

# Metropolitan Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee

September 13, 2013, - 11:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.  
King Street Center 8<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room

## Meeting Minutes

<b>Members</b>	
Paul Mallary	<i>Algona</i>
Bill Pelosa	<i>Auburn</i>
Joan Nelson	<i>Auburn</i>
Carolyn Robertson	<i>Auburn</i>
Susan Fife-Ferris	<i>Bellevue</i>
Alison Bennett	<i>Bellevue</i>
Joyce Nichols	<i>Bellevue</i>
Aaron Nix	<i>Black Diamond</i>
Sabrina Combs	<i>Bothell</i>
Jaclynn Brandenburg	<i>Bothell</i>
Laura Techico	<i>Des Moines</i>
Ken Miller	<i>Federal Way</i>
Rob Van Orsow	<i>Federal Way</i>
John MacGillivray	<i>Kirkland</i>
Carol Simpson	<i>Newcastle</i>
Nina Rivkin	<i>Redmond</i>
Linda Knight	<i>Renton</i>
Tom Gut	<i>SeaTac</i>
Scott MacColl	<i>Shoreline</i>

<b>King County Staff</b>
Gemma Alexander, SWD Staff
Diane Carlson, King County Executive Staff
Tom Creegan, SWD Staff
Kevin Kiernan, SWD Assistant Director
Josh Marx, SWD Staff
Laila McClinton, SWD Staff
Pat McLaughlin, SWD Division Director
Mike Reed, King County Council Staff
Thea Severn, SWD Planning & Communications Manager
Diane Yates, Intergovernmental Liaison
<b>Guests</b>
Doreen Booth, Sound Cities Association
Eleanor Brekke, Citizen
John Brekke, Citizen
Signe Gilson, CleanScapes
Laura Moser, Waste Management

### **Minutes & Agenda Review**

Lacking a quorum, approval of August MSWMAC minutes was deferred.

### **Updates**

SWD

- There has been moderate growth in tonnage this year– about 1.3 percent. This is in line with the forecast.
- The grand opening ceremony for the Bow Lake Recycling and Transfer Station will be held on October 8. King County Executive Dow Constantine will speak at the opening. All MSWMAC members are invited to attend.
- King County is upgrading its telephone system to provide better customer service. As a result, some phone numbers will be changing.
- There have been two Transfer Plan Review workshops, with the third and final workshop scheduled for September 27. Participation has been strong. The division has presented updates to the Regional Policy Committee (RPC) and to the Sound Cities Association Public Issues Committee. During the RPC briefing, there was some

confusion about the risks related to alternatives that develop the Eastgate property adjacent to Factoria.

- The City of Bellevue clarified: “Factoria” refers to the property currently housing the Factoria Transfer Station and permitted by the City of Bellevue for redevelopment of the future Factoria Transfer Station. “Eastgate” refers to the property adjacent to the current facility, located along Eastgate Way. The County owns this property as well. Bellevue has a vision for the Eastgate Way corridor that is incompatible with a transfer station.

#### SWAC

SWAC did not meet in August and has no report.

#### Cities

Newcastle is repaving part of Coal Creek Parkway. This has limited access to some neighborhoods, which was very disruptive. The experience has reinforced the importance of good communication with the public in advance of major projects.

Groundbreaking for a major development along Main Street in Auburn is scheduled soon. The addition of a five-story condominium building in a lot that has been vacant will be positive for the city.

#### **Transfer Plan Review Workshop 2 – Recap and Next Steps**

MSWMAC received a [presentation](#) about the second workshop of the Transfer Plan Review. Presentations from the workshop are available on the [website](#).

The draft report, which is due October 9, will include background information, a description of the review process and of the alternatives, and the analyses presented at the workshops. A decision will be made after the final workshop about whether to include a recommendation in the draft report. The final workshop is scheduled for September 27. It will consist largely of cost analyses. The due date for the final report, set by ordinance, is November 27.

A number of informal votes were taken at the workshops. While these are included in the meeting summaries, which will be appended to the report, they will not be part of the body of the report. The votes were simply to gauge initial reactions, and are not useful for decision-making.

#### Comments included:

- The division, by King County ordinance, is required to consider equity and social justice in decisions about service and impacts.
- All calculations for all alternatives assume that Bellevue and the other cities that have not signed new ILAs will remain in the King County solid waste system through 2028 and leave the system mid-2028.

- The timeline for this process seems rushed to fit the schedule for building Factoria.

There was discussion of the regional direct rate. The question was raised whether changing the regional direct policy would reduce the need for transfer system improvements. This discussion included:

- The regional direct rate is the rate charged for transfer trailers that bring waste to the landfill without passing through King County's transfer stations. In the past, this rate was subsidized by rate payers. In 2004, the rate was changed to reduce the spread between what transfer station customers paid and the rate paid at Cedar Hills (regional direct). Since then, the regional direct rate has been equal to the base rate minus the cost of handling waste at the transfer station.
- Except for a few collection routes in the immediate neighborhood around Cedar Hills, curbside collection vehicles do not use Cedar Hills. Almost all waste must pass through a transfer station before coming to Cedar Hills. The question is not whether a transfer station is used but whether the transfer station that is used is publicly or privately owned.
- Collection vehicles carry much smaller loads than transfer trailers. Allowing them to deliver waste to Cedar Hills would significantly increase traffic on roads in the Maple Valley area and at the landfill, and would present a safety hazard at the landfill. As a result, cities could not direct their haulers to deliver waste directly to Cedar Hills without environmental review.
- All waste in King County is directed to Cedar Hills. However, the County cannot direct cities or the haulers to use public or private transfer stations. The regional direct rate can only incentivize the choice in either direction.
- In the past, haulers did not pass the savings from regional direct on to their city customers.

MSWMAC Vice Chair Pelosa requested the minutes include clarification of the County's regional direct policy. That information can be found [here](#) (KCC 10.12.021).

### **Bow Lake Completion and New Recycling Services**

MSWMAC received a [presentation](#) about the new Bow Lake Recycling and Transfer Station. The presentation included background on the facility, an explanation of how construction has been accomplished, and an overview of the recycling services that will be offered beginning October 9.

Comments and questions included:

- The Bow Lake facility consists of 16 developed acres, plus some steep slopes and buffer areas.
- The facility is located within the city of Tukwila, right on the border with SeaTac.

- The ribbon-cutting ceremony is not a public event, but the division is happy to extend an invitation to any citizens or stakeholders that the cities and MSWMAC would like to have attend.
- Tours can be arranged for schools, citizen's groups, and interested individuals.
- Free recycling of primary recyclables will be offered. Other materials, primarily yard waste, clean wood, and some appliances, will be recycled for a fee.
- Including a cardboard baler at Bow Lake will make recycling that commodity more profitable, thus supporting the division's ability to recycle less profitable commodities.
- Free recycling was suspended at Bow Lake in 2009 to accommodate construction.
- Sharps collection is offered at Bow Lake, and the division encourages people to use the special containers provided rather than putting sharps in the garbage, where they present a safety hazard to workers.
- This project is on schedule and under budget.

### **Public Comment**

Citizen and commercial property owner John Brekke commented on the Transfer Plan review process, especially as it relates to South County siting. He expressed concern that the compressed timeline was not sufficient to make a good decision, and that variables such as regional direct, recycling trends, and the presence of private transfer facilities in the South County service area were not being sufficiently evaluated. Brekke suggested that the division explore creative uses of the purchased property adjacent to Algona to make continued use of that facility more feasible.