

King County Solid Waste Advisory Committee

September 21, 2012 - 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

King Street Center 8th Floor Conference Room

Next SWAC meeting – October 19, 2012 - 9:30-11:30

Meeting Minutes

Members Present
Jerry Bartlett
William Beck
Joe Casalini
Bob Dixon
Jean Garber
Steve Gerritson
Sean Kronberg
Joan McGilton
Suellen Mele
Philipp Schmidt-Pathmann
Stephen Strader

Others
Gary Arndt, Parametrix
Jeff Gaisford, SWD Recycling and Environmental Services Manager
Kathy Hashagen, SWD Staff
Beth Humphreys, SWD Staff
Kevin Kiernan, SWD Director
Tami Litras, SWD Staff
Eric Richardt, SWD Staff
Janelle Rogers, CDM Smith
Polly Young, SWD Staff

Approve June Meeting Minutes; Review Agenda

The group corrected clerical errors and approved the June minutes as revised. There were no changes to the agenda.

The division identified an error in the May meeting minutes. At the bottom of page three, the minutes say, “The division asked the King County Ethics Board for an opinion.” That statement is incorrect. In fact, the division asked Ethics Board staff.

Ethics Board staff reviewed previous Ethics Board opinions and advised that it would not be appropriate for SWAC members or representatives from their companies or groups to participate in the development of a grant program to which they ultimately can apply and benefit.”

The division would like to correct the historical record. At the October SWAC meeting, they will ask SWAC members to approve a change to the May minutes for that purpose.

Updates

On July 13, the division held a workshop on issues related to the ILA’s. That workshop was videotaped and is available [online](#). Subsequent to that workshop the Executive met with Suburban Cities Association (SCA) leadership and reached an agreement in principle on liability language. Negotiations will restart in October with a goal of agreement within a month. The plan is to have several intensive sessions per week over three weeks.

The County negotiating team includes Christie True, Diane Carlson, Carrie Cihak, and Kevin Kiernan. Members of the cities’ negotiating team members include Deanna Dawson, from the SCA, Jay Covington of Renton, David Cline of Tukwila, Mike Thomas of Enumclaw, Julie Underwood of Shoreline and a member from Bellevue.

If the negotiations are successful, the agreement would be transmitted to city councils for approval in early December. The city adoption process would need to be complete by Feb 8. That allows the motion to be transmitted to Council in time for them to take action before the bond sale which will occur on February 28.

Waste Management proposed a change to their franchise agreement that governs the collection of solid waste in the unincorporated county allowing for missed pickups due to labor actions. The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC) has not accepted that proposal and is considering other modifications to the section on missed pickups. The County is participating in this discussion and will provide SWAC with updates.

BioEnergy Washington's (BEW) upgrades to their landfill gas to energy plant at Cedar Hills have been completed. Though they continue to make minor modifications, all indications are that the upgrades were successful. BEW has been able to successfully accept up to 90 percent of the gas produced at the landfill for extended periods.

The division presented information about the new Factoria Recycling and Transfer Station at a public meeting in Bellevue related to the Conditional Use Permit for the facility. In addition, the division proposed an alternative procurement method for the new Factoria station to Council. The Council has directed the division to consider other alternatives including lease/lease back. The analysis is underway and when it is completed, the division will report the recommended project delivery method to SWAC.

The rate transmittal is under consideration at Council. It has been heard by the Budget and financial management Committee and the Regional Policy Committee. Full Council action is anticipated by September 24. In response to feedback, the proposed rate has been reduced from the initial \$125 per ton to \$120.17.

The initial proposal included \$0.62 to restore selected recycling programs. Based on feedback, this will be reduced to \$0.26 which funds Spanish language outreach, maintains the green schools program and funds the return of curbside mix recycling to Renton, Houghton and Shoreline in addition to Enumclaw and Cedar Falls that had been previously restored. Kiernan noted that the revised two year proposed rate does not fund the Zero Waste of Resources Grant.

The Executive Office Policy and Procedure LES 7-1 (AEP), policy 6.4 says "all appointments shall be made for specified terms and a two-term limitation for all appointments shall be observed unless otherwise provided by ordinance or motion or waived by the Executive for unusual circumstances." Beginning recently, waivers are no longer routinely granted for appointment extensions for boards or commissions. The immediate effect of this change is that Vice Chair Stenburg will not be reappointed. The division appreciates her service and she will be missed.

Members voiced concerns about the impact the two-term limitation noting the difficulties associated with finding new members particularly from the unincorporated areas. Casalini noted that participation is what makes the group strong and effective.

In response to a question Kiernan noted that there is a pause in the comp plan process. The pause is necessary because the comp plan is for the long term and is based on assumptions about system composition and tonnage. Since two thirds of system tonnage and which cities will continue to be part of the system in the long term is dependent upon ILAs that expire in 2028, it is reasonable to pause in the comp plan process.

Effective Monday, September 24 Kiernan will step aside to become Assistant Division Director. This change will allow him to better focus on some personal matters. Pat McLaughlin will assume the position of Solid Waste Division Director. Pat has extensive operations and management experience in both the public and private sectors. As the Director of Business Enterprises for the Washington State Liquor Control Board, he has been responsible for managing a dispersed, private business like operation in a government setting.

SWAC members thanked Kiernan for his efforts appreciating the quality of his work, his integrity and his broad knowledge of solid waste management noting that he is well respected in the industry. Gerritson moved that the advisory committee commend and thank Kevin Kiernan for his service as Director. The motion passed unanimously.

Election of Chair and Vice Chair

McGilton nominated Casalini as Chair. Schmidt-Pathmann seconded the nomination. Casalini was elected unanimously.

SWAC chose to delay the election for Vice Chair until next month. In response to a request, the division will send term length information to SWAC members in advance of that meeting.

Board of Health Subcommittee on Medicine Return

Gaisford reported that previous efforts to begin a statewide drug take-back program via legislation have been unsuccessful. The Seattle-King County Board of Health is working to pass legislation in December for a county-wide drug take back program. This type of program is already in place in other jurisdictions, including Alameda County in California. A copy of the Board of Health letter distributed at the meeting is available [here](#).

Gaisford noted that the Board of Health has planned a public hearing on the issue for October 26. Details on the public hearing and other updates of that work are available [here](#).

The group discussed options regarding how to express their support of a county-wide drug take back program. After discussion, Mele volunteered to draft a letter based on the previous SWAC letter on this issue for the group to review at the October meeting. The intent is to send a letter expressing support not later than the October 26 public hearing.

A member made a motion that Suellen draft a cover letter to be attached to the previous SWAC letter on secure medicine return and bring it back to SWAC for consideration in October. The motion was amended to include that the language be sent to members in advance of the meeting. The amendment and the motion passed.

In further discussion the group considered to whom to address the letter. Options included the Board of Health and copying the Council, the members of Council that are part of the Board of Health, the Council and the Executive. No decision was made.

South County Recycling and Transfer Station Siting Process

SWD staff Polly Young and Project Manager Eric Richardt presented an update about the South County Recycling and Transfer Station Siting Project. The station is being sited in response to direction from the *Solid Waste Transfer and Waste Management Plan*. Steps involved in siting include identifying potential sites, broad screening, focused screening, comparative evaluation and SEPA. When those steps are complete the Department of Natural Resources and Parks will recommend a site to the Executive who will make the final decision.

The division reached out to a number of stakeholder groups to recruit members to the Siting Advisory Committee (SAC) for this project. At their first meeting the SAC identified community criteria and ranked their importance. At the second event, members toured the new Bow Lake building. Members discussed the five properties being considered and how the SWD project team has applied the criteria at their third meeting. The group will meet again Oct 10.

Many possible sites were identified using GIS and a search done by Real Estate Consultants. Key criteria were applied considering the size of the site, zoning, locations of arterials, cost, and critical areas including flood plains which reduced the number of potential sites. Click [here](#) to view the presentation.

In response to a comment Kiernan said that the division would talk with the committee about mitigation of critical areas in the EIS process. He noted that the property being considered is sized to allow for mitigation. Kiernan said it is important to remember that traffic concerns exist on arterials throughout King County and that the installation of compactors would decrease the number of truck trips leaving the station by as much as one-third.

Open Forum

There was no public comment.