

KING COUNTY METROPOLITAN SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

October 12, 2007

11:45 – 2:00 p.m.

King Street Center, 8th Floor Conference Center

Approved Minutes

Members in Attendance

<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Title</u>
Jeff Viney	City of Algona	Councilmember
Sharon Hlavka	City of Auburn	Solid Waste Supervisor
Rich Wagner	City of Auburn	Councilmember
Susan Fife-Ferris	City of Bellevue	Conservation & Outreach Program Manager
Joyce Nichols	City of Bellevue	Utilities Policy Advisor
Joan McGilton	City of Burien	Mayor
Rob Van Orsow	City of Federal Way	Solid Waste & Recycling Coordinator
Jessica Greenway	City of Kirkland	Councilmember
Erin Leonhart	City of Kirkland	Public Works Maintenance Supervisor
Carolyn Armanini	City of Lake Forest Park	Staff
Jean Garber	City of Newcastle	Mayor
Jon Spangler	City of Redmond	Natural Resources Division Manager
Linda Knight	City of Renton	Solid Waste Coordinator
Mark Relph	City of Shoreline	Public Works Director
Frank Iriarte	City of Tukwila	Deputy Public Works Director

Others in Attendance

Solid Waste Division

Brad Bell, Interim Transfer/Transport Operations Manager

Jennifer Broadus, SWD Staff

Jeff Gaisford, Recycling and Environmental Services Manager

Jane Gateley, SWD Staff

Kathy Hashagen, SWD Staff

Kevin Kiernan, Interim Division Director

Thea Severn, Interim Lead Planner

Guests

Sabrina Kang, Suburban Cities Association

1 **Call to Order**

2 MSWMAC Chair Jean Garber called the meeting to order at 12:20. Everyone present
3 introduced themselves.

4
5 **Approve September Meeting Minutes**

6 **MSWMAC Vice-Chair Jessica Greenway moved to approve the September minutes.**
7 *September minutes were approved by consensus.*

8
9 **Updates: SWD/SWAC/ITSG/Master Schedule:**

10 **SWD:**

11 Interim Solid Waste Division Director Kevin Kiernan reported that Executive Sims has
12 transmitted a recommendation to the King County Council that Theresa Jennings become
13 the director of the Department of Natural Resources and Parks. The council has not yet
14 scheduled confirmation hearings and review of the Executive's budget is about to start so
15 it is uncertain when they will take place. All Solid Waste Division interim appointments'
16 will continue for now.

17
18 At the Bow Lake Transfer Station a cell phone tower beside the scalehouse was struck by
19 lightning last week. The resulting power surge caused a fire in the insulation under the
20 scales. Scale operators extinguished the fire, repairs were made and the facility was
21 operational within four hours. The division is putting together an emergency host cities
22 contact list so the division can contact host cities as needed in an emergency.

23 Intergovernmental Relations Liaison Diane Yates will be contacting cities for this
24 information.

25
26 The Solid Waste Division will be transferring property adjacent to the Vashon Island
27 Transfer Station to the Water and Land Resources Division. The property was acquired
28 in the 1960s with King County funds. There was not a solid waste enterprise fund at that
29 time. The Solid Waste Division has been the custodial agency for this land.

30
31 MSWMAC member Carolyn Armanini asked about the financial implications of this
32 transfer from both an operational and capital perspective. Kiernan replied that providing

33 the ongoing maintenance required such as noxious weed removal and removal of
34 dangerous trees over trails is not within the normal scope of maintenance work done the
35 Solid Waste Division. The Water and Land Resources Division is already doing this type
36 of maintenance regularly. The division does not see a need to maintain ownership of this
37 land. He added that the capital cost is pretty small.

38

39 Armanini asked how the capital cost compared to the rent at the Cedar Hills Landfill, and
40 whether the division would get the funds if the property were sold. Kiernan said that the
41 funds would go back into the King County current expense fund. The land is a financial
42 drain and not an asset.

43

44 Kiernan said that the Regional Policy Committee (RPC) met on September 26th. The
45 Interjurisdictional Technical Staff Group (ITSG) legislation was approved, making ITSG
46 a permanent committee to assist MSWMAC.

47

48 MSWMAC member Rob Van Orsow asked if the legislation was approved by the full
49 council. Kiernan replied that he believes it was. MSWMAC member Erin Leonhart
50 asked if a work plan was part of the ITSG legislation; Kieran said that no work plan had
51 been specified.

52

53 Kiernan stated that on October 10th the RPC discussed the ordinance for the Solid Waste
54 Transfer and Waste Export System Plan. There was an amendment to change the title to
55 the Solid Waste Transfer and Waste Management Plan. The third party review conducted
56 by Gershman, Brickner & Bratton, Inc. (GBB) was attached to the legislation. There was
57 also an addition to the Plan about expanding the capacity and extending the life of the
58 Cedar Hills Landfill. The Plan was approved by the RPC and will be transmitted to the
59 Growth Management and Natural Resources (GMNR) committee.

60

61 The RPC also distributed the conversion technologies report at their meeting. Kiernan
62 said he will inform MSWMAC when a future briefing is scheduled for discussion.

63

64 Representatives from Frederick County Maryland are touring the division's facilities to
65 look at a variety of options for the closure of their landfill. They contracted with R.W.
66 Beck to examine conversion technologies. For that region of the country, R.W. Beck
67 concluded that conversion technologies are more cost effective than waste export. These
68 conclusions are not surprising when noting that Frederick County exports waste by truck,
69 not rail, and energy market prices are higher on the east coast. Additionally, the
70 Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions being replaced are coal, not the hydropower used in
71 this region.

72

73 Kiernan said that Councilmember Lambert sent a letter to R.W. Beck about their
74 conversion technologies report. R.W. Beck responded, with the exception of the point
75 made to Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC). The response letter is available at:
76 <http://www.metrokc.gov/extranet/dnrp/swd/RWBECKResponsetoLambert.pdf>

77

78 SWAC:

79 Armanini reported that the SWAC response to Councilmember Lambert's letter was an
80 angry one. The characterization of SWAC was seen as an insult to the members and their
81 time spent as volunteers. SWAC sent a letter explaining the history of SWAC, and asked
82 for clarification. They have not yet received a response. The SWAC response letter can
83 be viewed at:

84 <http://www.metrokc.gov/extranet/dnrp/swd/SWACNo16Response.pdf>

85

86 SWAC discussed the R.W. Beck conversion technology report. They drafted a response
87 that was more general and less technical than MSWMAC's response. SWAC chose to
88 step back and let MSWMAC take the lead in responding. SWAC will communicate the
89 need to maintain flexibility as a policy consideration. SWAC will also bring up the
90 impact incinerator technologies have on recycling goals.

91

92 Kiernan added that, SWAC pointed out that a rate increase is a perfect educational
93 opportunity to promote recycling. This was well received by the division and educational
94 material was added to the rate increase information on the website.

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ITSG:

MSWMAC member Linda Knight reported that seven cities were in attendance at the September 26th ITSG meeting. There were five cities represented from the south and two from the north cities. The membership has been fairly consistent and ITSG would like to see more cities attend the meetings.

In response to the Rural Level of Service presentation, Kathleen Edman and Sharon Hlavka had submitted some questions and comments. Most of the meeting was spent discussing responses to their questions and comments.

In relation to the survey and statistics discussed at ITSG on the Self-Haul Level of Service presentation, there was some confusion about the data presented, which will hopefully be cleared up during today’s presentation to MSWMAC on the same subject.

ITSG discussed the Local Hazardous Waste Management Program (LHWMP), which is a multi-jurisdictional program. King County along with the suburban cities produces a separate plan for household hazardous waste.

ITSG discussed the new Shoreline Recycling and Transfer Station and what recyclables will be collected there.

There was also some discussion about bulky waste collection and a comparison of the role of cities versus the role of the county for this service. There seems to be some confusion on roles, and it would be helpful to have more specific data on how best to meet this need.

Knight said that ITSG did not come to any specific conclusions and the dialogue will continue.

Schedule:

Interim Lead Planner, Thea Severn said that the Comp Plan advisory committee schedule format has been updated. As topics are discussed they become part of the shaded region.

128

129 Armanini said that she appreciates keeping track of where we have been and what is still
130 left to do.

131

132 The Solid Waste Division Timeline was also updated. Greenway commented that she
133 likes seeing the short and long term sections.

134

135 **Conversion Technologies Study Discussion**

136 MSWMAC Chair Jean Garber said that she would like to have the cities caucus and
137 develop their response to the conversion technologies study. There were no objections
138 and division staff left the meeting.

139

140 In caucus, a motion was made and seconded, and passed unanimously to send the
141 attached letter to the Council.

142 <http://www.metrokc.gov/extranet/dnrp/swd/MSWMACtoCouncil10122007.pdf>

143

144 **Transfer System: Self-Haul Level of Service, Parts I: Presentation/Discussion**

145 Severn gave a presentation on the Self-Haul Level of Service. That presentation can be
146 viewed at:

147 <http://www.metrokc.gov/extranet/dnrp/swd/MSWMACSelfHaulLOS10122007.pdf>

148 (Note: please click note icon located on the top left to view accompanying presentation
149 notes)

150

151 Greenway asked if the definition of commercial haulers is those entities that contract to
152 pick up garbage. Severn said that is the definition the division uses.

153

154 Van Orsow asked how many tons of curbside mix recyclables are collected at the transfer
155 stations. Severn answered about 6,000 tons in 2006.

156

157 Knight asked for the sample size of the self-haulers who were surveyed. Severn replied
158 that 1,256 people were surveyed. Since a disproportional percentage of the sample was
159 from Vashon Island the data may be skewed.

160

161 MSWMAC member Susan Fife-Ferris asked whether the 75 percent who replied to the
162 survey that they do not use curbside recycling have it available to them. Severn answered
163 that if you look at the survey respondents' respective cities, one can see what services are
164 available to them. Recycling and Environmental Services Manager Jeff Gaisford said
165 that many of the people surveyed were from Vashon Island where there is limited
166 collection of recyclables.

167

168 Fife-Ferris commented that she would like to see a different rate model to see if people
169 will pull out recyclables and also a pilot on limiting hours for self haulers at the transfer
170 stations.

171

172 MSWMAC member Rich Wagner stated that he was not in favor of limited hours for
173 self-haulers. He stated that limiting hours might increase illegal dumping.

174

175 Severn said that when the division changed the hours at a rural facility, illegal dumping
176 was raised as a concern. However, now that people know the hours, they appear to have
177 adjusted their behavior accordingly and fewer things are being left at the gates.

178

179 Fife-Ferris said that at the Houghton Transfer Station there is congestion and issues with
180 neighbors. She said that limiting self-haul hours to weekend only at that station would
181 help with some of these situations and commercial haulers could be processed faster on
182 weekdays.

183

184 Knight said that as a host city she has not seen an increase or decrease in illegal dumping
185 when the rates go up. People who dump illegally have psychological profiles that have
186 little to do with hours. When changes are made there is an adjustment period. Illegal
187 dumpers make a conscious choice to dump.

188

189 MSWMAC member Jon Spangler asked what the City of Seattle does about self-haulers
190 who dispose of mandatory recyclables. Severn replied that Seattle does not allow yard

191 waste mixed with garbage at their transfer stations. When the ban began, Seattle had
192 staff who monitored disposal to ensure separation of yard waste.

193

194 Fife-Ferris said she would like to see all new transfer stations developed like the
195 Shoreline Recycling and Transfer Station, where customers will be able to separate out
196 recyclables.

197

198 Severn asked if primary recyclables are collected efficiently at the curb, should resources
199 for transfer station recycling be spent elsewhere.

200

201 Fife-Ferris said she would like to see data on why people would self-haul primary
202 recyclables.

203

204 Spangler said that large items that will not fit in the bin are taken to transfer stations.

205

206 Severn said that, after certain holidays and predictable events like moving day, there is an
207 increase in self-haulers.

208

209 Fife-Ferris said she would hate to see the division not accept primary recyclables.

210

211 Severn asked if cities thought some fee should be charged for accepting recyclables
212 collected at the curb.

213

214 Fife-Ferris stated she believed most people would not mind paying a fee, however, she
215 would not want to discourage people from recycling the material because of the fee.

216

217 Knight said that she would like to see King County assess whether or not it is
218 economically feasible for all economic classes to recycle, including large and small
219 businesses. There are areas in King County where there is an economic disincentive for
220 small businesses to subscribe to curbside recycling services. She would like to see some
221 economically feasible service provided in those areas.

222

223 Knight said that fee-based recycling should be considered. The goal has been to
224 encourage recycling and customers are under the perception that recycling is free, which
225 it is not. Will the cost of disposing recyclables start to cost more than disposing solid
226 waste? If that were to happen, we would need to shift our education goals.

227

228 Severn commented that some on ITSG had expressed the thought that waste prevention
229 and reuse are preferable to recycling. Some fee for previously free recyclables might
230 encourage more waste prevention and reuse.

231

232 Severn wrapped up the presentation by encouraging members to email her at
233 Thea.Severn@kingcounty.gov or call her at, 206-296-4498 if they had any additional
234 questions or comments.

235

236 **Adjourn**

237 The meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

238

239 Submitted by:

240 Jennifer Broadus, SWD Staff