

Solid Waste Interjurisdictional Technical Staff Work Group
Meeting Summary
July 27, 2005
King Street Center

Meeting Attendees:

City Staff:

Sharon Hlavka – City of Auburn
Alison Bennett – City of Bellevue
Susan Fife-Ferris – City of Bellevue
Rob Van Orsow – City of Federal Way
Elaine Borjeson – City of Kirkland
Nina Rivkin – City of Redmond
Linda Knight – City of Renton
Desmond Machuca – City of SeaTac
Valarie Jarvi – City of Woodinville

County Staff:

Peggy Dorothy – County Council Staff
Mike Huddleston -County Council Staff
Kevin Kiernan - SWD
Theresa Koppang - SWD
Bert Tarrant - SWD
Diane Yates - SWD
Gemma Alexander - SWD

I. SWD Updates

Intergovernmental Relations Liaison Diane Yates said that there is a 1:30 PM Mariners game on August 17, and asked if ITSG wanted to reschedule or relocate the meeting to avoid Mariners traffic. Susan Fife-Ferris of Bellevue offered to host the meeting in Bellevue.

Yates said she will be on vacation from July 29 through August 8. SWD staff Gemma Alexander will be e-mailing meeting agendas and notes to the group during that time. Yates said she will work on scheduling a September ITSG meeting to begin the discussion of ILA/Governance issues.

Twelve of the seventeen member cities have confirmed that they will attend an August MSWMAC meeting. Two cities said they would be unavailable. Only nine cities are required to make a quorum, so there will be a MSWMAC meeting on August 12.

Yates commented that it is sometimes hard to tell when the group has reached consensus. She asked whether ITSG would prefer to receive detailed notes or to adopt some process for clarifying when decisions are made. She also asked how ITSG would like to handle MSWMAC Chair Garber's request for a regular ITSG update at MSWMAC meetings, and whether MSWMAC members should receive copies of ITSG's meeting notes.

ITSG discussed these questions and agreed that meeting notes should include more detail than the summary approach used to date. Where consensus has not been reached, the notes should identify all positions. When the meeting involves editing a document, such as the Report Four Assumptions, a separate file containing the edits should accompany the minutes. ITSG would like to review notes before they go to MSWMAC, but agreed

that a time limit should be set for review. If no comments are received, the notes will be considered approved, and will be passed on to MSWMAC in lieu of the monthly update. MSWMAC could call on ITSG members whenever there's a question about ITSG's deliberations or a need for clarification on ITSG meeting notes. Yates will discuss this approach with Chair Garber.

II. System Brainstorming

Yates said that she did not prepare a formal agenda for this meeting because she thought that it would be a continuation of the discussion on Report Four Assumptions. However, during the last ITSG meeting, interest was expressed in brainstorming. She suggested that today's meeting begin with a brainstorming session and then continue with review of the draft assumptions.

Engineering Services Manager Kiernan added that the division would be happy to invite the haulers to an ITSG meeting if the group thought it would aid in their discussions by asking specific questions related to transfer and disposal for waste export. He pointed out copies of the haulers' responses to Snohomish County's RFI as a reference. ITSG decided not to invite the haulers until there were specific questions for them to answer.

King County Council Staff Mike Huddleston commented that brainstorming is a good exercise. He said the county has approached this process with the feeling that it is bound by adopted policies and the ILAs, but he agrees that some things need to be flagged and some assumptions may need to be revisited. For example, current policies on self-haul service and uniform service levels at the transfer stations exclude a number of options that could be evaluated. The county is obligated by law to assume that it will follow current policies, but that does not mean this process cannot identify places where current policies should be reconsidered.

Kiernan said that the county must either comply with existing policies or change the policies that block preferable courses of action.

Nina Rivkin of Redmond commented that if assumptions are the foundation for planning, it doesn't make sense to use questionable policies as assumptions. Rivkin said she did see a distinction between self-haul, which has long been identified as a policy decision, and early export, which may not be practical.

Fife-Ferris said the division has not yet provided sufficient evidence that early export is not feasible. She said the document that has been provided does not show how that conclusion was reached.

Kiernan stated that the division will provide the analysis showing that while early export may be feasible, it is not cost effective.

Fife-Ferris illustrated a concept for an early export system. Drawing a map of King County, she identified existing transfer stations along the I-5 corridor and the general area

south of Lake Washington where an intermodal facility could be located. Commenting that there are already concerns that the system cannot be fully ready for compaction before Cedar Hills closes, she suggested that garbage generated within close proximity to the intermodal facility could begin exporting early. This might help to expand the life of Cedar Hills, thus allowing more time to improve the rest of the transfer system and even site a new transfer station somewhere in the Northeast Lake Washington area.

Kiernan said that essentially this theory would depend upon the results of an analysis that hasn't been done yet. He drew a model that illustrated the question of whether, if the system cannot be completely compactor equipped before Cedar Hills closure, it is better to pay to export uncompacted waste or to delay closure by exporting what can be compacted early.

ITSG considered whether intermodal and compaction capacity already exists for exporting waste. Kiernan identified potential sites:

1. Cascade Recycling Center, Woodinville, Waste Management, accepts CDL and mixed recycling, no compactor
2. 3rd and Lander, Seattle, Allied, accepts mixed recycling and Seattle's MMSW, has a compactor
3. Eastmont, Waste Management, accepts recycling and CDL, no compactor
4. Black River, Allied, accepts CDL, no compactor

In response to a question about using county facilities for intermodal, Kiernan said that except for the Spirit of Washington dinner train, the nearest railway is eight miles from Cedar Hills. The Enumclaw Transfer Station is 14 miles from the nearest working track.

ITSG discussed the potential costs and benefits of continuing operation of Cedar Hills longer than its current projected lifespan. Kiernan described the expected capital investment involved in completing the remaining cells at Cedar Hills as well as some of the operating cost concerns involved in wastewater management and preserving emergency capacity. ITSG discussed what the term "emergency capacity" could involve.

Recognizing that MSWMAC will discuss the assumptions at its August meeting, ITSG considered how to proceed. Linda Knight of Renton commented that while some cities may not be willing to move on, others may be, and there will be no progress if the entire process stops at every sticking point. King County Council Staff Peggy Dorothy suggested that while consensus is always the goal, it may not always be achievable. When that is the case, the process should not be stalled. Instead, issues should be flagged to identify that it remains in question for ITSG and should then move on to MSWMAC for its consideration. ITSG agreed that work products should follow the same format selected for minutes, where approved items are identified and areas of disagreement are flagged. ITSG identified the question of early export as one of these areas of disagreement, and agreed that it was not necessary to hold up the process until this point was resolved.

III. Report Four Assumptions

ITSG agreed on the following additions to the assumptions:

- White Center annexation will reduce tonnage from King County's solid waste system if it becomes part of the City of Seattle's solid waste system by 2012, per the Growth Management Act.
- The solid waste division will develop annual tonnage forecasts for disposal and recycling streams through the 20-year planning horizon.
- Create a new category of assumptions dealing with the waste stream. The new assumption relating to total system capacity will belong in this category.
- Assumptions relating to self haul service will be placed in the "Waste Stream Assumptions" category.
- Add an assumption that CDL will not re-enter the system.

ITSG agreed to the following changes to the existing "Landfill Capacity" assumptions:

1. Insert "outside the boundaries of the Cities of Seattle and Milton"
2. no change
3. no change
4. Landfills designated for waste export in the final plan will comply with environmental regulations.
5. Cedar Hills will be filled to its current permitted capacity in conformance with the current adopted site development plan and EIS.
6. The useful life of Cedar Hills Landfill will be extended through operational and other efficiencies.
7. Remove the word "transfer."
8. Remove the phrase "and have to."
9. Add the phrase "unless the decision is made to early export some or all King County waste."
10. no change
11. no change
12. no change
13. At least three independent companies are expected to bid competitively for King County waste when it is marketed at the time of waste export.

IV. Next Steps

ITSG agreed to meet again on Wednesday, August 3 at King Street Center from 10-12 in order to complete the assumptions.

Rivkin offered to send ITSG a copy of the assumptions that she has prepared that reorganizes the assumptions into a logical order.

The division agreed to send a separate document containing just the assumptions edits to ITSG before the next meeting in addition to the minutes.

ITSG agreed that the assumptions will be forwarded to MSWMAC after next Wednesday's meeting for discussion at the August 12th MSWMAC meeting.