



attendees were four businesses that have either begun carpet recycling or plan to in the next six months.

SWAC will receive training on the Public Records Act at their April 21 meeting. This one hour training is required for all King County Board and Commission members. A video of the training will be available to members who are unable to attend in April. After the training, members will be asked to sign a form regarding their responsibilities and obligations under the Public Records Act.

**MSWMAC:**

MSWMAC elected a Chair (Jessica Greenway) and Vice Chair (Joan McGilton) at their February meeting. A significant portion of MSWMAC meetings for the next six months will be discussions of the Interlocal Agreements (ILAs).

**Membership:**

Ray Schlien has resigned from SWAC. Suellen Mele is healing and expects to attend the next SWAC meeting.

The Executive has appointed these new members to SWAC. The appointments have not yet been confirmed by Council.

- Jerry Bartlett, Cedar Grove – Manufacturer located in King County
- Steve Gerritson – Interested Citizen
- Matthew House, Teamsters 117 - Labor Representative
- Craig Lorch, Total Reclaim – Recycling Industry
- John Taylor, CleanScapes – Recycling Industry

**Financial Disclosure Forms**

Members are reminded to complete and turn in their financial disclosure forms. Because they recently completed the forms as part of the application process, new members will not be asked to repeat the financial disclosure process this year.

**Bylaws: Review Proposed Change**

The group unanimously approved the proposed bylaws change. The portion that was changed is shown in italics in this excerpt from the bylaws.

**SWAC Bylaws:**

**I. Creation, Legal Basis, Purpose**

The King County Solid Waste Advisory Committee, hereinafter called SWAC, has been established by King County Ordinance No. 6862, as amended by Ordinance Nos. 9086 and 14199, pursuant to RCW 70.95.165. The scope and charge of the SWAC shall be to:

- A. advise the King County Executive, Council and Solid Waste Division on all aspects of solid waste management planning;

- B. assist King County in the development of programs and policies concerning solid waste management; and
- C. review and comment on proposed solid waste management rules, policies, or ordinances prior to their adoption; *and*
- D. *advise King County in the development of programs and policies that will establish, enhance and assure utilization of methods for reusing materials which would otherwise be disposed, and in particular to promote use of products manufactured from recycled materials. The Solid Waste Advisory Committee shall advise King County on methods to enhance the development of markets for use of recycled and recyclable materials. The Solid Waste Advisory Committee should emphasize development of local markets.*

### **SWAC Committee of the Whole Recommendation on the use of Electronic Devices in Meetings**

The group reviewed the options provided by the Subcommittee and the Committee of the Whole. They revised and unanimously approved a version of option three which follows. It will be added to the discussion guidelines that are printed on the back of the agendas.

During meetings, SWAC discourages sidebar conversations, whispering, text messaging, instant messaging, checking email, viewing Internet sites, playing video games, posting to social networking sites or using a cell phone, computer or PDA. Members will mute their cell phones, computers, and other communications devices during the meeting (vibration notification is acceptable) and are encouraged to use any breaks for communication purposes. Members will excuse themselves from the meeting before engaging in behavior which could be disruptive to others.

### **State Legislative Update**

**Secure Medicine Return** - The goal is to create a statewide medicine take-back program, financed and provided by pharmaceutical manufacturers, for the secure collection and environmental sound disposal of unwanted medicines from households. The bill caps the total costs of the collection program at no more than \$2.5 million per year, which is less than two cents per container. Additional information is available at [www.TakeBackYourMeds.org](http://www.TakeBackYourMeds.org). Pharmaceutical companies are opposing these bills.

Senate (SSB 5234) sponsored by Senator Kline has to pass out of the Senate by March 7. Letters of support are needed.

House (HB 1370) sponsored by Representative Van De Wege failed to pass out of the House by February 17 and is dead.

**Carpet** – The goal of this bill is to increase the recycling of discarded carpet. The bill establishes a system in which manufacturers would finance the collection, transportation, processing and recycling of discarded carpet. No fee would be charged at the time the carpet is collected

Senate (SB5110) had a hearing in the Senate Environment, Water & Energy Committee on February 2. Potential language revisions that would improve the bill have been submitted to Senate staff.

**Phone Book Opt-Out** – This bill would require phone book publishers to allow residents and businesses to opt out of receiving phone books.

House (HB1751) was referred to the Technology, Energy & Communications Committee. It would be the first state law of its kind. The Seattle City Council approved an opt out ordinance last year which requires the phone book publishers to pay fees to cover the cost of a city program to opt out and to recycle phone books. That portion of the ordinance is being challenged in court and is not included in HB1751.

**Sharps** – This bill would provide for the free and convenient disposal of residential sharps.

House (HB1496) passed out of the House environment Committee on February 17 with an amendment that allows pharmaceutical manufacturers to invoice any franchised solid waste transporter for up to fifty percent of the total cost of the collection and disposal plan submitted by the manufacturer.

Senate (SB5632) was referred to the Environment, Water and Energy Committee.

**Electronics** – This bill would make administrative changes to the E-cycle Washington Program.

Senate (SB5824) is scheduled for a hearing today in the Environment, Water and Energy Committee. A companion bill would make those changes and expand the program to include computer peripherals such as printers, keyboard, mice, digital video recorders converter boxes and more.

In response questions Gaisford said that SWD is working on bolstering the market for recycled asphalt shingles. For more information is available at <http://your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/linkup/shingles/resources.asp>

### **Rates Proposal Approach**

SWAC viewed a presentation on the 2012 Solid Waste Rate Key Drivers and Assumptions. A copy of this presentation including speaking notes is available [here](#). The presentation provided background including:

- tonnage assumptions and realities
- extending the life of Cedar Hills
- implementing the Solid Waste Transfer and Waste Management plan
- financing construction, bonding periods and debt service
- keeping growth in rates below the rate of inflation, reserves, and rent

Members were asked to provide feedback on the idea of a one-year rate for 2012 that would cover current costs. The one-year rate would be re-evaluated after key decisions have been

made about Cedar Hills rent and the ILA end date. A one year rate of approximately \$107.25 is anticipated, but the final number has not yet been determined.

A member said it is important to manage debt so alternative methods of disposal can be considered in the future. Kiernan noted that the debt under discussion is for construction of a transfer system that will be used regardless of disposal method.

In response to a comment, Kiernan acknowledged the costs associated with communicating a rate change and that a one-year rate incurs those costs more frequently. In response to a question he said that the rate is scheduled to go to Council on March 30. The Washington State Utilities and Transportation Commission requires a ninety day notice and the commercial haulers need time to prepare before a new rate goes into effect.

### **Open Forum**

Schmidt-Pathmann reported that some experts, including the German Green Party, say that disposing in a landfill produces the worst outcomes in terms of carbon dioxide and other environmental impacts. He said that it is important that advisory committees be well educated on alternatives.

Some members stated a preference for limiting comments on waste-to-energy at this time; noted that waste-to-energy is not a topic on SWACs current work program; and said that the method used to determine the CO<sub>2</sub> impacts in the examples given is based on old technologies.

Crosby reported that Waste Management is beginning the process to build a medical waste facility in King County.