

**KING COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SWAC)
May 16, 2008**

Meeting Minutes

Members in Attendance

Carolyn Armanini
David Baker
William Beck
Joe Casalini
Bob Dixon
Joan McGilton
Suellen Mele
Carolyn Prentice
Ray Schlien
Relaena Sindelar

Others in Attendance

Gemma Alexander
Teri Barclay
Jeff Gaisford
Sharon Hlavka
Shirley Jurgensen
Sabrina Kang
Kevin Kiernan
Laura Moser
Yolanda Pon
Bill Reed
Barbara Roberts
Thea Severn
Diane Yates
Bill Ziegler

Action Items

Lines 06-07: Approval of March and April minutes.
Lines 129-132: Approval of direction outlined in WPR recommendations.

1 **Call to Order and Introductions**

2 SWAC Chair Carolyn Armanini called the meeting to order.
3 Everyone in attendance introduced themselves.

4

5 **Approval of March and April Minutes**

6 **SWAC member David Baker moved approval of the March and April minutes.**
7 *The minutes were unanimously approved.*

8

9 **Updates: SWD / MSWMAC / Other**

10 **SWD Updates**

11 Division Director Kevin Kiernan reported that the division recently sent letters to cities
12 that do not participate in MSWMAC, and to the Unincorporated Area Councils, offering
13 to provide briefings on the Comp Plan update.

14

15 System tonnage is down six percent from last year. This is impacting revenue, and some
16 projects funded by the operating budget are being deferred in order to stay in budget.
17 Capital projects are not affected.

18

19 The Regional Policy Committee briefly discussed the Ordinance 14971 Business Plan at
20 its last meeting. Action has been deferred to its June meeting.

21

22 The division has submitted a supplemental budget request to replace the structure at the
23 Skykomish Drop Box, which collapsed under snow in January. Insurance will pay for
24 part of the costs.

25

26 Financial policies will be on SWAC's agenda in June. Kiernan asked for members' input.

27

28 In response to a question, Kiernan said that Harbor Island is not part of the final land deal
29 between the County and the Port. Harbor Island remains in the division's ownership. The
30 property value has increased, and the division receives a small income from rents.

31

32 MSWMAC Update

33 SWAC Staff Liaison Diane Yates reported that MSWMAC discussed the waste
34 prevention and recycling goals and strategies, but did not reach any conclusions. They
35 will continue the discussion at their June meeting. They did not see the Cedar Hills
36 presentation. Following discussion, MSWMAC decided to open its meetings to the public
37 beginning in June. If anyone would like to receive MSWMAC agendas and minutes in a
38 monthly email, please let Yates know. Armanini asked Yates to specifically notify
39 SWAC's industry members who were not in attendance that those materials are now
40 available.

41

42 In response to a question, Recycling and Environmental Services Manager Jeff Gaisford
43 said that special recycling events are regularly scheduled, but it is impossible to predict
44 whether a specific event will be heavily used. He said that sometimes weather affects
45 attendance.

46

47 SWAC discussed the electronics recycling law that will take effect in January 2009. The
48 law requires producers to locate at least one collection site or alternative collection service
49 or a combination of sites and alternative service (s) in each city with a population over
50 10,000 and at least one site in every county. At least 150 locations have been identified so
51 far, but the list is not yet publicly available. SWAC members from rural areas were
52 encouraged to identify potential drop box sites in their communities. Producers are
53 required to accept any drop box facility that registers, as long as certain minimum criteria
54 are met. Currently, electronics can be recycled through the Take It Back Network,
55 recycling events and, beginning June 1st, the Shoreline Recycling and Transfer Station.

56

57 Armanini said that 4Culture was scheduled to make a presentation to SWAC in June about
58 the status of the art for the Bow Lake transfer station upgrade. The artist for Bow Lake
59 has been selected, and SWAC member Judy Stenberg was on the selection committee.
60 However, there is nothing more to report yet. She asked if SWAC members would prefer
61 to have 4Culture provide a cost update on the art at the Shoreline Recycling and Transfer
62 Station in June, or wait until a presentation on Bow Lake is also available. Members
63 decided to wait for a presentation on Bow Lake.

64

65 **WPR: Discussion**

66 Kiernan said the work on recycling that has been done so far will feed into a Comp Plan
67 chapter, which must undergo environmental review and economic analysis before it can
68 be adopted. He said the division wants SWAC to weigh in on whether the direction the
69 division has taken in developing the waste prevention and recycling goals and strategies is
70 appropriate. Armanini added that SWAC members should consider the concepts
71 presented as a policy framework without looking too closely at the details, which could
72 still change.

73

74 SWAC discussed the per employee goal, which the division recommended remain
75 unchanged from the previous Comp Plan. Although this could send a message that
76 commercial recycling is not as high a priority as recycling in other sectors, the advisory

77 committees have told the division that goals should be realistically achievable. It did not
78 seem practical to raise the bar when the previous goal has not yet been met.

79

80 SWAC member Suellen Mele commented that the phrase “energy conservation and
81 production” sounds like an endorsement of waste to energy technology and needed further
82 explanation when written up in the draft chapter.

83

84 In response to a question, Severn said that MSWMAC members recommended changing
85 the single family recycling strategy to, “In 2016, implement a ban on disposal of curbside
86 recyclables in cities and unincorporated areas unable to achieve the 45% goal through
87 voluntary measures, except for those cities and unincorporated areas that have achieved
88 the waste generation and waste disposal goals.”

89

90 SWAC member David Baker commented that cities need to be told what tools are
91 available to them to enforce disposal bans. SWAC members noted that the current
92 countywide yard waste ban and the City of Seattle recyclables ban both offer models that
93 cities can follow. Armanini noted that political will is critical to enabling a ban, saying
94 that any city that has the will is free to pursue a disposal ban without waiting for a
95 countywide policy. Kiernan added that when the time comes to discuss implementation,
96 the county will provide cities with more detailed information and serve as a resource. The
97 division will provide support to the cities that are willing to go beyond the goals set in the
98 Comp Plan.

99

100 SWAC member Joe Casalini commented that rising energy costs will change the life cycle
101 analysis for many recyclables. It is important to make sure that product stewardship is
102 handled responsibly and isn't just a method of shifting an environmental problem onto
103 someone else. Responsible residual management must be an overriding principle.

104 Armanini said some city contracts address that issue.

105

106 Mele added that product stewardship goals do not address the upstream element of
107 changing product design. She said the role of local government to encourage

108 manufacturers in that direction is not clear yet. Gaisford said the draft plan chapter will
109 capture the importance of product design for recycling.

110

111 Armanini said that Hardebeck forwarded the idea to her that waste should be considered
112 as three separate streams: recyclables, compostables and residuals. Gaisford said that he
113 had received specific comments from Hardebeck that included that idea.

114

115 Mele said the recommendation to reduce plastic bags should be expanded to include all
116 disposable bags, such as paper bags.

117

118 Armanini said that this Comp Plan will guide the division for the next five or six years.
119 Many good ideas that are worthy of discussion may be beyond the scope of this Comp
120 Plan. Kiernan added that the discussion today is only the beginning. The Comp Plan sets
121 a policy of moving in a particular direction, and there will be much more discussion when
122 the time comes for implementation.

123

124 In response to a question, Kiernan said the division would like to proceed with writing a
125 plan around the framework of these recommendations. Severn added that the
126 recommendations are the same ones SWAC has seen before, with different formatting to
127 emphasis the strategies used to achieve the goals.

128

129 **Armanini moved that SWAC approve the direction outlined in the draft**
130 **recommendations for the Comp Plan waste prevention and recycling goals.**

131

132 *The motion passed unanimously.*

133

134 **Cedar Hills Capacity Presentation**

135 Severn and Interim Engineering Services Manager Shirley Jurgensen presented an
136 analysis of Cedar Hills' capacity available at:

137 http://www.metrokc.gov/extranet/dnrp/swd/CH_Capacity_SWAC_051608.ppt#1

138 SWAC member Carolyn Prentice asked about critical aquifer recharge areas. Jurgensen
139 replied that the regional aquifer recharges offsite, primarily from a lake south of the
140 landfill. She said the Cedar Hills site is underlain by a series of perched zones, which are
141 separated from the regional aquifer by hundreds of feet.

142

143 Beck asked about legal constraints resulting from previous lawsuits. Jurgensen replied
144 that neighboring residents reserved the right to oppose any development beyond what was
145 agreed to in the settlement and captured in the current development plan.

146

147 Noting the time, Armanini asked members to hold any further questions on this
148 presentation for the next meeting. Next month disposal criteria will be on the agenda as
149 well.

150

151 SWAC member Relaena Sindelar said that she was impressed by Jurgensen's knowledge
152 and thanked her for bringing so much history and perspective to the presentation.

153

154 **OPEN FORUM**

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

156

157 Submitted by:

158 Gemma Alexander, SWD Staff