

LTD Subgroup Meeting

April 24, 2024

Ice Breaker, Agenda Review, Subgroup Purpose/Role and Meeting Objectives (John Walsh)

- Penny Sweet hoped that this group will stay engaged and working on this topic.

History

- John Walsh (SWD) gave his overview of the historical context of the LTD studies commissioned by SWD in the past (RW Beck, Normandeau, and Arcadis). He also talked about the different options that were considered (WEBR, WTE, and Extending the Life of the Landfill).
- Pat McLaughlin (SWD Director) said the assumptions have varied across these studies and highlighted that different models were used to estimate the impacts of different criteria across different options. He wants to make sure we really understand what the models we use are and are not including.
- Jon Gire (Bellevue) asked about the relevance of the past studies
- Penny Sweet (Kirkland) mentioned the tech has changed and there were political considerations involved in those studies as well due to the advocacy of members of KC Council.

Timelines

- Patty Liu (SWD) presented on the timeline slides.
- Amy Tsai (Redmond) asked about the logistics of the MSWAC/SWAC reps giving their recommendation. She was concerned that not all cities will be able to give their opinion at that time (Q3 2025). Pat McLaughlin said that the advisory committee's recommendation is the recommendation of the committee, not the individual cities. He also said it may or may not be unanimous, it may just show a range of opinions.
- Amy Tsai asked when the subgroup will meet with the consultant. Patty Liu said consultant team will be present at subgroup meetings 2 and 3 as well as workgroup meetings 2 and 3.
- Amy Tsai asked where the consultants were in their work and whether or not the subgroup will be able to ask questions or influence the study. Patty Liu said the assessment phase is done, but there is time to ask for clarifications and additional information. John Walsh said we already got the comparative analysis matrix, SWD has made comments and will share with subgroup so they can also add comments and questions to it as a way to weigh in on the study.

LTD Options and Criteria

- John Walsh presented on the disposal option slides
- Pat McLaughlin asked John Walsh to talk about current projects in these technologies.
- Morgan John (SWD) spoke about the following projects:
 - Emerging technologies: established tech for other feedstocks (like single stream waste such as wood waste or chicken farm waste) but not for MSW. Very scarce for that feedstock. One in Canada and one in Nevada, but both of them are unproven and small in scale (not even able to take the amount of tonnage we are projecting at the lowest end of the range).
 - RDF: It is an interim step, creating a product that must be sold and can be burned (generally they replace coal). Often with cement kilns and sometimes as a fuel in a WTE plant.

- WTE: There are fewer and fewer of these in the US. Emissions regulations are growing and making it harder to build a new one. There is one in WA and one in OR and one in CA that is being decommissioned.
- WEBR: John Walsh wanted to make it clear that this can have issues too. There was a rail strike and Snohomish needed us to take their waste for a while.
- John Walsh presented on the criteria slides and walked through how we got to the list TetraTech is using from the list we have in the Comp Plan. He started with the crosswalk.
- Amy Tsai appreciated the helpful crosswalk. But she wanted to know more about what is meant by compatibility with existing systems and what is being evaluated with regards to siting. She mentioned that siting considerations have a strong permitting and social justice impacts. How many constraints are there to actually finding a potential site?
- John Walsh said he'd have to go back and look at how TetraTech is addressing that. He spoke about the options relating to dry vs. wet MWP. He also talked about how we didn't look at a specific site before.
- Need to follow up on this (both on compatibility and siting considerations)
- Pat McLaughlin said with regards to siting, if it would be of value for us to be noting the footprint for the different facilities/options. How big is it, is it multiple things (several smaller sites) etc.? Not "where does it go" but "how much space is needed" and any special needs the option might have like a large flat area for WEBR or the like.
- John Walsh then presented on the current criteria slides (main criteria and the sub-criteria).
- Aaron Moldver (Redmond) said that we may want to consider MWP with all of these options, because it will have a major impact on the final tonnage amount and composition. John Walsh said that was a good point and we'll talk about it in the next section.
- Chris Searcy (Enumclaw) wanted to know if the CCA is being assumed in WTE or other options and the economic impact of the CCA. Especially since such a facility would be far into the future and those allowances may no longer be available or would be really expensive. John Walsh said we did ask TetraTech to look into this but we will follow up with them and make sure this is factored in.
- Amy Tsai asked if Capacity included emergencies like a rail strike or a plant exploding. She said this might belong in a "Risk" category for short- and long-term emergencies.
- John Walsh didn't think that was in the study, but wasn't sure. He knows our safety group does work on that sort of thing.
- Amy Tsai would like to know about the intersection between Environmental and ESJ. How much of it is bad for the local (immediate) area and how much of it is just generally bad for the environment? John Walsh said he would make note of this and reach out to TetraTech about it.
- Jon Gire said he's happy to see SWD looking at ESJ. Something Bellevue is asking is, "Are there communities that are benefiting or being negatively impacted in a specific way?" Not a question really, just a statement that he's glad we are looking at it.
- Amy Tsai said there are a lot of different aspects of this and how this is embedded into different criteria. She likes the ones we showed, but the report seemed pretty technical to me, but ESJ tends to be more qualitative. Is TetraTech using specialists on this? John Walsh said he likes the idea of looking into these aspects more.
- Penny Sweet said it shows SWD put in a bunch of time and thought into this and it shows.

Re+ Commitments and Impact

- Brian Halverson (SWD) presented on the Re+ and Diversion slides then jumped into the tonnage exercise.
- **Single Family Organics**

- Jenna McInnis (Kirkland) asked how much has Seattle done in this space and what is left for them to do, how much is still going to the landfill, and how cost effective is enforcement
- Seattle Organics is embedded in rates, so they have a 90% subscription rate. However, there are still questions about how much food waste is still not being captured.
- Joan Nelson (Auburn) said organics is not mandatory and not embedded in rates in Auburn. They have a 60% subscription rate so they didn't want to force people to subscribe. A lot of work ahead of us to enforce this.
- Tamie Deady (Black Diamond) said there is concern about the cost for enforcement, especially for a small city with limited staff and funding. How can a small city get some help?
- Rebecca Kovar (Federal Way), from chat: This is of special concern, because charging single family residents for contaminated carts is forbidden, which means the hauler will absorb the cost and adjust contract rates accordingly. Joan seconded this comment. There's so much we can do about contamination but aren't really doing (such as using durables for school lunch vs paper plates, outside of single-family Organics)
- Rebecca had another question about how enforcement works now or will work.

Commercial Organics

- Jon Gire said this could be more of a challenge to get higher participation of commercial vs single-family. Grants could help. We should focus on food donation as that seems a higher form of diversion. Using Mixed Waste Processing to capture food waste could carry large load since enforcement may be hard.
- Joan Nelson said a few years ago they tried to get restaurants to get food waste service and they said they'll do it when they are required to do it. And now it's required. They did get some participation from some smaller restaurants though.
- Jenna McInnis said Kirkland has a no cost program available to businesses right now. Some use this but more don't. There are concerns about how to enforce the state laws though.
- Aaron Moldver had similar thoughts to Jenna, adding that they enforce contamination with support from a consultant ride-along 2x per year (pull carts if too much contamination) which seems to make for a cleaner stream. There are worries that the state law may disrupt this cleaner stream.

Other

- Andy Smith (SWD) - Bring back more info about Seattle's experience
- Amy Tsai thinks it's less about choosing a scenario but understanding what the impacts are at high, med, and low. What happens in high tonnage scenario as there is going to be risk with that. The medium tonnage scenario seems the most likely so we should present the risks to that and compare to the high and low scenarios. If we actually achieve zero waste, then it's good to know if there is some benefit (or possibly burden) if this happens.
- Pat McLaughlin said the delineations between single-family and commercial organics needs to be clear. Also, the timing of implementation and who bears responsibility will help with a path forward.