

Metropolitan Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee

March 11, 2011 - 11:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.
 King Street Center 8th Floor Conference Room
 Next MSWMAC meeting – April 8, 2011

Meeting Minutes

Members	
Paul Mallary	<i>Algona</i>
Joan Nelson	<i>Auburn</i>
Susan Fife-Ferris	<i>Bellevue</i>
Joyce Nichols	<i>Bellevue</i>
Tom Spille	<i>Bellevue</i>
Sabrina Combs	<i>Bothell</i>
Joan McGilton	<i>Burien</i>
Barre Seibert	<i>Clyde Hill</i>
Rob Van Orsow	<i>Federal Way</i>
Gina Hungerford	<i>Kent</i>
Jessica Greenway	<i>Kirkland</i>
John MacGillivray	<i>Kirkland</i>
Bob Lee	<i>Lake Forest Park</i>
Glenn Boettcher	<i>Mercer Island</i>
Carol Simpson	<i>Newcastle</i>
Jon Spangler	<i>Redmond</i>
Linda Knight	<i>Renton</i>
Tom Gut	<i>SeaTac</i>
Chris Eggen	<i>Shoreline</i>
Mark Relph	<i>Shoreline</i>
Mike Roy	<i>Snoqualmie</i>
Frank Iriarte	<i>Tukwila</i>

Others
Dale Alekel, SWD Staff
Jeff Gaisford, SWD Recycling & Environmental Services Manager
Terri Hansen, SWD Assistant Director
Kathy Hashagen, SWD Staff
Mike Huddleston, King County Council Staff
Kevin Kiernan, SWD Director
Donna Miscolta, SWD Staff
Beth Mountsier, King County Council Staff
Mike Reed, King County Council Staff
Thea Severn, SWD Planning & Communications Manager
Diane Yates, SWD Intergovernmental Liaison
Guests
David Fujimoto, City of Issaquah
Diana Pistoll, City of Maple Valley
Jodi Vice, CleanScapes

Minutes & Agenda Review

A motion to approve the February MSWMAC minutes passed unanimously.

In response to member input, beginning at this meeting the ILA discussions will be moved to the top of the MSWMAC agendas to ensure sufficient time for that topic. It will be the first item after call to order and the approval of the minutes. The committee agreed with this plan. However, an exception was made for this meeting. The committee agreed that the rates presentation would happen first at this meeting because it would inform the ILA discussion.

Rates Presentation

The committee received a presentation on the proposed approach to determining the new rate at their last meeting. Using that approach, the Solid Waste Division has proposed an increase in the basic fee for disposal from \$95 to \$108 per ton, effective January 1, 2012. The impact of the proposed increase on the average residential customer with one-can collection service would be about 76 cents per month. Even with this increase, King County’s basic fee for disposal would remain among the lowest in region.

The current rate of \$95 per ton was intended for 2008, 2009, and 2010. The rate was extended through 2011 but cannot support the expenses of the system beyond this year. The division was able to extend the rate through 2011 by instituting efficiencies and budget controls and by responding to declining tonnage; cutting total expenditures by about \$39 million.

The proposed one-year rate for 2012 will provide funds to operate the system at its current level of service. It will also begin collecting about \$2 per ton to fund construction and closure reserves for the already approved extension to the life of Cedar Hills.

The proposed one year rate will provide time for the cities and the county to discuss ILA issues; including funding for the new stations identified in the [Solid Waste Transfer and Waste Management Plan](#) which was developed collaboratively by the cities and the county.

The term of financing for bonds to fund the investments in new stations is linked to the term of the ILAs, which currently expire in 2028. The region faces the choice of financing these capital improvements within the next 17 years or less, or extending the life of the ILA to allow longer term financing.

In response to questions, Kiernan said that

- The proposed one-year rate does not include funding for future construction. However, the rate study that will go through the approval process with the rate proposal will include a bar chart showing possible impacts of different rate proposals. The bar chart is on page eight of the presentation given to MSWMAC at their February meeting. http://your.kingcounty.gov/extranet/dnrp/swd/MSWMAC_&_SWAC/2012_Solid_Waste_Rate-MSWMAC_02.11.11.pdf.
- The cost per homeowner for Cedar Hills rent is on the order of fifty to seventy five cents per month.
- The Cedar Hills rent line item includes no other costs. He noted that because the assumptions used in 2004 to compute the rent have changed, the rent will be re-evaluated in 2011.
- The Public Health Fee is the amount the division pays to Health to fund illegal dumping responses, facility inspections, waste characterization and other services.

Gaisford noted that an anticipated increase in the Local Hazardous Waste Management fee is not included in the proposed rate. That increase is decided by the Board of Health and is not part of the basic fee for disposal.

To allow enough time for the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission to act on the increase and for the commercial haulers to prepare, the King County Council would need to act on the ordinance by August 1.

ILA Discussion

Members were asked to provide input to the ILA Review Committee's (ILARC) work plan. Of particular interest is a review of the key issue to be discussed as part of the ILA discussions. The workplan schedule is predicated by the need for a new rate proposal next year. Members

were invited to provide comments and questions at the meeting or to the ILARC via email. Comments included:

- Begin the workplan with a clear role definition. The ILARC does background and preparatory work which is brought to MSWMAC for input, direction and decision. Ensure language throughout the document supports those roles.
- Review the language in the workplan to ensure it is clear that a decision about amending versus creating a new ILA has not been made.
- A member suggested adding weighted voting to the issues list and requested that direct billing be added to the financial issues discussions.

The committee discussed fact sheets.

- The Rates Proposal fact sheet was distributed during the previous agenda item. Drafts of the following fact sheets are being developed and will be emailed to MSWMAC after ILARC's review.¹
 - Solid Waste Transfer System
 - Cedar Hills Regional Landfill
 - Cedar Hills Landfill Rent
 - Emergency Debris Management
 - Solid Waste Interlocal Agreements
- Kiernan requested MSWMAC assistance in watching for the use of jargon or acronyms in the fact sheets which could make the content difficult to understand.
- Fact sheets are tools for communication with decision makers. They are intended to be relatively short (no longer than one double-sided page), to be easy to understand and to contain all the pertinent information. There was considerable discussion about the advisability of providing more detail in the fact sheets. Options include a footnoted version or references to other documents.

A member commented that the rate increase appears to be 31 percent since 2007 which is high when compared to the Consumer Price Index for the same period.

A member asked how the system was financed prior to 1988 when the first ILAs were executed. It was suggested that King County is choosing not to issue bonds without having flow control in place.

Kiernan said that federal solid waste law changed significantly in the 1980's. State law (RCW 70.95) was written in response and significantly changed the capital costs and liabilities related to disposal. Because of those changes, there is little value in comparing the financing of that time to the current time.

Kiernan noted that aside from landfill construction and closure costs which are paid for with reserves, financing has historically been done through 20-year bonds. Current debt service is primarily for Shoreline though there is still some debt for the Enumclaw and Vashon transfer stations.

¹ These fact sheet titles are slightly different than the titles that were discussed at the meeting and which appear in the ILARC draft workplan. The fact sheet titles have been updated and an additional fact sheet has been added to the list; Emergency Debris Management.

Updates

SWD:

The Solid Waste Division briefed the City Managers/Administrators at their monthly meeting on March 2nd. A copy of the PowerPoint presentation is available at

http://your.kingcounty.gov/extranet/dnrp/swd/MSWMAC & SWAC/City_mgr_presentation_03.02.2011.pdf.

The division also attended the Suburban Cities Association meeting on March 9th to support MSWMAC member Joan McGilton in her solid waste update.

SWAC:

SWAC amended their bylaws to address how to consider new technologies at their meetings and use of electronic devices during meetings.

State Legislative Session Update

The bills that have been discussed at MSWMAC meetings did not move forward in this legislative session. Those bills included product stewardship legislation on carpet, pharmaceuticals, and sharps, a phonebook opt out program and an expansion to E-cycle Washington that would allow the program to accept peripherals as well as computers, monitor and televisions.

Each of these bills stopped at different points in the process. The Secure Medicine Return bill moved the furthest. It was only one vote short of moving out of the Senate. There will be discussion later this year about legislation priorities for 2012.

Schools Recycling Programs

MSWMAC viewed a presentation on the Schools Program. A copy of this presentation including speaking notes is available

http://your.kingcounty.gov/extranet/dnrp/swd/MSWMAC & SWAC/MSWMAC_school_programs_03.11.11.pdf.

There are two major parts of the School Program. One is School Education which teaches students about waste reduction and recycling, encourages them to change their own behaviors, and to share that information with others.

It does this through an assembly program, classroom workshops that involve students in hands-on activities, project focused workshops called Green Teams, information available via social media, and the Earth Heroes recognition program. More information about the School Education Program is available at <http://your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/education/index.asp>.

The other School Program is Green Schools which provides King County schools and school districts with tools and support to initiate or expand conservation practices, involve the whole school community in environmental stewardship, and operate environmentally efficient facilities.

It does this through a three level program focused successively on waste reduction and recycling, energy conservation, and water conservation. Each level has a checklist of actions to complete in order to receive recognition at that level. Since 2002 the program has assisted 450 schools and 11 districts. Of those participants, 75% have reached recycling rates of 40% or higher. More information about the Green Schools program is available at www.kingcounty.gov/GreenSchools.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.