



## Updates

### SWD

The Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) released their final rule on take-back of controlled substances on September 9. It includes a critical provision allowing authorized pharmacies to take-back controlled substances with other drugs in drop boxes or mail-back programs. The DEA will not provide funding for medicine take-back, so pharmaceutical stewardship is still needed.

MSWMAC had a presentation on Paint Stewardship legislation in August. Diane sent electronic copies of a draft letter of support and a resolution in support of paint product stewardship for cities to use. If there are any questions, or if you would like any assistance, please contact Mendy Droke at 206-477-4632 or at [mendy.droke@kingcounty.gov](mailto:mendy.droke@kingcounty.gov)

The division will be sending a survey to MSWMAC members and the rest of the cities to gather information on collection contracts that will help us complete the Transfer Plan Report and to inform the Comp Plan Update. We will be asking for information on collection programs, including bulky waste collection.

A ground-breaking ceremony for the new Factoria Recycling and Transfer Station on August 14 was attended by division staff, the design team, the construction management team, and the project contractor. Currently, construction submittals are being reviewed, limited site work has been approved, and construction trailers are in place. Outreach to neighboring businesses has begun with the construction manager going door-to-door to handout project newsletters. Project activities planned for the next few weeks include deconstruction of two warehouses (some Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) points are expected from this effort), installation and activation of dewatering wells, removal of some mature trees, and grading for the new transfer building.

For the past few months meetings have been extended to ensure we can cover all agenda items. We foresee this continuing through much of the next year. We know this may be difficult for your schedules, but the choice is between lengthier meetings and deciding what solid waste work to NOT bring to you. We want to make sure you are included in/aware of all important work and prefer extended meetings, but you should let us know if that's not your preference.

The Bow Lake Recycling and Transfer Station has received a number of awards. The latest award is from the Engineering News Record Northwest in the Energy/Industrial – Green Project category. It is also one of three finalists for the Best Overall Project in the Northwest from the Engineering News Record.

Other awards the Bow Lake Recycling and Transfer Station has received include the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) 2014 Silver Excellence Award in the Transfer Station category, and the 2014 Silver Originality/Innovation Award for the Automated Traffic Management System from the American Consulting Engineers Council.

## SWAC

SWAC and MSWMAC Liaison Jenkins gave the SWAC update. She related that there was a positive response to McLaughlin's presentation making the case for change in the Solid Waste Division. She also mentioned that SWAC had a discussion about the Paint Stewardship Program and the fact that there is currently not a paint recycling facility located in Washington State. The question was raised about how that might adversely impact the program's transport fee.

Also of note, she reported that several SWAC members have recused themselves from any discussions on the Sustainable Solid Waste Study because of a possible conflict of interest.

## CITY UPDATES

MacGillivray said that Kirkland just received their grant money and thanked the County. He mentioned that the City is concerned that they may have residents attending its events from nearby communities that are not holding special recycling collection events. Combs echoed the concern.

Pelosa mentioned that he attended an event in Colorado and saw a waste container that said "recycling" on one side and "landfill" on the other. He hadn't seen that before and thought it was a good reminder that waste goes to the landfill.

Pistoll said that the CleanScapes roll out in Maple Valley is going well.

Combs announced that Bothell will be holding an Ecotober event in collaboration with Brightwater, Buy Nothing, and Recology. The event will highlight preparing for fall storm events as well as waste reduction and recycling.

### **Transfer Plan Review Advisory Committee Update**

Chair Eggen said that the first meeting of the subcommittee was an organizational one (see [meeting summary](#)). The discussion will be more substantive at the next meeting on September 26.

### **Sustainable Solid Waste Management Study**

Severn gave a brief summary introduction to the discussion of the Sustainable Solid Waste Management Study (SSWMS) based on the [memo](#) from Pat D. McLaughlin. She highlighted the three studies that the division is planning to scope as a result of the report.

- 1) A feasibility assessment of anaerobic digestion at division facilities which would evaluate available technologies, appropriate facility size and location, feedstock potential, product markets, and cost
- 2) A process to solicit proposals that would explore the private industry's interest and ideas for managing a portion of the waste stream using alternative technologies
- 3) An assessment of a possible new fee structure which would consider what services would be funded by the new fee, how the fee would be structured, how the fee would be collected, and how tip fees would be affected

Over the past several months, the division has discussed the SSWMS with MSWMAC. Severn reiterated that the division thinks that the three selected projects are the right ones to

pursue. The division has requested \$450,000 for the three studies (approximately \$150,000 each) in the 2015/2016 budget.

In response to a question about scoping, Severn said that the SSWMS suggests that we explore certain areas more, using a Request for Expressions of Interest/Request for Proposal process, but does not tell us which technology that we should select. Once the budget is approved, the next step for the division is to scope the project, a process that will include the advisory committees. There will be multiple opportunities for the committees to provide input on the studies such as the development of the scope of the proposal, guiding principles, evaluation criteria, etc.

Severn also provided more detail about the possible study of a new fee structure. She explained that almost all of the division's revenue comes from garbage, so that as we recycle more, we will receive less revenue. The study might look at "uncoupling" fees - an idea would be to have a fee similar to the fee that the Local Hazardous Waste Management Program collects. We need to do much more assessment and would talk to the committee as we move forward with the study. There is no plan for a rate increase until 2017.

- Went back to look at the SSWMS, but found that it was difficult to find information on the projects from the memo. The division should bring more detail on each project back to MSWMAC next month.
- When the division comes back to the committee for the scope, will need to provide more background on each project.
- Would anaerobic digester be able to provide enough energy to run the transfer station and would the division be sorting out the organics at the transfer station? (Response: these are the types of questions that the study may cover)
- Do these studies provide the "biggest bang for the buck"? (Response: yes, the division thinks so.)
- Want to understand what may be included in a new fee structure. Want to be cautious about it.
- Excited about the feasibility assessment for anaerobic digestion. Is it similar to what is being done at Cedar Hills? (Response: both are biogas processes and either can produce electricity).
- It is useful to look at fee structure.

Severn wrapped up the discussion by explaining what the next steps would be. Assuming the budget for the projects is approved, the next steps will be to develop the scopes to hire consultants to do the work. The advisory committees will be consulted as the division develops the scope and the evaluation criteria. The study looking at alternative technologies will probably take the longest to complete – maybe 15–18 months. The other two studies may be complete by the end of 2015.

Van Orsow made a move to approve the motion that was in front of the committee with two edits underlined – correct the title of the Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan and delete "Management" from Solid Waste Management Division so that the motion reads:

“MSWMAC supports King County Solid Waste Division’s Sustainable Solid Waste Study as a list of potential options for achieving King County Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan waste reduction, recycling and solid waste goals. As a regional partner in the solid waste system, MSWMAC recommends that the feasibility of any option be analyzed in greater depth, including potential impacts on rates. Furthermore, MSWMAC recommends that the Solid Waste Division provide opportunities for stakeholder input on further consideration or development of any option, and seek MSWAC review and advice in the scoping of any option, development of specific proposals, and implementation of specific proposals.”

Goss seconded the motion.

Pelosa added that he thought that the “M” should be added to MSWAC. He made a motion to do so. Jenkins seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Main motion also passed unanimously.

### **Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan: Presentation/Discussion/ Feedback**

Severn presented on updating the 2001 Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan ([see presentation](#)). See also the detailed schedule handout [here](#).

- There should be a lot of discussion on whether or not to expand what materials are banned from the landfill. When are we going to get aggressive on mattresses, tires and Styrofoam?
- It would help if all of the discussion materials are sent out a week in advance to allow time to review. Will the division be writing white papers on more complex topics? (Response: an example of how the division anticipates the review happening is that we will send a chapter (for instance the Planning Chapter) out with what we think needs to be changed. We will discuss it at the meeting, then it will come back the following month with changes incorporated).
- What Plan are we working off of? (Response: the 2013 Draft Plan).
- It would be helpful if there is a crosswalk between the 2001 and 2013 Plans so we can see the difference (Response: the 2013 Draft is not too far off from where we were in 2001 – the details have changed, but policies haven’t. The major policy change has to do with disposal – 2001 says “waste export”, but 2013 Plan will consider a wide range of possibilities).
- How does the Transfer Plan review work fit with the Comp Plan work? (Response: the Transfer Plan review work will heavily influence the Comp Plan work).
- Citing state requirements and changes are good to talk about in the Plan.
- Would like more information on all of the closed landfills

### **Green Fence**

Gaisford mentioned that this discussion is a follow-up to the presentation that MSWMAC had from the haulers on the issue of contaminated recyclables going to China. The Northwest

hasn't experienced problems because the materials are cleaner than other areas. Gaisford said that the takeaway from that conversation is:

- 1.) Education – helps to keep materials clean and the right materials get put in the bin
- 2.) Processing – technological changes help to decrease contamination
- 3.) Product design and manufacture – how packaging is made can make recycling materials easier

A related policy question is whether or not haulers should be allowed to dispose unmarketable recyclable materials.

- Would like to see the division better at informing the cities about how their policies affect the County's goals.
- Would like to have a policy that allows haulers to dispose of unmarketable recyclable materials.
- Should reexamine what the County and cities are doing
- The Green Fence discussion should also be a part of the recycling rate discussion
- Need to balance regional consistency with regulatory burden
- Leery of putting a policy in place about disposing of recyclable materials.
- All of these things have an impact on contracts

### **Public Comment**

Pelosa asked if there was an update on the South County Recycling and Transfer Station. Kiernan replied that discussions with the City of Algona are ongoing.

Ioana Lewis said that she was there to tell MSWMAC members about the services that her organization, Sight Connections, provides. She mentioned that the former name was Community Services for the Blind. The organization provides curbside collection of gently used clothing and household goods, but could also provide cities with collection services at special recycling collection events.

Contact information:

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