

**King County Solid Waste Advisory Committee  
 October 21, 2016 - 9:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.  
 King Street Center 8th Floor Conference Center**

Draft Meeting Minutes

<b><u>Members Present</u></b>	<b><u>King County Staff</u></b>	<b><u>Others</u></b>
April Atwood	Jamey Barker	Karl Hufnagel, Parametrix
David Baker - excused	Alejandra Calderon	Ross Marzolf, King County Council Staff
Elly Buzendahl	Jennifer Devlin	Haley Piper, HDR
Gib Dammann	Jeff Gaisford	Phillip Schmidt-Pathmann, WRSI
Karen Dawson	Matt Hobson	Mary Shanks, HDR
Suzette Dickerson	Beth Humphreys	Ian Sutton, Parametrix
Jean Garber - excused	Laila McClinton	Darcy Webber, Public Health – Seattle & King County
Mason Giem	Pat McLaughlin	
Kim Kaminski	Meg Moorehead	
Kevin Kelly	Olivia Robinson	
Keith Livingston		
Jose Lugo - excused		
Ken Marshall		
Barbara Ristau		
Stephen Strader		
Largo Wales- excused		

**Approve Meeting Minutes; Review Agenda**

Due to Chair Jean Garber’s excused absence, Vice Chair Kevin Kelly opened and ran the meeting. Quorum achieved, Kelly made a motion to nominate Jean Garber to fill Chair position. Kim Kaminski seconded the motion. There were no more nominations. By unanimous vote with one abstention, Jean Garber was elected as Chair.

Kim Kaminski made a motion to nominate Kevin Kelly as Vice Chair. April Atwood seconded the motion. There were no more nominations. By unanimous vote, Kevin Kelly was elected as Vice Chair.

June and September meeting minutes were approved as presented. A request to amend the June minutes failed.

## Updates

### **SOLID WASTE DIVISION (SWD)**

#### New Assistant Division Director starting October 31st

SWD is pleased to announce it has found its new assistant division director. Roger Merritt has accepted the position and will begin on Oct. 31. Roger comes to SWD with more than 20 years of experience in the waste management industry, most recently serving as the Associate Director of the Resource Recovery Division for Prince George's County in Maryland. Roger's arrival at the end of October means he will have about a month to cross-train with current Assistant Division Director Kevin Kiernan, who is retiring at the end of the year.

#### Upcoming annual landfill meeting and tour

SWD will hold its annual fall Cedar Hills Regional Landfill [neighbor meeting and tour](#) in October. The meeting will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 25 at the Issaquah Library in Issaquah, and the tour was held on Saturday, Oct. 15 with 25 neighbors and a Cub Scout troop in attendance. Both events are a chance for landfill neighbors and community members to hear updates about the landfill and learn about SWD operations

#### New web cameras installed at six busiest recycling and transfer stations

On Oct. 1, SWD launched a new Demand Management project intended to help customers make a more informed decision about where and when they dispose of their waste. New web cameras at the Algona, Bow Lake, Factoria, Houghton, Renton, and Shoreline transfer stations show customers, in real time, the line of vehicles waiting to enter the stations. Camera feeds are located on SWD's website at [www.kingcounty.gov/checktheline](http://www.kingcounty.gov/checktheline). The site also features average disposal times at all SWD facilities. Disposal times measure the time it takes customers to weigh in, dispose of their waste, weigh out, and pay. SWD is performing demand management projects at the direction of the King County Council, which has asked SWD to study how to make the customer experience at transfer stations more efficient.

#### Final report from 2016 Threadcycle campaign

The 2016 Threadcycle Campaign ended in September and, in addition to receiving more than 22 million impressions through paid, earned, and social media, the campaign website received more than 66,000 unique visits during the three-month campaign. Additionally, the campaign enhanced its outreach to Spanish-speaking communities by holding public events and workshops, garnering more than 35,000 impressions via various media outlets. More information about Threadcycle can be found here:

<http://your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/ecoconsumer/threadcycle.asp>

#### Recicla Mas featured in *Burien Magazine*

SWD's Recicla Mas, Es Facilísimo Spanish outreach program has been featured in *Burien Magazine*. The magazine published the article in both English and Spanish to give as much information to as many residents as possible. The article is on page 19 at this link:

<http://philipspublishing.com/issues/burienmagazine/index.html?page=1>

## **MSWMAC**

Solid Waste Division Director Pat McLaughlin reported the October meeting of MSWMAC had a similar agenda as the October SWAC meeting. Members of King County Solid Waste Division's Strategy, Communications, and Performance unit delivered a presentation on a revised proposed Comp Plan review process. Then McLaughlin discussed the intersection of the newly adopted rate, the budget process, and the demand management pilot.

Keith Livingston asked for an update on the status of the Algona Station replacement. McLaughlin said the Final EIS for the three siting options is complete. The division received one appeal on the adequacy of the EIS brought forward by the City of Algona. The appeal is with the King County Hearing Examiner. That process may take 90 days to review the concerns laid out in the appeal, otherwise there are no significant updates.

### Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan (Comp Plan) Presentation

SWD staff Meg Moorehead, Matt Hobson, and Beth Humphreys gave a [presentation](#) on the updated proposal for the comp plan review process, timeline, and decision-making model. The new comp plan review process begins with an online survey of advisory committee members in order to identify policy areas where there is wide support and those requiring more discussion. SWD added three more meetings to the review timeline for a total of eight. The proposed decision-making model consists of recurring straw polls where substantive agreement moves a policy discussion forward. It was noted that a vote for agreement is not binding in the early stages of review, as there will be multiple opportunities within the review process to alter positions. Also, in an effort to keep policy discussions organized and on target, there are proposed ground rules.

Discussion followed the presentation:

- MSWMAC and SWAC will try to follow the same comp plan review process. In addition to November's joint meeting, there is a possibility that there will be more joint meetings of the two advisory committees in the future.
- With the survey, both committees will receive a link to a copy of the last approved comp plan. Per request, RCW sections pertinent to the comp plan will be shared with SWAC members.
- When the current comp plan was approved, there were different planning assumptions than we have today: More cities had long-term agreements with SWD, modeling assumptions anticipated an increase in tonnage, and we were in a different economy. Big decisions on the horizon require an updated policy framework.
- The review process will not disregard the policy work already agreed upon by the committees. The survey will help determine a starting point for discussion. SWD will work closely with the chairs of the advisory committees to determine meeting agendas.
- Surveys need to be completed and submitted to SWD by Nov 10 to shape discussion at Nov 18 joint meeting.

## Rate Plan Update and Budget Process

SWD Director McLaughlin unveiled the new online wait time cameras at the six urban transfer stations and the impending on-site digital signs. The digital signs will compare wait times at nearby transfer stations to better inform customers of their options to reduce their wait.

After an online demonstration of the cameras, McLaughlin turned the discussion over to the nexus of the demand management pilot, the recently approved rate increase, and the proposed budget currently awaiting approval by county council. The approved rate is 12 percent higher than the current rate instead of the 14.6 percent proposed; the difference owing to council direction to draw upon cash reserves set aside for future rate stabilization. The new rate pays for important projects and initiatives, such as the work at Area 8 at the landfill, the new transfer stations in South County and Factoria, and the demand management pilot.

MSWMAC made recommendations on the demand management pilot which were in the proposal presented to the Executive. What was presented to Council scaled back the pilot project from all urban stations to just those serving the Northeast part of the county. SWD agrees that monitoring relevant measures system-wide is essential, but does not feel that applying the same price increase across the system will yield the best study. Incentivized pricing in select locations is a way to test whether that element is an effective way to redistribute transactions across the system.

Next steps for SWD include further developing the scope for the pilot with input from MSWMAC and SWAC, as well as discussions with host cities regarding permits and concerns such as traffic studies.

Discussion followed:

- The MSWMAC demand management sub-committee focused on the demand management pilot and not on siting a NE transfer station.
- While some feel closing Houghton is the only way to ensure a true demand management pilot, there are no assumptions made about closing Houghton at this stage, although it will certainly affect the pilot. SWD will review the impacts of the potential closure, including financial implications, but the ultimate decision on what will happen to Houghton during the pilot will be decided by council.
- Currently, the comp plan preserves all the options that may occur following the demand management pilot, however, siting a NE transfer station was removed from the SWD's budget.
- There were concerns that some important voices in this discussion, particularly small businesses who self-haul, are not represented at the advisory committee meetings. However, a few community members on SWAC noted they work to represent self-haulers. McLaughlin noted that the SWD financial team is looking into bonding rate issues affecting access to accounts by smaller businesses.

- There is a concern that if Houghton closes, haulers will have to make long hauls only to have to sit in a long line. Others expressed concerns about traffic, roadside debris, and long wait lines surrounding local transfer stations. McLaughlin offered assurances the final scoping of the demand management pilot will include measures that will capture data on impacts affecting cities and citizens.

### **Open Forum**

*Members made no comments during the open forum.*

Phillip Schmidt-Pathmann spoke about the importance of acknowledging the true costs of waste collection, compared comingled recycling to recycling in Germany, and shared a photo of a paper and cardboard receptacle from his recent trip to Europe.