

**King County Solid Waste Advisory Committee
January 17, 2014 - 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
King Street Center 8th Floor Conference Room**

Meeting Minutes

<u>Members Present</u>	<u>King County Staff</u>	<u>Others</u>
April Atwood	Jeff Gaisford	Doreen Booth
David Baker	Kathy Hashagen	Stacia Jenkins
Jerry Bartlett	Kevin Kiernan	Aaron Lawhead
Bill Beck	Jeff McMorris	Taisa Welhasch
Joe Casalini	Laila McClinton	
Bob Dixon	Tom Theno	
Jean Garber	Diane Yates	
Chris Husband		
Sean Kronberg		
Keith Livingston		
Craig Lorch		
Jose Lugo		
Joan McGilton		
Philipp Schmidt-Pathmann		
Stephen Strader		
Bill Ziegler		

Approve Meeting Minutes; Review Agenda

The November minutes were approved as written. There were no changes to the agenda.

Updates

SWD

The pipe that moves landfill gas to BioEnergy Washington’s landfill gas to energy plant broke on December 7. On December 20, following repairs, inspections and two pressure tests, the pipeline was reactivated. An additional alarm and shut off capability were added to the pipeline control system, so that if a break should occur in the future, the flow of gas will automatically stop. December 27, gas monitors were installed along the Cedar Hills fence line. SWD will continue extra monitoring of the pipeline through January.

In 2013, SWD received 815,800 tons of garbage and yard waste, just 0.05 percent less than was forecasted. Tonnage grew in 2013 by 1.3 percent. This is the first tonnage increase since 2007. Budget closeout numbers for 2013 will be available next month.

SWD’s 2013 Green Holidays campaign received [fifteen articles and TV and radio segments](#). EcoConsumer program manager Tom Watson also answered recycling questions on KUOW on January 2.

Three years after submitting the application, SWD has been awarded a Puget Sound Energy (PSE) Conservation Grant of \$154,341 for energy savings at the Bow Lake Recycling and Transfer Station.

SWD-funded crews cleaned up nearly four and a half tons of material from two homeless camps and assorted illegal dumpsites in White Center. SWD worked with other King County agencies to clean up the camps. King County Community and Human Services worked with camp residents to find them better, safer places to live.

An evacuation drill was conducted at the Shoreline Recycling and Transfer Station to test procedures in the event of an emergency. The event went well and the division is considering similar exercises at other sites.

SWAC members who have not received the required Equity and Social Justice (ESJ) training were reminded to access the video training provided [here](#). SWAC members were reminded to share changes in contact information with Diane. She is required to provide that information to the Executive's office.

MSWMAC

MSWMAC discussed Construction and Demolition (C&D) debris management and passed a resolution in support of handling the material through designated recycling facilities. They also received updates information on the ILAs and budget provisos.

OTHER

Joan McGilton is no longer a member of SWAC. Members and the division thanked her for her service to SWAC and other solid waste committees for many years.

The Sound Cities Association (SCA) has nominated Normandy Park Councilmember Stacia Jenkins to represent them on SWAC. Attendees were reminded that membership on SWAC is dependent on Executive and Council action.

2014 Work Plan

The division is seeking to make the best use of the wide ranging expertise of advisory committee members and hear their feedback. To move toward that goal:

- The division will send most materials to the groups one or two weeks in advance with particular emphasis on topics where action or input is requested.
- A brief introduction will be provided at the meeting but will not fully review the materials that have been sent out in advance.
- Previously presented and/or discussed topics will not be repeated. Instead, the conversation will reference previous materials or meeting notes and move forward.

This should allow more time for discussion and input. Members are asked to read the materials in advance and come prepared for the discussion. Members are also asked to review materials and notes for meetings they are unable to attend.

The committee reviewed the 2014 work plan. Without objection, the green fence issue was added to the work plan at the request of absent member Kaminski. Comments included:

- Though it may be included in the Sustainable Solid Waste Management Study it would be useful to have even more emphasis on recycling technology, resource recovery and waste reduction. Presentations on technology may also come from SWAC members on an ad hoc basis subject to SWAC Discussion Guidelines.
- Include discussion about funding solid waste services as disposal tonnage decreases.
- Add taking action on the Transfer Plan Review to the March meeting.
- Would like even more discussion on product stewardship.
- The Sustainable Solid Waste Management (SSWM) study appears on the work plan multiple times because it is a complicated topic and the division wishes to bring sections of the draft report to the committee as they become available.
- Committee members asked to be told in advance if there is something that the division needs from the group.
- The division will look for ways to share progress on key performance indicators.

It was moved, seconded and passed without object that SWAC would receive a presentation from the Klickitat County Public Utilities District regarding their gas to energy work.

With those amendments, SWAC approved their work plan.

State Solid Waste Plan Update

SWAC received a presentation about the [State Solid Waste Plan Update](#). Members were encouraged to provide comments through the [website](#).

Comments included:

- It's not clear how this plan influences actions across the state if it doesn't impose requirements on the various counties.
- Provide a link to the Solid Waste Annual Report that includes statewide composition information.
- The plan should include waste to energy. Current actions don't seem to be impacting disposal rates.
- Consider the energy content of materials, ways to influence producers to change manufacturing methods and encourage the move away from a disposal society.
- Consider making landfilling considerably more expensive in order to move toward the Zero Waste of Resources goal.
- It's unclear what local businesses have said in response to this plan particularly in relation to organics.
- The division will bring information to SWAC regarding the recycling percentages of various materials.
- Plan should include a requirement for the safe disposal of medications including what should be done with them while waiting for product stewardship to be put in place.
- Members asked for information to be included in the plan about what actually happens to the materials that are recycled.

State Legislative Session

A paint product stewardship bill (HB1579) was discussed at the House Environment Committee January 15. Panel members in favor of the bill included the American Coatings Association, Washington State Department of Ecology, local governments, Zero Waste WA, and CleanScapes. Those speaking in opposition or who had concerns included the Washington Retailers Association and the Washington Refuse and Recycling Association (WRRRA). Parties appear to be willing to continue conversations and are expected to meet sometime next week to work on substitute language for the bill.

The Legislature passed a law in 2010 requiring lighting producers to provide a statewide mercury lights stewardship program. However, the law has not been implemented due to a lawsuit about program financing from the National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA). NEMA proposed legislation for 2014 includes a request for legislative authorization to add an environmental handling charge to the price of each mercury lamp sold in the state for residential use, limiting the requirement for producers to pay for collection costs to only packaging materials, and requesting a 2025 sunset date for the program. A 2014 legislative proposal that can be supported by local stakeholders needs to be worked out.

This year, it is not likely that product stewardship legislation will be brought forth for batteries, carpet or mattresses.

Transfer Plan Review Report

SWAC received a [presentation](#) about the Transfer Plan Review Report. The Transfer Plan Review Report was completed in October. However, Council extended the due date for comments to the report until February 3 and asked the division to review other options related to building a Northeast County Recycling and Transfer Station. Reviewed options included

1. Redirect some commercial traffic from Factoria to Shoreline and to Renton which would stay open.
2. Limit self-haul services at Factoria to evenings and weekends, eliminate recycling and HHW service at Factoria and Renton would stay open.
3. Redesign and build Factoria bigger, limit self-haul services at Factoria to evenings and weekends, eliminate recycling and HHW service at Factoria, and Renton stays open.

The revised Transfer Plan Report is expected to include a recommendation to proceed with the Factoria project this year (with minor modifications) to protect the schedule and budget. Also, do not build the Northeast station unless changes occur such as Bellevue and the point cities choosing to stay in the system, shifts in waste processing methods, or policies regarding demand management make it reasonable to revisit the decision.

Members were reminded that for comments to be included in the Transfer Plan Review they must be in writing. Spoken comments included:

- TSOs are leery of limiting access to the station for commercial or self-haul customers.
- Increasing customer wait times as seems likely with increased traffic to Factoria and the existing stations does not appear to be a good choice.
- “I cringe at options that cut down or eliminate recycling.” Others agreed and also mentioned that increased traffic and travel time have a negative impact.
- Cutting self-haul access will increase illegal dumping.

- It's prudent to recognize the cost of delay. Increased wait times for commercial and self-haul customers are significant.
- The current plan says the division will consider closing Renton depending on the location of the new South County Recycling and Transfer Station (RTS). All the options that don't include building a new Northeast County RTS assume that Renton will continue operation.
- Consider the need to maintain hauling capacity. Remember time on the road or waiting at transfer stations is an expense to haulers and rate payers. A robust system is recommended.
- Haulers could handle being redirected to another station. However, it would increase costs to the customers.
- Self-haul, though it is understood to be less efficient than curbside service is a political issue. Also, surveys say self-haul customers are hauling garbage from unusual events such as cleaning out a garage or small scale home improvement projects that don't lend themselves to curbside collection.
- The variation of the Transfer Plan Base Alternative described on page 35 of the Draft Transfer Plan Review report of October 9, 2013 has the following advantages:
 1. It distributes recycling and transfer stations throughout the county, allowing the costs and environmental impacts of the solid waste system to be equitably shared among ratepayers.
 2. By reducing miles traveled for commercial and self-haul vehicles, it reduces fuel use and greenhouse gas emissions.
 3. It allows the county to move forward with construction of the new Factoria recycling and transfer station at the already permitted site, thereby preserving the sizable investment made in environmental review, public involvement, property acquisition, design, and permitting, for that facility.
 4. It meets all of the transfer station level of service criteria.
 5. It defers the opening date for the new Northeast recycling and transfer station so the Solid Waste Division can reassess the timing and scope of that facility. Recognizing that this would delay closure of the Houghton station, the recommended alternative also provides for consideration of additional mitigation at the Houghton station before final closure.
 6. All new recycling and transfer stations would have full recycling services and self-haul service during all hours of operation. This would help make new stations a community asset, and allow the county to further its goal of zero waste of resources.

Open Forum

Schmidt-Pathmann is working on an event called International Resource Innovation Summit which will emphasize waste as a resource. It is expected to focus on zero waste to landfills and innovative processes. It will include information about jobs created by the move away from landfilling. He also wanted to stress that the primary goal in dealing with C&D is to re-use the materials and design new construction with re-use in mind.

Kronberg made the following comment. "As a member of SWAC who lives adjacent to the landfill and in the area where the LFG migrated to the evening of December 7, I want you all to know that this event has had great impact on my neighbors and me. My next door neighbor is still not living in their home because of this incident. So while this break might seem minor in the grand scheme of things, it was, by comparison, a very significant event for those neighbors who, without warning or knowledge of the cause, became sick in their own homes, and has made us all realize how truly vulnerable we are living in proximity to the landfill. The event was a game changer. While we'd previously acknowledged the landfill as a nuisance or inconvenience for its occasional odors and noises, we now understand that it can also present a threat to our health and safety."

The Seattle North Transfer Station is closing for the next two years. The policy is that commercial tonnage will be redirected to another Seattle station. It is possible that some self-haul tonnage will come to the Shoreline Transfer Station.