves.

6 **Approval of January Minutes**

7 **SWAC member David Baker moved to approve the January meeting minutes.**

8 *The motion passed unanimously.*

10 **Updates: SWD / MSWMAC Update / Legislation**

11 SWD Updates

12 Division Director Kevin Kiernan reported that the County's surplus property process is to
13 route an internal notice to determine if other agencies have use for the property. Recently
14 the King County Roads Division surplused a property called the Covington Pit. It is in
15 unincorporated King County and meets the initial search criteria for a transfer facility, for

16 example, it has a rail line adjacent to the property. The division has asked that the
17 property remain under the ownership of King County until the division performs its siting
18 process for a new station in South King County. The Covington Pit has been identified as
19 a potential alternative, but the division has not selected a site at this time and will initiate a
20 siting process that will involve SWAC and the public before selecting a site.

21

22 On January 31st the 30 year old roof on the Skykomish Drop Box received over five feet
23 of snow fall and collapsed. The division is working with the City of Skykomish and
24 Waste Management to provide interim service to that area. The roof will be replaced this
25 summer.

26

27 The opening ceremony for the Shoreline Recycle and Transfer Station was attended by
28 over 200 people, including several SWAC members and representatives from 14 cities.
29 After a two week period to allow operations to normalize, tours will be offered to those
30 who are interested. The station will open to the public on February 16th.

31

32 Baker said that potential host jurisdictions would be proud to have a transfer station, if all
33 of the new stations turn out like Shoreline. He commended the division for achieving a
34 LEED gold certification, and said the tire art was amazing. Kiernan said that solar panels
35 light the building, and the new facility features rainwater collection for its truck wash.
36 The building was constructed using recycled steel and fly ash, and demolition waste from
37 the old facility was recycled. Kiernan concluded by saying that green building strategies
38 are an important part of the construction of the new facility.

39

40 Intergovernmental Relations Liaison Diane Yates said that SWAC Chair Carolyn
41 Armanini asked that a tour to be scheduled for SWAC members be scheduled at a later
42 date.

43

44 SWAC members expressed concern over the four foot high concrete wall in the service
45 area. Interim Lead Planner Thea Severn said that staff will be available for customer

46 assistance. Kiernan added that the wall was designed to balance OSHA (Occupational
47 Safety and Health Administration) standards with ease of use.

48

49 SWAC member Bob Dixon stated that three trailers for recyclables seems inadequate for
50 the recycling area, and that there does not seem to be enough room for cars. Kiernan said
51 that the free recycling area has changed little during the renovations, but there are new
52 organics and appliance recycling areas inside the station. Severn added that the contractor
53 still has equipment on site, after their equipment is moved out there will be more room for
54 recyclable collection bins.

55

56 SWAC member Bill Beck said it would be convenient if the plastic bins were adjacent to
57 the tin cans and glass bottles. Severn said the bins are replaced as they are filled, so the
58 bin placement varies.

59

60 Beck asked about the recycling market for newspaper. He has noticed that there are fewer
61 places in the community to recycle this material, and the transfer stations do not collect it
62 separately. Kiernan said that newspaper recycling is largely available curbside. Severn
63 said the division tries to maximize separation of the materials that are recycled at the
64 stations to increase value, but there isn't space available at most transfer stations for a
65 separate newspaper bin.

66

67 SWAC member Relaena Sindelar commented that a recent article stated that the
68 newspaper industry is failing. There might be fewer newspapers to recycle due to low
69 subscription rates. SWAC member Max Pope added that people are also requesting to be
70 removed from bulk mailers' lists.

71

72

73 MSWMAC Update

74 SWAC member Joan McGilton reported that MSWMAC discussed cities' participation in
75 the Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan (Comp Plan) update. MSWMAC has
76 19 member cities, with approximately 12 cities attending regularly. Since MSWMAC is

77 concerned that quite a few cities aren't participating in the Comp Plan process,
78 MSWMAC decided to draft a letter requesting that cities appoint representatives to
79 MSWMAC and for policy analysts to attend the Interjurisdictional Technical Staff Group
80 (ITSG) meetings for the governance discussions.

81

82 McGilton said that cities' councils do not feel that garbage is important. There was little
83 concern shown in the rate increase.

84

85

86 Legislative Update:

87 Yates thanked SWAC for turning in their financial disclosure forms. This is the earliest
88 that 100 percent of the forms have been sent to the Ethics office.

89

90 Federal Legislation

91 Yates reported that the State of New Jersey passed a resolution asking Congress to pass
92 the Clean Railroads Act.

93

94 State Legislation

95 February 19th is the cutoff date for considering bills in their house of origin.

96

97 On February 14th Washington state legislation, SB 6504, exempting minor new
98 construction storm water general permits from the State Environmental Policy Act
99 (SEPA) passed. The companion bill HB 2558 was referred to the Water Energy and
100 Telecommunications committee (WET).

101

102 SSB 6502, the substitute mercury product stewardship bill, is now a study bill. It no
103 longer includes the requirement for manufacturers to finance and implement a recycling
104 program for mercury-added lights. The bill directs the Department of Ecology (Ecology)
105 to research and develop recommendations to implement and finance a convenient and
106 effective mercury-added general purpose light recycling program.

107

108 SWAC member Suellen Mele said that even though this bill became a study bill, Ecology
109 would be required to complete the work before the next legislative session. This would
110 provide good groundwork leading to the next session.

111

112 SHB 3064 establishes a product stewardship program for the collection, transportation,
113 and disposal of unwanted drugs from residential sources. The substitute bill makes
114 several revisions to the original but maintains the requirement that drug manufacturers
115 develop and implement product stewardship programs for unwanted residential drugs.
116 The revisions clarified that generic drugs are within the scope of the bill. The bill did not
117 make it out of the Appropriations Committee.

118

119 Mele added that this is the first year this bill had been introduced. The legislation session
120 is only eight weeks long and over a thousand bills have been introduced; it often takes
121 several years to get a bill passed. The medicine bill received bi-partisan support in the
122 House Environmental Health Committee, has a lot of momentum, and should do well in
123 2009.

124

125 SB 6235, requires that architectural and engineering (A&E) services go through a bid
126 process instead of being procured based on qualifications as has always been the case.
127 The bill has passed the Senate Committee on Government Operations and now is going to
128 the Rules Committee for a second reading.

129

130 Hardebeck said that HB 2424 banning the use of plastic bags is already being discussed in
131 the City of Shoreline's public meetings with CleanScapes. The issue of plastic bags could
132 come to SWAC for discussion. Mele said that public hearings in the House on the issue
133 generated a lot of interest.

134

135 Hardebeck said that it is confusing for residents who move from one city to another when
136 there are differences in recycling programs. In the City of Shoreline you can not recycle
137 plastic bags in the recycle bin, but in neighboring cities you can. The materials recover
138 facilities (MRF) do not like the plastic bags because they get caught in the spinning shafts,

139 but the material does have value. Recycling and Environmental Services Manager Jeff
140 Gaisford said that plastic bags will be discussed in the Comp Plan process; there are
141 several different strategies to handling this material and the division will have specific
142 recommendations.

143

144

145 **WPR Goal Development Part II: Presentation and Discussion**

146 Gaisford gave a presentation on Waste Prevention and Recycling (WPR) Goals
147 Development. This presentation can be viewed at:

148 <http://www.metrokc.gov/extranet/dnrp/swd/Goals2SWAC02152008.ppt>

149

150 Mele said that the proposed Zero Waste guiding principal does not incorporate waste
151 prevention as the highest priority. Gaisford said that is a good point.

152

153 Baker said that having a draft product stewardship goal is good, but there should be some
154 actual action steps. Gaisford said that identifying the strategies is the next step of the
155 process.

156

157 Dixon suggested breaking up the product stewardship goal into two separate statements.

158

159 Hardebeck said that publishing the weight per household might reduce the overall garbage
160 generation. He suggested an overarching sustainable goal that reduces municipal solid
161 waste (MSW), recycling and the yard waste streams.

162

163 McGilton said that mixed use buildings are coming online with no capacity to recycle.

164 Gaisford said that the Bellevue representatives had brought up this issue in MSWMAC.

165 There are challenges with mixed use buildings; such as a lack of space to accommodate
166 trucks and tracking data when two generators share one building. McGilton suggested

167 that cities could use the permitting process to require the capacity to recycle. Hardebeck

168 said that CleanScapes' model for these buildings is a creative one, which replaces the need

169 for dumpster space with frequent bag collection.

170

171 Beck asked if the 50 percent goal meant equal weight in the disposal and recycling bins.

172 Gaisford answered that it does.

173

174 Mele said that she appreciates the approach of having MSW, recycling, and waste
175 generation goals. She prefers to see a goal of reducing waste rather than maintaining
176 current rates. It sends an important message to residents. She asked why the division
177 selected 15 percent as the reduction goal. Gaisford said that the figure originated with the
178 Washington state climate action plan, which has selected a goal of 15 percent.

179

180 SWAC member Ray Schlien asked how a change in population would impact the goals.

181 Gaisford said that because the goal is per capita, population changes will not impact the
182 goal. SWAC initially suggested using a per capita goal for the last Comp Plan, and the
183 division has been able to achieve it. The per capita goal of 52 lbs per week includes waste
184 generated at work and at home.

185

186 SWAC discussed the potential impact of public education efforts informing residents of
187 how much garbage they actually produce in pounds. Sindelar suggested developing an
188 education piece that would provide specific strategies for households to achieve their 15
189 percent reduction. Gaisford said the average residential tonnage for each city is known,
190 but data is not collected on individual households. Baker asked for the list of cities' per
191 capita disposal rates discussed at the Suburban Cities Association (SCA).

192

193 Schlien said that the public needs a simple, uniform message, and it is better to keep
194 information simple than to confuse people with too much detail. Sindelar asked about the
195 level of detail in Comp Plan. Kiernan said that the Comp Plan sets the policy and does not
196 go into detail.

197

198 Kiernan said that landfills are required to cover garbage at the end of each day to keep out
199 vectors and to control odor. Alternative Daily Cover (ADC) is inert waste material that
200 can be used for this purpose instead of virgin soil. Industrial Waste Stabilizer (IWS) is

201 waste such as fines from construction and demolition (C&D) waste processing, that is
202 mixed with wet industrial waste to better hold a slope in a landfill.

203

204 Mele said that the Beneficial Use definitions have important consequences in terms of
205 regulation and who is allowed to transport materials. SWAC member David Whitley said
206 that it is important to reinforce the opportunity to evolve a nascent industry so that higher
207 end uses can be developed. Applied properly, the Beneficial Use label provides the
208 needed flexibility, but as with anything there is room for abuse. Kiernan said that
209 Beneficial Use lies somewhere on the spectrum between disposal and recycling.

210

211 Gaisford said the proposed C&D goal is for diversion rather than recycling, this includes
212 Beneficial Use. Asphalt and concrete are not included in the goal because they have
213 traditionally been recycled. If the definitions of Beneficial Use are broadened, then a
214 higher goal than the one currently proposed may need to be incorporated into the Comp
215 Plan. Severn said tracking the diversion rate including concrete and asphalt will help the
216 County compare rates to other jurisdictions because they usually include that tonnage in
217 their rate.

218

219 SWAC discussed the inclusion of a goal on greenhouse gas reduction. Members
220 commented that such a goal is only valuable when paired with a waste generation goal,
221 and noted that there are numerous technical difficulties associated with measuring
222 greenhouse gas reductions. There was consensus that more work was needed to fully
223 develop this goal. Kiernan agreed, saying that the division will continue its analysis of
224 this topic.

225

226 Dixon asked for information on Vashon Island's disposal and recycling rates to present to
227 the community. Gaisford said that the hauler for Vashon Island is not based in King
228 County, and he is unclear about their reporting requirements. He will look into this
229 further.

230

231 Mele said that there has been a lot of discussion about product stewardship and the
232 impacts on product design to ensure products are recyclable. The stewardship goals
233 should look toward a system of not wasting resources, which is more efficient for the
234 economy and the environment.

235

236 **Illegal Dumping and Special Wastes (Sharps) Handouts: Review**

237 Severn directed members' attention to the handouts on illegal dumping and sharps
238 disposal. She said these handouts give some background information on the issues
239 together with the current policies and the division's preliminary recommendations for the
240 Comp Plan.

241

242 Severn said that there has been significant work done since the previous Comp Plan on
243 education and reporting for illegal dumping. The current recommendation is to move
244 forward with the existing policies and put a priority on improving enforcement. The bulk
245 of the work would be to make changes in code that would facilitate enforcement.

246

247 Special Waste Supervisor Pam Badger said over a dozen King County agencies are
248 involved in responding to illegal dumping. These agencies formed a workgroup that
249 resulted in suggested code and policy changes to empower some agencies and streamline
250 the process for others while still protecting the rights of the perpetrators. These
251 recommendations were transmitted to the Executive and adopted. The workgroup looked
252 at different national programs and discovered that enforcement is a critical component to
253 an effective program.

254

255 Kiernan said that stronger laws are not the most efficient solution, as police will be
256 responding to other emergencies. A more effective strategy is to lower the penalty while
257 increasing its use, such as allowing inspectors to write tickets instead of relying on the
258 sheriff's department.

259

260 In response to a question, Badger said some of the agencies involved include: King
261 County Public Health, Department of Development and Environmental Services, the

262 Parks Division, the Roads Division, the Water and Land Resources Division, and the
263 Solid Waste Division. Badger said every agency that owns property has some illegal
264 dumping on their lands. SchlienZ commented that the Houghton Landfill is in the City of
265 Kirkland. When the Kirkland police are called about illegal dumping there, they hesitate
266 to take action because it is considered King County property. Kiernan said this illustrates
267 some of the complexity of this issue.

268

269 Severn said that the division wants the enforcement recommendations to move forward,
270 and to continue with educational programs. Since so many agencies and property owners
271 are affected, it is complicated to obtain an idea of programs' effectiveness. Severn said
272 that when illegal dumping sites are discovered, it is difficult to determine whether the site
273 is new or has been there for years. This makes it difficult to determine whether there have
274 been any changes in illegal dumping behavior. Severn also said there is an unethical
275 practice among a few junk haulers to charge for disposal of customers' garbage, and then
276 illegally dumping it. Part of the education campaign encourages people to ask haulers for
277 a receipt showing that the waste was properly disposed at a transfer station.

278

279 SWAC discussed several strategies to handle illegal dumping, such as a reward system for
280 whistle blowers, and cameras. Severn asked SWAC members to send her any further
281 thoughts or comments.

282

283 SWAC guest Terri Barclay stated her preference for more mandatory curbside collection
284 to prevent illegal dumping. Severn said that other jurisdictions with mandatory curbside
285 service, such as the City of Seattle, still experience illegal dumping.

286

287 Severn said the division recommends a policy against accepting sharps in mixed solid
288 waste at the transfer stations or at curbside collection. The current policy is to place
289 sharps into a polyethylene (PET) bottle for disposal with garbage. Those bottles and solid
290 waste handling equipment have changed since the original policy was implemented. The
291 bottles no longer hold up to the level of compaction that they receive, and can release
292 sharps into the garbage, resulting in accidental punctures to workers. A non-acceptance

293 policy is consistent with the policies of the City of Seattle, Snohomish County, Waste
294 Management, the Center of Disease Control, and the Environmental Protection Agency.
295 Severn said that a brochure is being developed that will identify the safe disposal options
296 available to the public. Most pharmacies, including those at Group Health, have a take
297 back program for sharps. The Shoreline Recycling and Transfer Station will and the
298 Vashon Island Transfer Station already have separate areas for sharps disposal.

299

300 Pope said unless there is a convenient disposal option people will dump their sharps
301 illegally. Severn said in most cases, the same place where people acquire sharps also take
302 them back for disposal. SWAC member Carolyn Prentice asked when pharmacies started
303 accepting sharps for disposal. Severn said the number of pharmacies that take them for
304 disposal has been increasing. Severn added that several public places offer sharps
305 disposal for example restrooms at the airports and some public restrooms.

306

307 Beck asked if razor blades are considered sharps. Severn answered that they are not.

308

309 Hardebeck suggested giving information on sharps to the haulers to help disseminate to
310 the customers.

311

312 Schlien said there are several materials that are not being accepted curbside, like
313 batteries. He said that if the list gets too complicated consumers will just dispose of all
314 those materials into the waste stream.

315

316 **OPEN FORUM**

317 Beck stated he had recently seen former SWAC member Steve Goldstein. Goldstein now
318 works for Waste Management.

319

320 Mele circulated literature on a lecture series about the economic link between health and
321 the environment.

322

323 The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 p.m.

324

325 Submitted by:

326 Jennifer Broadus, SWD Staff