

King County Solid Waste Advisory Committee

October 15, 2010 - 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
King Street Center 8th Floor Conference Room
Next SWAC meeting – November 19, 2010 - 9:30-11:30

Meeting Minutes

Members
David Baker
William A. Beck
Joe Casalini
Tim Crosby
Bob Dixon
Jean Garber
Jerry Hardebeck
Sean Kronberg
Joan McGilton
Philipp Schmidt-Pathmann
Ray Schlien
Bill Ziegler

Others
Jeromy Adams, Nucor Steel
Jerry Bartlett, Cedar Grove Composting
Ann Berrysmith, SWD Finance and Administration Manager
Kathy Hashagen, SWD Staff
Kevin Kiernan, SWD Director
Craig Lorch, Total Reclaim
Peggy Papsdorf, Suburban Cities Association
Grace Reamer, King County Council Staff
Christie True, Department of Natural Resources and Parks Director
Diane Yates, SWD Intergovernmental Liaison
Lisa Youngren, SWD Staff

Meet Christie True, Director, Department of Natural Resources and Parks

Christie True, Director of the Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP) was introduced to the committee and discussed her priorities for the department, which include maintaining its financial health, meeting business goals, satisfying customers and engaging the workforce.

Nomination and Election of Chair and Vice Chair

SWAC unanimously elected Casalini as Chair and Stenberg as Vice Chair.

Approve May Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the May SWAC meeting passed by general consent.

Updates: SWD/MSWMAC/Other

SWD expects to transmit the comp plan to the King County Council early next year. The Regional Policy Committee is reviewing the comp plan approval process and deciding whether the King County Council or the cities should adopt the plan first. MSWMAC recommended that the comp plan first be approved by the King County Council and then sent to the cities for approval.

SWD also expects to transmit a rate study to the King County Council early in 2011. If a rate increase is recommended and approved, it would go into effect Jan 1, 2012. In response to a question, Kiernan said that if a rate increase is not approved; spending on discretionary items would be impacted. Discretionary items include transfer station services, recycling programs, illegal dumping cleanup programs and the capital program.

Tonnage appears to be stabilizing at two to four percent below last year, which was already 15 percent below the 2007 peak. Members noted that with the exception of organics, recycling

tonnage has also decreased. It is likely that the decreases are primarily related to the downturn in the economy.

The Cedar Hills Project Program Plan environmental review has been completed without challenge. The plan has been transmitted to Council. After adoption, the division will begin detailed design for the site development plan.

The project to lift and strengthen the Houghton roof is proceeding smoothly. Raising the existing roof as opposed to replacing it allows the facility to continue operating while construction is underway.

SWD is reviewing proposals for a consultant to help with siting of the North and South county transfer stations

A Determination of Non-Significance (DNS) has been issued for the draft Factoria Facility Master Plan (FMP). See the plan at http://your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/facilities/factoria-replacement-project.asp#factoria_documents.

At Cedar Hills, SWD has begun operations in Area 7. The transition from Area 6 to 7 went well.

On September 29, 2010, the U.S. Congress unanimously passed Senate Bill 3397 which paves the way for drug companies to create a statewide medicine take-back program in Washington State. Currently, only law enforcement can accept narcotics and other controlled substances from residents. The intent of this federal bill is to authorize other convenient community return locations – like pharmacies – for secure disposal of unwanted controlled substances. The Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) will work with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to ensure environmental issues are considered in disposal. Thanks to Kenmore Mayor David Baker for his work on this bill.

BioEnergy Washington (BEW) is required under contract to begin commercial operations not later than October 30, 2010.

MSWMAC is continuing discussions about the Interlocal Agreements (ILA). The cities covered by these agreements currently account for two-thirds of the system's tonnage. The ILAs will expire in 2028. Historically, SWD participates in King County's pool to sell twenty year general obligation bonds. The eighteen years remaining in the term of the ILAs does not support a twenty year bond term.

MSWMAC asked for a presentation on the history of the development of and the transfer system recommendations contained in the Transfer and Waste Management Plan.

SWAC Membership: Nominations for Appointment: Labor, Recycling Industry, and Manufacturer Located in King County Positions

The Executive has completed a review of county code and Executive ethics policies related to membership on boards and commissions and has identified two areas for staff to bring to members' attention.

Member representation: Only those appointed by the Executive and approved by the Council are allowed to serve on a King County board or commission. A member cannot send an alternate to represent them at the meeting if the member is unable to attend.

Public Records Act: Personal computers, e-mails, handwritten notes and other electronic devices used by SWAC to conduct SWAC-related business are subject to public disclosure requests under the state's public records act. Any type of record in a member's possession related to their work with King County is subject to the act. For example, e-mails sent and received through a home computer that relate to county business are public records.

In response to a question, Yates said she will find out about record retention requirements. (Note: State record retention requirement is 7 years)

A member noted that the Association of Washington Cities is investigating options related to nuisance public information requests.

Membership: Jeromy Adams, Nucor Steel and Craig Lorch, Total Reclaim were nominated for appointment as recycling industry representatives. Jerry Bartlett, Cedar Grove Compost, was nominated for appointment as a manufacturer located in King County. Matthew House, Teamsters Local 117, was nominated for appointment as a labor representative. SWAC approved the nominations by general consent. The nominations will be sent to the Executive for consideration.

Kiernan noted that SWAC involvement is particularly valuable when the division brings issues forward to the Executive and Council.

2011 Budget Preview

The proposed budget for 2011 is based on revenues from 828,000 tons, down from the 860,000 tons in the 2010 adopted budget. It includes decreased earnings from interest which reflects market conditions. The Landfill Gas to Energy revenue includes the funds from the sale of carbon credits.

Expenditures show a decrease in debt service; mostly from retiring old debt and the addition of Bond Anticipation Notes for short term financing. The capital equipment replacement fund is lower due to a decision not to replace some equipment. The construction fund is also lower in 2011 to help manage cash flow in the fourth year of the planned three year rate period. Other expenditures were generally flat. Reductions were made to keep costs stable. Decreases in transportation expenditures reflect a smaller workforce.

In 2007, SWD had over 400 employees. There are 382 employees in the 2011 budget. Budgeted amounts include cost of living adjustments (COLA). The budget will be adjusted early in 2011 if employees do not receive COLAs.

SWAC Retreat Follow Up

SWAC members noted that the retreat was well organized and well run. It focused on how the group functions. Members noted that a retreat of this type might be useful every couple of years.

SWAC responded to the draft Presentation Request Protocol. A member commented that using the draft protocol could cause quite a delay between receiving the request and when the group hears the presenter. Others said it is bothersome that the protocol includes no criteria for deciding which presentations to hear. Members noted that once the group hears a presentation from one vendor, it would need to hear presentations from all vendors that request time on the agenda. Presentations could easily get out of control and the group has a lot to accomplish at each meeting.

Members suggested that presentations at regular SWAC meetings be very carefully screened and be consistent with the work plan at that time.

Members said the group may need supplemental information on specific issues when they appear on the work program. But, members have no ability to ensure that presentations of this type are factual and non-biased.

A member noted that it's important that members be aware of new technologies. There should be a way to filter presentations. Consider having additional workshops on composting, energy/material recovery, recycling etc. Another member noted that presentations outside the regular meetings, where members could determine whether or not to attend by topic, may add value.

The group reviewed the draft discussion guidelines and agreed to talk about them more fully at the next meeting. Group members accepted the division's offer to bring Ann Macfarlane from Jurassic Parliament back for the November meeting to help with these discussions.

Open Forum

SWAC member Schmidt-Pathmann said that he wants the group to be more educated in different processes and to look at worldwide approaches. He would like the group to be dynamic and forward thinking and to receive presentations about topics like energy recovery from wheat grass, garbage and plastics.