

**KING COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SWAC)**  
**September 19, 2008**  
**Meeting Minutes**

Members in Attendance

Carolyn Armanini  
William Beck  
Joe Casalini  
Bob Dixon  
Jerry Hardebeck  
Joan McGilton  
Mike Pearia  
Max Pope  
Carolyn Prentice  
Judy Stenberg  
Joe Tessier  
Dave Whitley

Others in Attendance

Gemma Alexander  
Cath Brunner  
Joan Clark  
Sabrina Kang  
Kevin Kiernan  
Laura Moser  
Yolanda Pon  
Grace Reamer  
Philip Schmidt-Pathman  
Thea Severn  
Diane Yates

**Action Items**

**Lines 6-7: Approval of June minutes.**  
**Lines 83-85: Approval of Bill Ziegler's nomination to SWAC.**  
**Lines 93-95: Approval of Sean Kronberg's nomination to SWAC.**  
**Lines 107-108: Approval of Carolyn Armanini as Chair.**  
**Lines 110-111: Approval of Jerry Hardebeck as Vice Chair.**

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 June Minutes**

6 **SWAC member Bill Beck moved approval of the June minutes.**

7 *The minutes were approved unanimously.*

8

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

10 SWD Updates

11 Division Director Kevin Kiernan reported a Request for Proposals was issued for  
12 replacement of the Factoria Transfer Station. The five proposals received are under review.

13

14 Shoreline Recycling and Transfer Station is one of only about sixty buildings in the country  
15 to be awarded a LEED Platinum rating, the highest rating offered by the US Green Building  
16 Council. Shoreline is the first transfer station to achieve a LEED rating.

17

18 The division has received three awards from the Solid Waste Association of North America  
19 (SWANA): a Silver Excellence Award in Public Education for the *Recycle More, It's Easy*  
20 *to Do* campaign, a Silver Excellence Award in Integrated Solid Waste Management for its  
21 collaborative approach to planning and integration of environmental features at the new  
22 Shoreline Station, and an Innovation Award for its integrated solid waste management plan.  
23 From all nominations received by SWANA in all categories, only one Innovation Award  
24 winner is selected each year. The application for the award is available at:

25 <http://www.metrokc.gov/dnrp/swd/about/mswmac.asp>

26

27 Several SWAC members toured Cedar Hills this summer. The Landfill Gas to Energy  
28 project is expected to begin testing in November, with full operations beginning next year.  
29 The flares will be shut down at that time, but will not be moved until the Cedar Hills Site  
30 Development Plan is completed. The contract guarantees the division a minimum payment  
31 that will increase with natural gas prices. It is currently estimated at \$1.4 million annually.

32

33 Property for Bow Lake Transfer Station's reconstruction has been purchased and use  
34 permits have been granted. Next week offsite drainage work will begin. The division has  
35 approval for a negotiated procurement process for the actual construction. This means the  
36 division will be able to consider qualifications in selecting a contractor, rather than being  
37 required to accept the lowest bid. This is a very complex project because of the need to  
38 keep the facility open during construction. A Platinum rating may not be possible, but the  
39 division will pursue LEED certification for Bow Lake, as for all of its capital projects.

40

41 In July, a pilot reusable building materials collection event at Shoreline Recycling and  
42 Transfer Station was held as part of a zero dollar contract with ReStore, obtained through a  
43 procurement process. ReStore staff collected materials outside the transfer station gate.  
44 The unpublicized event collected 640 pounds of reusable materials on Saturday, and 2360  
45 pounds on Sunday. Materials collected included lumber, light fixtures, doors and windows.  
46 Two more events are scheduled in October. They will be publicized.

47

48 The division is currently the subject of two audits mandated by Initiative 900. The first is a  
49 county-wide Construction Management audit. It is a very complicated audit involving  
50 many agencies with different processes. The second is a Utilities Audit, looking only at  
51 solid waste and wastewater. This audit is in the initial scoping phase. The auditors have an  
52 interest in overhead. The division will keep SWAC informed as the audits progress, and  
53 the results will be made public. A State Department of Health presentation for government  
54 agencies undergoing audits estimates that agencies should be prepared to dedicate one full  
55 time staff person for 4-6 months to support the audit. Planning and Communications  
56 Manager Thea Severn is the division's point of contact for the utility audit, so the Comp  
57 Plan schedule could be impacted.

58

59 The Beyond Waste workgroup of the state's Climate Action Team has produced an initial  
60 report. Recommendations include optimizing collection, product stewardship and  
61 managing organics through energy recovery techniques such as fermentation. The report is  
62 available at: [http://www.metrokc.gov/extranet/dnrp/swd/Climate%20Action%20Team-  
63 %20Final%20Report%20IWG%20V3%20FINAL.pdf](http://www.metrokc.gov/extranet/dnrp/swd/Climate%20Action%20Team-%20Final%20Report%20IWG%20V3%20FINAL.pdf)

64

#### 65 MSWMAC Update

66 Intergovernmental Liaison Diane Yates reported that MSWMAC had a wide ranging  
67 discussion of the draft Comp Plan Transfer and Planning chapters. They have until the end  
68 of September to submit specific comments. Kiernan added that MSWMAC is also  
69 discussing governance issues in caucus.

70

#### 71 Regional Emergency Planning

72 SWD staff Gemma Alexander reported the division is participating in a region wide disaster  
73 debris planning process as part of the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI). UASI has  
74 produced a regional disaster debris plan for Snohomish, King and Pierce Counties.

75 Individual jurisdictions, including the division, are now beginning work on Operational  
76 Debris Management plans. The plan will list potential Temporary Disaster Debris Storage  
77 and Reduction Sites (TDSRs). The division is working with the cities to identify these.

78

79 **Membership: Nomination for Citizen and Labor Positions**

80 Armanini said that the Teamsters have recommended Bill Ziegler for the labor position.  
81 Historically SWAC has accepted the Teamster's recommendation for this position.

82

83 **Armanini moved that Ziegler's recommendation be forwarded to the Executive for**  
84 **appointment.**

85 *The motion passed unanimously.*

86

87 Armanini said that in July she and Vice Chair Jerry Hardebeck interviewed two candidates  
88 for the citizen position vacated by Bob Beckwith. Armanini said Sean Kronberg has  
89 attended several MSWMAC meetings. He lives near the Cedar Hills Landfill in the area  
90 represented by the Four Creeks Unincorporated Area Council. Hardebeck added that he  
91 was impressed by Kronberg's wide ranging knowledge of garbage and recycling issues.

92

93 **Armanini moved that Sean Kronberg's recommendation be forwarded to the**  
94 **Executive for appointment.**

95 *The motion passed unanimously.*

96

97 Armanini said that Carolyn Prentice will not be renewing her term on SWAC. She said that  
98 SWAC appreciates Prentice's perspective and she will be missed.

99

100 **Nomination and Election of Chair and Vice Chair**

101 Yates called for nominations for Chair and Vice Chair.

102

103 SWAC member Joan McGilton nominated Armanini. Armanini said she is willing to serve  
104 again, but is also very willing to turn the position over to someone else. She said that Yates  
105 provides support to the Chair that makes the position easy to fill.

106

107 **Yates called for a vote on Armanini's nomination.**

108 *Armanini was reelected by consensus.*

109

110 **SWAC member Joe Tessier nominated Jerry Hardebeck for Vice Chair.**

111 *Hardebeck was reelected by consensus.*

112

113 **1% For Arts Presentation**

114 Bow Lake:

115 Armanini introduced Cath Brunner of 4Culture to discuss the process for the public art at  
116 the Bow Lake Transfer and Recycling Station.

117

118 Brunner said 4Culture is a public development authority chartered by King County  
119 government. It manages the county's 1% for Art Program. Its 9-member citizens' advisory  
120 committee allocates funds to various projects. Brunner said the Solid Waste Division is  
121 their best client agency.

122

123 A five person citizens' panel including SWAC member Judy Stenberg selected Andy Cao  
124 to design the public art for the Bow Lake project. Cao is a landscape architect with an  
125 international public art practice. He often uses crushed glass cullet in his designs and  
126 installations as mulch or in pathways. SWAC member Judy Stenberg said it was a great  
127 process and she would highly recommend that others participate in the process if there is  
128 ever the opportunity.

129

130 To maximize the impact of a 1% art budget at a site as large as Bow Lake, it is anticipated  
131 that the art will be installed in the highest traffic areas, such as near the scale house, and  
132 along the lengthy median strip leading from the scale house to the transfer building.

133

134 4Culture asks selected artists to produce art that is both attractive and that educates people  
135 by stimulating thought on resource conservation and solid waste management practices.  
136 Inspired by the proliferation of plastic garbage bags in New York City during a garbage  
137 strike, Cao realized the extent to which the public takes garbage collection for granted. His  
138 initial design proposal for Bow Lake is to create transparent cast glass garbage bags  
139 containing recyclable materials and couple these with a blue glass groundcover. The  
140 committee's two concerns with this concept are that the scale of the installation be

141 appropriate to the space available and that the project is technically feasible. 4Culture  
142 sent Cao to Pilchuck to study cast glass technique for two months. Brunner said Cao will  
143 meet with the design team in a couple of weeks. She would be happy to present the final  
144 design to SWAC when it is approved.

145

146 SWAC member Bob Dixon suggested the art should be visible from the freeway. Brunner  
147 said 4Culture agreed that would be desirable, but the state prefers that the view from I-5  
148 be screened with large trees such as Doug Fir, because of concern about art as a distraction.  
149 The state has the final say, but 4Culture is willing to bring the issue up again.

150

151 Hardebeck noted the art should not convey the message that it is okay to put recyclable  
152 materials in plastic bags. He also expressed concern about glass being vulnerable to  
153 vandalism. Brunner agreed that Hardebeck made a good point regarding educational  
154 messages. Regarding vandalism, she said the installation will be inside of the fence, and  
155 noted that cast glass was used at the Justice Center, where it had to be bullet-tested.

156

157 McGilton asked how 4Culture was able to attract an international artist for the project.  
158 Brunner replied that King County has one of the best public arts programs in the country,  
159 and artists actively pursue involvement in it.

160

161 In response to a question, Brunner replied that organic materials present a vector problem at  
162 solid waste facilities. She added that glass is an inert material that does not degrade or off  
163 gas like other inorganic mulches. Prentice noted that Douglas fir trees have shallow root  
164 systems that could be suffocated by inorganic mulch. Brunner said they certainly don't  
165 want to kill the trees, and will look into that issue.

166

167 In response to a comment about radio talk show host Dori Monson, Brunner noted that  
168 there is a very small minority at public meetings that questions the value of public art. She  
169 said most people demand to know where they will get to see public art.

170

171 Kiernan said the division has a long relationship with the arts council and 4Culture. Not  
172 everyone has always liked the public art at the transfer stations, but the art has always been  
173 successful at raising awareness and stimulating discussion.

174

175 SWAC member Joe Casalini commented that it is a shame the project couldn't be awarded  
176 within the large glass art community and recycled glass industry in the Northwest. Brunner  
177 replied that for projects budgeted for \$50,000 or less, selection is limited to Washington  
178 State. This project was opened nationally because the budget was larger, and because the  
179 project's location near SeaTac Airport, which is an international gateway, made a more  
180 global perspective appropriate. She added that Cao will be working with local fabricators  
181 and suppliers to execute his design, so the project will support local artists and industry.

182

183 In response to a question, Brunner said initial budget projections were for \$150,000.  
184 Subsequent analysis indicates that \$400,000 or \$500,000 may actually be available. A  
185 precise budget will depend on the final scale of the project. So far, the only expenses for  
186 this project have been design fees to Cao, and training at Pilchuck.

187

188 Shoreline:

189 Brunner said the billboard-sized photograph of Cedar Hills with Mt. Rainier in the  
190 background was intended to answer the question, "Transfer to where?" The art project,  
191 including the billboard and the "sound tires" has been submitted for several national  
192 awards. A guest at the Shoreline opening asked why anyone would put garbage in the front  
193 of a picture of Rainier. A staff person was able to answer that the photo is unaltered, and  
194 garbage really does go to a local landfill with a view of the mountain. In this case the photo  
195 was an effective stimulus for informative conversation.

196

197 The sound component of the tire sculptures at Shoreline was part of two residency  
198 workshops with school children in Shoreline, and elements of sounds recorded with them  
199 were used in the original composition.

200

201 The artist is completing the last component of the art at Shoreline. Originally, the intent  
202 was to light the dust control misting system on the tipping floor. However, the artist is  
203 unsure that would have enough impact to justify the installation cost and additional energy  
204 use. She will propose a new idea, possibly a video, for the remaining \$6,000 art budget.

205  
206 Kiernan said there have been no complaints about the art at Shoreline. An initial concern  
207 that the photo could be distracting, and slow traffic through the station, has not been the  
208 case. Severn added that customers have been complimentary about the tire sculptures.

209  
210 Dixon asked if the new art project could be in the free recycling area. Brunner replied that  
211 core samples of the closed landfill that were taken during construction were going to be  
212 used in the restrooms but that location is now ruled out. Brunner will ask the artist to  
213 consider the recycle area as a possible location. One of the reasons that art was not planned  
214 for the recycling area is because of potential future expansion or changes.

215  
216 **Comp Plan Draft Transfer and Planning Chapters**

217 Severn said the Comp Plan is being written in pieces, and as a result there will be repetition  
218 that will need to be cleaned up when the pieces are put together as a whole document. The  
219 formatting and layout will also be cleaned up and finalized by graphics staff at that time.  
220 Portions of the chapters are subject to change and are highlighted to remind the division to  
221 update them before releasing the final draft.

222  
223 Kiernan suggested that now is a good time for discussion of any of the topics in the  
224 chapters. Specific edits can be sent to Diane Yates by email. SWAC members will have  
225 another opportunity to review these chapters as part of the whole draft plan.

226  
227 Beck said he was glad to see acknowledgement of the potential impacts of closing Renton  
228 Transfer Station. He said these chapters represent a lot of good work. Severn replied that  
229 SWAC members' input is evident in the results.

230

231 Whitley asked if the division has the breakdown of recyclable materials in garbage referred  
232 to on page 9. Severn replied that those details will be included in the Waste Prevention and  
233 Recycling Chapter. Recyclable materials most commonly found in garbage include yard  
234 waste, wood, cardboard and scrap metal. Kiernan added that behaviors are different where  
235 recycling facilities are available, as at Shoreline.

236

237 Beck said the 320 pound passenger vehicle assumption may be high. Kiernan agreed,  
238 saying that in recent years SUVs and minivans have been weighed while only sedans use  
239 the assumed weight. Armanini commented that it may be time to revisit that assumption.

240

241 Dixon asked why, on page 19, the chapter says Bow Lake and Factoria will be built to the  
242 same standards as Shoreline, but does not include the rest of the system. Severn replied that  
243 Algona and Houghton are going to be replaced rather than rebuilt. No major changes are  
244 recommended for the rural facilities. The division does not aim for consistency between  
245 urban and rural stations, which serve different purposes. Urban stations are regional  
246 facilities, while rural stations serve distinct populations.

247

248 In response to a question, Severn said the tables on pages 15-16 provide a review of earlier  
249 work, which only addressed the urban stations. That will be clarified.

250

251 McGilton asked when SWAC and MSWMAC will meet jointly to discuss the drafts.  
252 Armanini said these two chapters are familiar to both committees and would not benefit  
253 from joint discussion as much as other sections of the plan. Kiernan noted that cost  
254 assessment and environmental review are critical pieces that may present a good  
255 opportunity for joint discussion. Severn added that there will be opportunity during the 120  
256 day public comment period for SWAC and MSWMAC to schedule a joint meeting.

257

258 Kiernan offered to present the Comp Plan process and contents to any interested group.

259

260 Severn said the planned timeline is to send a complete draft Comp Plan to the Executive in  
261 January. A 120 day public comment period will follow, allowing the summer for revisions.

262 This will allow the results of the Cedar Hills Site Development Plan to be incorporated into  
263 the final draft of the Comp Plan to be released in the fall for adoption.

264

265 **Open Forum**

266 Beck said former SWAC member Debbie Natelson has an espresso stand in Renton called  
267 Jet City. She has lost her lease and a large array of memorabilia is available.

268

269 **Adjourn**

270 The next meeting is on October 17. The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 p.m.

271

272 Submitted by:

273 Gemma Alexander, SWD Staff