

King County Solid Waste Advisory Committee

November 18, 2011 - 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

King Street Center 8th Floor Conference Room

Next SWAC meeting - Jan 20, 2012 - 9:30-11:30

Meeting Minutes

<u>Members</u>
David Baker
Jerry Bartlett
William A. Beck
Joe Casalini
Jean Garber
Steve Gerritson
Matthew House
Suellen Mele
Philipp Schmidt-Pathmann
John Taylor
Bill Ziegler

<u>Others</u>
Kathy Hashagen, SWD Staff
Anne Holmes, SWD Staff
Sendy Jimenez, SWD Staff
Kevin Kiernan, SWD Director
Victor Okereke, Engineering Services Manager
Grace Reamer, King County Council Staff
Thea Severn, SWD Planning and Communications Manager
Diane Yates, SWD Intergovernmental Liaison

Approve September and October Meeting Minutes; Review Agenda

In the September minutes, under Open Forum “Washington Citizens for Resource Conservation” was corrected to its new name, “Zero Waste Washington.” The group approved the September minutes as amended and the October minutes as written.

Updates

SWD

The King County Council passed the division’s proposed budget with a few changes.

- Council added two months transition time for employees impacted by lay-offs. Those lay-offs will now be effective March 1.
- The decision about the proposed weekend closure at the Renton Transfer Station was deferred by six months. During that time the division was instructed to study transfer station use patterns and report the results to Council. SWAC will receive a presentation on the results in the first quarter of 2012.

The labor issue with one of the subcontractors working on Bow Lake construction has been resolved.

The Cedar Hills Community meeting on October 25 was lightly attended. At the meeting the division discussed intermittent gas compliance issues in a gas probe on the west side of the landfill. The division is offering testing for methane for properties near that probe.

In response to questions Kiernan noted that the reduction in tonnage received coincided with the decrease in the economy. Tonnage is not moving out of disposal and into recycling. The decrease is not correlated with an increase in illegal dumping. Factoria will continue to provide household hazardous waste (HHW) service.

MSWMAC

The October MSWMAC meeting content was similar to SWACs. In November however, MSWMAC focused on the Interlocal Agreements (ILA) which expire in 2028. More than fifty people attended from 24 of the 37 cities that have solid waste ILAs with King County.

The ILA Drafting Committee recommended a number of things including extending the current ILAs for twelve years so they would expire in 2040, twenty eight years in the future. The group also recommends that the ILA include language encouraging additional discussions before a decision is made about disposal after the landfill reaches capacity.

The ILA Drafting Committee recommends that MSWMAC be memorialized in the ILA, that the comp plan approval threshold be revised so it's similar to the countywide planning policies adoption process, that parties to the agreement endeavor to communicate collaboratively and that early termination of the ILA not be an option.

More detail about these recommendations and information about other options that were considered are available at the following link. [Solid Waste ILA term sheet](#)

The goal is to have a contract that has been reviewed by cities' attorneys in the first quarter of 2012 and have new interlocal agreements in place by May. In response to a question Kiernan said that the need to propose a new multi-year rate in the middle of 2012 is a more significant scheduling constraint than bonding. The new rate must include assumptions about long term financing which would be strongly influenced by the term of the ILAs.

MSWMAC will discuss outreach plans at their December meeting. A member suggested that SWD meet with the new Suburban Cities Director and consider a special pre-Suburban Cities Meeting presentation.

A member asked what would happen if some cities in the service area don't agree to the new ILAs. Kiernan said there are a couple of scenarios depending on which cities choose not to extend the current agreements and where they are located. In one scenario there would be differential rates. In that case the cities that choose not to extend would pay a different disposal fee that ensures their portion of the debt for transfer station improvements is paid before the end of the current ILA. Another possibility is to re-scope the planned transfer station improvements to support the cities that have chosen to remain part of the solid waste system.

Membership

There are two openings for interested citizens on SWAC. One in the Kirkland area, replacing Jerry Hardebeck and one in South County replacing Ray Schlien. Extensive recruiting efforts have been unsuccessful. Members were asked to share any leads or recruitment ideas with Diane. There are nine SWAC members who have terms that have expired. They have all said they're willing to serve again.

Comp Plan Comments/Changes/Next Steps

The division made comp plan changes in response to comments from the Washington State Department of Ecology. In general, the changes were not substantive. Some changes were made in the data reported because time has passed and more information is available. The comp plan also includes a statement saying that if the ratification process defined in the ILA

changes the comp plan would follow the revised process. More detail is available here. [Comp Plan Final Revisions Summary](#). Contact Severn with questions or comments at thea.severn@kingcounty.gov.

Title 10 Changes

The division is drafting updates to Title 10.04 Solid Waste Codes. The changes are in draft form and many are related to the comp plan. The most significant change is to remove policies from the code. Currently, policies reside in both the code and the comp plan. Instead, the draft revisions to the code direct the reader to the comp plan so the policies are in only one location. Changes also include revisions to definitions. More detail is available here. [Guide to Title 10 Changes](#).

In response to a question Severn said that the definition of composted materials was removed from the Title 10 because the term didn't appear in the code. A member noted that is a significant change from the perspective of a composter. Others suggested the definition was covered in the definition of yard waste and organic material. A member suggested that "retailer" be removed from the product stewardship definition in Title 10.

Contact Severn with questions or comments not later than December second at thea.severn@kingcounty.gov.

Environmental Monitoring and Stewardship: Managed Sites

Victor Okereke, Engineering Services Manager and Anne Holmes, Solid Waste Division Staff presented information about environmental monitoring. A copy of their PowerPoint presentation is available here. [Environmental Monitoring and Stewardship](#)

Environmental monitoring and regulatory compliance is one part of the division's focus on environmental stewardship. Regulations change over time. With few exceptions, when a landfill is closed the regulations that were in place at that time continue to govern that landfill. Today, the division manages landfills covered by three different sets of regulations. Frequency and methods of monitoring change in response to those regulations and the amount of activity at a landfill.

For example, at the Cedar Falls closed landfill where a bio-berm is in place, the division monitors ground water, and surface water and does passive gas monitoring. At the Duvall closed landfill the division monitors the tree cover and water balances. Monitoring is different at Shoreline where a transfer station is built on a mostly exhumed landfill and Thornton Creek runs through the property.

The division monitors landfill covers, ground water, surface water, landfill gas, and leachate as needed at the different locations. Though monitoring station access points are set up above ground for ease of access eleven people are needed to provide the monitoring, maintenance and compliance reporting services which cost \$685,000 per year. The King County Environmental Lab provides laboratory services at \$730,000 per year. The total cost of monitoring and regulatory compliance exceeds \$1.4 million annually and new remediation, if needed, is an additional cost.

In response to a question Okereke noted that when needed, the division monitors more frequently than is required by regulation. If the monitoring shows a modification is needed, operations are changed in response. The division is proactive in responding to environmental concerns.

In response to a question Okereke said that the division has stations where noise is measured. Also, BioEnergy Washington, the owners and operators of the landfill gas to energy plant, does their own monitoring for sound ensure compliance with King County code.

Open Forum

Schmidt-Pathmann said that incineration is one of the most heavily regulated disposal methods, that a ban on land filling would substantially increase recycling and that Europe believes that waste to energy is the least expensive method to decrease CO₂. He moved that SWAC look further into alternatives to land filling. The motion did not receive a second.

Discussion included:

- A conceptual discussion would be interesting and should include how incineration is working on the East coast.
- Information should be presented objectively on this topic from sources that do not advocate for a particular solution.
- Comp plan language includes monitoring options for disposal once the landfill reaches capacity.

Group members suggested that the idea of looking further into alternatives to land filling be considered during the work plan review in January.

The comment period for rule making about product stewardship for mercury containing lights is in process.

CleanScapes has merged with Recology which is based in San Francisco.