

MSWAC Advisory Committee Meeting

July 14, 2023 - 11:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.

Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

<u>MSWAC Members</u>	
Troy Linnell	Algona
Joan Nelson	Auburn
Jon Gire	Bellevue
Emily Warnock	Bothell
Robin Tischmak	Burien
Shellie Bates	Covington
Steve Friedman	Clyde Hill
Chris Searcy	Enumclaw
Rebecca Kovar	Federal Way
Rob Van Orsow	Federal Way
Tony Donati	Kent
John MacGillivray	Kirkland
Penny Sweet, Chair	Kirkland
Amy Shaw	Maple Valley
Micah Bonkowski	Redmond
Aaron Moldver	Redmond
Amy Tsai	Redmond
Meara Heubach	Renton
Linda Knight, Vice Chair	Renton
Genevieve Rubinelli	Sammamish
Mason Giem	SeaTac
Cameron Reed	Shoreline
Jared Hill	Woodinville

<u>King County Staff</u>
Joy Carpine-Cazzanti, King County Hazardous Waste staff
Brian Halverson, SWD staff
Patty Liu, SWD staff
Michelle Mouton, King County Hazardous Waste staff
Amy Ockerlander, SWD staff
Yolanda Pon, Public Health Seattle-King County staff
Terra Rose, King County Council staff
Hannah Scholes, SWD staff
Andy Smith, SWD staff
Glynda Steiner, SWD Deputy Director
Isabelle Trujillo, SWD staff
Dorian Waller, SWD staff
John Walsh, SWD staff
<u>Guests</u>
Lacie Adkins
Erin Gagnon, DTG Recycling
Logan Harvey, Recology
Jeanette Jurgensen, Epicenter Services
Han Kirkland, Waste Management
Brad Lovaas, WA Refuse and Recycling Association
Laura Moser, Waste Management
Fanny Silverio Gonzalez
Diana Wadley, Dept. of Ecology

Call to Order and Introductions

Chair Sweet called the meeting to order at 11:21 a.m.

Meeting Minutes

Agenda approved unanimously. Van Orsow moved to approve the June meeting minutes. Knight seconded. The meeting minutes passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Wadley provided several updates. First, July 30 is the deadline to get your Progress Report/Payment Request (PRPR) in for the LSWFA Grant. The deadline for anyone who has determined that they do not need a compost procurement ordinance was January 1. In terms of planning, the City of Seattle’s Solid Waste Management Plan (2022-2027) has been approved and there is a link to it on [Box](#). The overall planning and waste reduction resource library can be [found here](#).

As a follow-up to the [ABC news report](#) mentioned last month, the old directory site for plastic bag store drop off does not exist anymore and redirects viewers to a sustainability page by the American Chemistry Council (ACC). They do

have a new page, but it does not direct to a new directory. Ecology is no longer referring people to either directory and have taken down any reference to either directory.

A shortened version of the ABC report to TV/web news can be [found here](#). The full investigation mentioned a pilot program in the Seattle/King County area that happened last year which can be found around the minute markers 23:30 to 26:00. The program was very controlled by the ACC and the materials went to Merlin Plastics in Canada after sorting at SeaDruNar.

Wadley mentioned to her LSWFA grant recipient (City of Seattle) that they can put trackers on their recyclables. As mentioned last month in Ecology's common sum report, the City of Seattle's role as a leader in the area could position them well to get into transparency around recyclables and where they go. If anyone feels inclined to put trackers on their recyclables, trackers are something that could be funded via LSWFA, and it will be under a planning task. Many people's grant applications are new, and adjustments can still be made. For more information, talk to Wadley at Diana.wadley@ecy.wa.gov.

Lastly, the E-Cycle Washington program provides a report to Ecology every five years and so the Northwest Product Stewardship Council is wanting to get feedback from locals and are hoping that the feedback gets incorporated into the report. There is an [upcoming meeting](#) on July 20 from 12-1 p.m. if you are interested in participating. You can also contact Hannah Scholes at hscholes@kingcounty.gov or 206-477-7980 for more information.

Wadley said in chat that the [Washington Materials Management and Financing Authority](#) (WMMFA), the operator of E-Cycle Washington, has produced a new 8" x 5" info card, for distribution to the public. It contains basic program details for E-Cycle Washington and a QR code that link to the [collection site finder](#). Order cards for free by emailing info@wmmfa.net or calling 855-674-5871. Please request info cards in increments of 50. Most requests are for 100-300 cards.

SWD Updates

Steiner provided the SWD update.

Maintenance Activities at the Bioenergy Washington (BEW) Gas Purification Plant

The week of June 26, BEW notified SWD of its intent to begin maintenance at the gas purification plant that processes methane collected from the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill and turns it into natural gas.

According to BEW, the maintenance will require a shut-down of the plant for approximately two weeks in early July, and the company will not process the methane during that time. To safely manage the gas, which is produced by decomposing organic matter (food waste, plant material, etc.), SWD operations will flare it while the BEW plant is not operating. Flaring gas is a normal operational practice that is used during maintenance periods or other activities when landfill gas can't be recovered.

SWD's optimal practice and long-term goal is to recover and beneficially reuse the methane produced at the landfill, but there are times when operations must allow for maintenance activities, and to work through the challenges BEW is experiencing.

We take seriously the obligation operate the landfill for the benefit of its residents, and in compliance with public health and environmental regulations.

Tonnage Report

As is normally the case, last month we received more tonnage than the June 2022, because of this we are estimated a slight positive difference (0.5%) tonnage for the year. In 2023, we will receive less tonnage compared to 2022.

According to the Office of Economic and Financial Analysis, the economic outlook for King County in 2023 remains positive, with growth in personal income, population, employment and building permits.

Equipment Updates

As you may know, we contract out for our recycling hauling services. Due to this, we occasionally must close our recycling areas due to our vendors not being to haul our recyclables out. If they can't meet the service needs, we must close the recycling centers at our stations when the bins get full. We are concerned with the message that this sends to customers when we close, especially when residents have worked hard to sort out their recyclables or in worst cases, have to dump them onto the tipping floor. To try and solve this problem, we purchased four roll-off trucks so that we can haul our own recyclables and have control over our hauling. Hopefully with these trucks, we won't encounter any issues with closing our recycling areas.

For our top load stations, we have ordered new packers so that we don't have to divert customers at stations. Many of the current packers are old and original equipment and frequently break down. We hope that these new packers can stop these frequent break downs.

Re+ City Grants

We have a presentation with the City of Auburn in the coming week, which will mark 31 cities who have received the presentation. Of the 37 cities in the County, 21 cities have signed the Re+ pledge. We are very appreciative for all the support we have received from the cities with this effort. At the County, we will be brainstorming new policy directives to see what folks most are interested in moving forward with first.

The Re+ City Grants program is a new competitive funding opportunity to support King County cities in delivering projects that further Re+ and create a more circular economy. Cities in the King County waste system that signed the Re+ Pledge were eligible to apply. The application period for the first grant cycle was from April 25-June 1.

We received 5 proposals for a total of \$450k. Twelve cities were represented in the application process (four of five proposals were joint city proposals). This collaboration was a huge win and speaks to the embodiment of Re+ efforts to bring communities together around our shared zero waste of resources goal.

Proposals were reviewed by a committee of SWD staff and representatives from the Re+ Community Panel. SWD has notified all applicants of their application status and will begin contract negotiations in the coming weeks. Congratulations to those receiving awards and we look forward to seeing your projects being successful.

A formal public announcement will be shared when all contracts are signed.

SWAC Update

Sweet said SWAC was almost identical and short.

Rate Restructure Check-in

Waller asked the cities for a check-in.

Linnell stated that they just started and signed the letter.

Moldver said that they are on their Council Consent calendar for Tuesday, July 18.

Searcy commented that since they are their own haulers, this does not really impact them.

Van Orsow stated that they are scheduled to go to committee in August and to their City Council in September for a contract amendment.

Giem said that it is in front of their legal team right now and they are scheduled to go to committee in August, and Council in September.

Friedman stated they have been working with Republic on the process, but he is not sure where they are at. There does not seem to be any issues.

Tischmak commented that they are working on an amendment but are not yet scheduled to go to Council.

Reed said that they are on their Council Consent calendar in Mid-August, and there are no major concerns.

Shaw stated that they are on the Council Consent agenda for Monday, July 24.

Nelson noted that she just received draft amendment language from the haulers, and they will most likely go to Council in the fall.

Rubinelli said that they did a presentation on July 11 to their Council and received direction to get it on the Council Consent agenda.

Gire commented that they are working on draft language with the Compound Commercial Rate (CCR).

Donati stated that they have amendment language that they are sending back to the hauler for revision. They are still working through things before getting it on their Council agenda.

Warnock said that they are set to go their City Council on Sept. 5 for proposal.

Hill commented that there is nothing to report.

Bates stated that they were scheduled to go to Council on July 25 for presentation. If all goes well, they will go to the Consent agenda on Aug. 8.

Knight added that Renton is ready to go and there are no impacts on contracts.

Sweet commented that there are no amendments to make, and it is already in the remodel.

Waller said that if any assistance is needed before going council, please reach out to Waller, Halverson, or Walsh.

Halverson stated that there are some Fixed Annual Charge (FAC) Allocation and Office Hours later this month for people to check in with SWD staff. We anticipate issuing a final table the week of July 24. Cities and haulers will have five business days to review it before it is officially published. The two office hour sessions are on July 25 from 2-3 p.m., and July 28 from 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Moldver commented that the five-day review period seems short since it is summer, and people will be out. Halverson replied that we can revisit this review period and can possibly add another week. There most likely won't be many changes.

Discussion: Resident participation recruitment

Waller led this discussion.

Waller wanted to know what tactics and methods cities have employed to get residents engaged with solid waste activities. There are several SWAC openings, specifically for resident positions.

Knight said that many cities might have summer festivals and the cities might be able to have SWAC information drafted by Waller at their booths. Cities might be able to put requests on social media too.

Bonkowski commented that Redmond could put a notice in their City Sustainability newsletter.

Waller asked the cities how they keep residents on their committees.

Gire stated that Bellevue feeds residents. Prior to formal meetings, there is a hangout with food available and they do their best to treat them as honorees. They feed and socialize the residents and make them feel that it is a prestigious role to serve on their commission, which it is.

Reed asked clarification on if community member positions are paid. Walsh responded that it is a volunteer position as code does not allow for compensation of SWAC members.

Sweet said that Kirkland receives a lot of engagement with the Northeast Recycling and Transfer Station project (NERTS) but it is not always positive engagement. A sustainability perspective might be more engaging for residents.

Knight echoed Sweet's sustainability comment and added that sustainability resonates with many young people.

Sweet said that Kirkland has a group called the "Sustainability Ambassadors" at their schools. This group has taken on roles mostly around conservation and clean water.

Waller noted that we do have the Green Schools program, but this is for people not of college age. For higher education, Waller will reach out.

Heubach wanted to know how much opportunity there is at SWAC meetings for members to contribute and discuss content versus just being an audience member. Walsh responded that SWAC meetings and the agenda are run the same way as MSWAC.

Wadley commented that one thing that Ecology has done to help with resident participation is [compile information](#) that Seattle did when they were pushing hard to recruit people for their SWAC. The information compiled includes recruitment ads, emails, and a video. During the recruitment period, [Seattle SWAC](#) had their members play an active role in finding their replacements. She added that they meet in the evening and having an evening time slot might work better for some people. They also have a roundtable after the meeting which provides a personal touch for people to interact with each other.

Reed added in the chat that compensation for community members would likely help recruitment and make it more equitable.

Smith said in the chat that we are currently working on updating how we approach school engagement moving forward with the Re+ transformation. We are very happy to hear ideas on future educational opportunities. Reach out directly to Smith at andysmith@kingcounty.gov.

Searcy wanted to know if there are criteria that we are looking for in residents. Waller replied that the only criteria is that the person operates within the King County system.

Heabuach noted that she previously ran the Pierce County SWAC and provided information on what they did. She shared that they had a hybrid meeting, a kid's corner with coloring books, and the Chair/Vice Chair had Robert's Rules training that they brought back to the whole group to share. They were reminded that the Chair and Vice Chair are not the boss but just lead the meetings. They tried to shape the agenda so that the group can have input and provide ideas on where to make things more equitable.

Moldver stated that a positive community group was the Siting Advisory Group (SAG) for NERTS. The County could actively reach out to those groups since they are already somewhat engaged in solid waste topics. Van Orsow followed up on Aaron's comment and said that the County could also reach out to the South County Recycling and Transfer Station project (SCRTS) Design Advisory Group (DAG).

Waller asked how people have engaged and retained residents of color on their various committees.

Wadley said that Seattle made a big push to increase diversity in their SWAC and have been successful at it. Their current leader in recruitment is Quinn Apuzzo who can be reached at Quinn.Apuzzo@seattle.gov. Another thing that they did was create a video of current members that talked about their current experiences and shared it online and on social media. If residents can see people who look like them on SWAC, it might help break down current issues of joining.

Sweet suggested that SWD speak to our Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) person.

Heubach stated that one part of Pierce County's Comprehensive Plan as to recruit more People of Color to their SWAC. They wanted to revamp their SWAC webpage to show what the benefits are of being on SWAC and what residents would get out of it.

Waller commented that many of these suggestions are currently being employed and wanted to see what is happening on the cities ends to see if the County can employ them. It is one thing to recruit people and another to retain them.

Van Orsow added that we could seek input from the Hazardous Waste Management Program's DEI staff.

Comp Plan Subcommittee

Liu presented this information.

This subcommittee was created to help facilitate discussion around policy updates we plan to include in the Comp Plan and expedite the decision-making process to meet our deadline.

The meeting would be in between the monthly advisory meetings and would be about one to two hours. In the document that Waller sent out, there is a list of the weeks we are hoping to have the subcommittee meetings. Hopefully some of you can find some time to join the subcommittee. We are asking for:

- At least six members from MSWAC with a mix of small, medium, and large cities. In the document, there is a small table at the end that has divided the MSWAC cities out by their sizes
- At least three SWAC members, with hope that the Chair/Vice Chair from MSWAC and SWAC join
- One member representing a hauler or processor
- One resident member

If interested, please reach out to Waller by July 28. Some of the topics we will hopefully cover include:

- Language about reserving capacity at Cedar Hills or loaning out capacity to other jurisdictions that might need it
- Policies to support zero waste of resources or Re+. Most of those conversations will be around how to limit food waste going into our landfill
- Long-term disposal – what are we going to do after Cedar Hills closes

Moldver wanted to know what the process is for a city not on the subcommittee to provide input for the Comp Plan. Liu responded that the subcommittee isn't intended to make the decision on behalf of every King County city and is just a way to structure the conversation. In between the monthly meetings, we will be asking the subcommittee how we can frame the conversations so that we are making the most of our time in the actual advisory committees. We don't expect those decisions to happen in one meeting since it will probably be a longer process, but that is why we need the subcommittee to expedite that process. Everyone in MSWAC and SWAC will be able to comment in the actual advisory meetings.

Searcy asked if it would be better for the County to just ask for at least one city from each of the categories (small, medium, large) and the rest can be from any of them. Walsh said the reason we went the route we did was because we wanted one of the cities to be Sweet or Knight's city but Renton and Kirkland fall within the large city categories. It might be better to do one big city, the chair/vice chair, and then two medium and two small cities.

Member Comment

No member comments.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 12:09 p.m.