

# King County Solid Waste Advisory Committee

November 19, 2010 - 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

King Street Center 8<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room

Next SWAC meeting – January 21, 2011 - 9:30-11:30

## Meeting Minutes

<b>Members</b>
David Baker
William A. Beck
Joe Casalini
Bob Dixon
Jean Garber
Jerry Hardebeck
Sean Kronberg
Joan McGilton
Suellen Mele
Relaena Sindelar
Judy Stenberg

<b>Others</b>
Jerry Bartlett, Cedar Grove Composting
Jeff Gaisford, SWD Recycling and Environmental Services Manager
Prajakta Ghatpande, AECOM Inc.
Kathy Hashagen, SWD Staff
Matthew House, Teamsters 117
Kevin Kiernan, SWD Director
Ann G. Macfarlane, Jurassic Parliament
Peggy Papsdorf, Suburban Cities Association
Grace Reamer, King County Council Staff
Diane Yates, SWD Intergovernmental Liaison

### **Approve October Meeting Minutes; Review Agenda**

A SWAC member requested via email that the SWAC retreat follow up item on the agenda be postponed. A motion to postpone that item was moved and seconded. After discussion, the motion failed.

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

### **Updates: SWD/MSWMAC/Other**

The Washington State Department of Ecology is gathering comments to begin updates to WAC 173-350, Solid Waste Handling Standards. Ecology will continue to accept comments until the end of the scheduled period. The Governor's recent freeze on rule making means the next steps for this process are uncertain. Future information about this process is available on the rule website. <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/rules/rule350.html>

Glacier Recycling was purchased by Waste Management this week. Glacier has had compliance issues related to land use, health codes and hauling residuals out of county.

At a community meeting in September, landfill neighbors raised concerns about noise from Bioenergy Washington's (BEW) Landfill Gas to Energy Plant at Cedar Hills. In response to those concerns, SWD contacted BEW and their CEO agreed to come from Virginia to discuss the issue at a public meeting. BEW also agreed to do further noise mitigation and conduct a follow up study. The meeting was held November 16 and approximately forty neighbors attended. The issue is that while measurements indicate BEW is within code required noise limits at the property boundary, the plant is still audible.

In response to a question at the October SWAC meeting Kiernan noted that records subject to the Public Records Act must be retained for seven years. Yates will follow up to determine if both SWAC members and SWD must retain the records and the consequences of non-compliance.

The Houghton project completion date has been extended to January 24. To maintain service and safety while construction is underway, some work practices have been modified. Those changes resulted in the changed in completion date.

SWD is in the process of finalizing the comp plan. New recycling data has been received and is being included in the plan.

SWD's 2011 budget was approved with few changes. Council imposed two provisos.

- The first requires a report on the Landfill Gas to Energy Plant; including information related to both the income from the gas sales and from the sales of the carbon credits.
- The second requires a solid waste rate adjustment that among other things ensures a minimum of a forty five day cash reserve throughout the rate period. Historically the cash reserve is higher at the beginning of the rate period and dips lower than forty five days at the end.
- This second proviso also requires that the rate provide resources for the transfer system upgrade without committing the county to bond payments beyond the 2018 expiration date of the current Interlocal Agreements (ILA).

### **Draft 2011 Work Plan**

The committee reviewed the proposed work plan and provided the following input.

- Add a discussion about construction and demolition (C&D) debris hauling and processing. The topic is complicated and will require some time to present and discuss. Provide sufficient time; perhaps as a separate agenda item or as part of the Green Building discussion.
- Consider a discussion on waste to energy (WTE) as part of the Green Building discussion.
- WTE discussions would have to be very balanced. If the presentation is not completely technical, ensure competing opinions are presented.
- Include information on anaerobic digestion and specifically on what happening in Washington State.
- C&D is critical to the existing system. If there are time constraints that discussion may have precedence over new technologies.
- Consider a joint meeting with MSWMAC in March to hear the presentations about the ILAs. Yates will ensure the March 11<sup>th</sup> meeting date does not compete with the National League of Cities.

In response to a question Kiernan noted that the rate study covers the next three years. A waste to energy facility would be quite expensive. Given that the current ILAs expire in 2018, bonding for a WTE plant would have a significant impact on rates.

### **SWAC Retreat Follow up**

The group discussed four proposals for having commercial presentations during SWAC meetings. The proposals included

1. SWAC will not allow commercial presentations during the meeting.
2. Commercial presentations may be made only during the open forum period at the end of the meeting and must be limited to three (3) minutes.

3. Commercial presentations may be made during a meeting if the preconditions are met and the committee agrees to hear the presentation. *(It was made clear in the discussions that this proposal does not preclude vendors from speaking during the open forum.)*
4. Presentations to SWAC, other than those given or provided for or by the Solid Waste Division staff, shall be at SWAC's request as determined by a majority vote, provided that any member of the public may make comment during the public comment period at the end of the meeting. *(It was made clear in the discussions that this proposal does not preclude vendors from speaking during the open forum.)*

#### Discussion included

- the need to have balanced presentations that provide information as opposed to marketing presentations,
- the importance of ensuring that presentations do not stop the group from accomplishing the work plan,
- the value of learning about new technologies,
- the benefit of having a majority vote of the group determine if a presentation, other than those provided through SWD staff, will be heard by the group, and
- the value of the Open Forum.

The fourth proposal passed.

The group will discuss the possibility of adding language like "in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order" to their bylaws at their next meeting.

With Ann Macfarlane of Jurassic Parliament facilitating, the committee considered the discussion guidelines. Members voted on various motions and amendments. At the conclusion the committee approved the revised discussion guidelines which appear at the end of these minutes.

Additionally, the Chair will form a subcommittee to propose amendments to the discussion guidelines related to the use of technology at SWAC meetings. Those proposed amendments will be considered at the next meeting.

#### **Open Forum**

There was no public comment.

Discussion Guidelines  
November 2010  
DRAFT

1. The chair runs SWAC meetings, ensuring a fair process, maintaining clarity, and helping the committee observe its guidelines. The chair is not in charge of decision-making. The group as a whole is responsible for making its decision.
  
2. At the beginning of each meeting the chair will ask for approval of the agenda. Changes shall be approved by unanimous consent or majority vote.
  
3. Members have a right to information to help make decisions.
  
4. Members are expected to review their agenda packets prior to meetings, and to come to meetings prepared to ask questions and make motions when needed.
  
5. Each member of the committee will have an equal chance to contribute to discussions. To ensure this, no one may speak a second time until everyone who wishes to do so has spoken once.
  
6. No member may speak longer than 5 minutes each time they are recognized by the chair and no more than a total of 10 minutes on each motion.
  
7. Members will seek recognition before speaking and address all remarks to the chair.
  
8. The group may move into conversational mode on request of any member, when approved by unanimous consent or majority vote.
  
9. The chair will serve as facilitator of discussion and may participate in debate on a given question after all members who wish to speak have done so. The chair may vote on every motion.

10. The chair may recognize non-SWAC members for one-minute comments during each agenda item prior to any decisions.
11. Courtesy and respect for others are always required.
12. Discussion of other members' motives is never allowed.
13. Discussion must be relevant to the topic at hand.
14. Motions that take more than ten words to be expressed will be written down, given to the chair, and read aloud before they are discussed and a decision is made.
15. SWAC will try to make decisions by consensus and will vote if consensus cannot be reached.
16. When voting, a majority vote (more than half of those voting in favor) is necessary for approval. Members may abstain from voting, and abstentions will not be counted. Proxy voting is not permitted.