

King County Solid Waste Advisory Committee
January 18, 2013 - 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
King Street Center 8th Floor Conference Room

Next SWAC meeting – February 15, 2013 - 9:30-11:30

Meeting Minutes

<u>Members Present</u>	<u>King County Staff</u>	<u>Others</u>
David Baker	Jeff Gaisford	Sharon Hlavka
Jerry Bartlett	Kathy Hashagen	
William Beck	Kevin Kiernan	
Joe Casalini	Pat McLaughlin	
Steve Gerritson	Jim Neely	
Suellen Mele	Grace Reamer	
Philipp Schmidt-Pathmann	Diane Yates	
Stephen Strader		
Bill Ziegler		

Approve November Meeting Minutes; Review Agenda

Action Item: There was no quorum. As a result, no action was taken on the meeting notes.

Updates

SWD

During the EIS scoping period for South County Recycling and Transfer Station siting, two properties and a no-action alternative were being considered. In December the City of Auburn brought forward an additional site for consideration. Though the site had previously been evaluated, Auburn had updated information that makes the property worth considering. Staff is working to assess the site and more information will be available soon.

The City of Bellevue issued the Conditional Use Permit for the Factoria project.

Tonnage was higher in the final six weeks of 2012 than in the same period in 2011. The division is optimistic about the continued recovery. Actual tonnage in 2012 was 8/10 of a percent less than the forecast.

The comp plan was ready to transmit at the beginning of 2012 but was placed on hold until the ILAs were updated. The comp plan is being revised to reflect the new commitments made in that document. In addition changes in data such as tonnage and city boundaries will also be reflected in the plan. A revised version is expected to be ready in February and to be transmitted to the Executive by the end of that month.

The ILAs were distributed to cities December 28. A non-binding statement of interest form was also included. The County requested that the cities return those forms by January 31st. The division has received positive signals including several signed forms from cities indicating their intent to sign the ILA. Division staff is briefing cities upon request.

The revised and restated ILAs extend through 2040. They contain language about environmental liability including the intent to seek insurance and set up an environmental liability reserve fund. Also included is language about mitigation and dispute resolution.

The revised and restated ILA says that the cities and County will work together to explore disposal options beginning at least seven years before the anticipated closure of Cedar Hills. Whereas the current Comp Plan states that, after the landfill reaches capacity, waste will be exported, the updated Comp Plan directs that other disposal options, such as waste to energy and waste conversion, will be explored in addition to waste export.

SWD expects to resume recycling of curbside materials at the Renton Transfer Station in March.

MSWMAC

The group received an update on the progress of the ILAs and the South County Recycling and Transfer Station siting process. They also participated in a discussion of division priorities and plastic bag programs and options.

Divisional Priorities/2013 Work Plan

SWAC received a presentation about the process being used by the division to determine business priorities. A copy of the presentation is available [here](#). Members were asked for their input about priorities to consider. Comments included:

- Set a long term goal about the potential/positive uses of closed landfills.
- The Green Building Ordinance should be a priority.
- Ensure the Sustainable Solid Waste Management Study considers all aspects of the waste handling hierarchy.
- Concentrate more on education. Stop people from disposing via more information if there are not going to be “bans.” Focus on product stewardship for carpeting, mattresses, used paint cans, etc.
- Work with cities to help them have a more active role in determining the final disposition of recycled materials. Ensure they aren’t handled elsewhere in a way that harms the environment.

Members were invited to share additional ideas with Diane.

The division will hire a consultant to help with the Sustainable Solid Waste Management Study. The study will look at best practices in prevention, recovery, and conversion of waste. It will also review best practices in solid waste management including landfill and transfer station operations. Some SWAC members agreed with the intention ensuring options identified would be effective in these economic circumstances and location.

State Legislation Update

There are two product stewardship bills that will be introduced this year. Both are backed by product manufacturers.

Paint Stewardship: The bill authorizes paint manufacturers to finance and manage a statewide program to manage unwanted latex and oil-based paint from residents and businesses. The program would be funded through an assessment on paint. A product stewardship program is expected to increase the number of collection points state wide from 50 to over 200 permanent sites increasing the amount of paint collected from 191,000 to 584,000 gallons per year. Similar legislation has been enacted in Oregon, California, Connecticut, and Rhode Island.

Small Rechargeable Battery Recycling: Call2Recycle is a voluntary program created by major battery manufacturers. Since it was created, many new manufacturers have entered the market who does not want to participate even though the program recycled their batteries. The bill is needed to ensure all manufacturers participate in a product stewardship program.

Implementation of enacted product stewardship legislation for Mercury-Containing Lights has been delayed. The sole respondent to an RFP to implement the plan withdrew its response citing concerns about a lawsuit filed by the National Electrical Manufacturers Association. The lawsuit challenge the legality of the Ecology rules that went into effect Dec 17, 2012. Updates and additional information are available at www.walights.org.

Members noted that they expect a bill implementing a statewide ban on plastic bags and a minimum fee of five cents for each paper bag to be introduced. Also, the State W2R Advisory Committee heard about a proposed bill to change the way in which the Waste Reduction, Recycling and Litter Control fund could be used.

Plastic Bags: Programs and Policies

Plastic bag reduction/recycling is receiving significant media attention. Though plastic bags comprise only 0.3 percent of the waste stream they present problems from littering, appearing with other plastics as marine pollution and causing production problems and expense at materials recovery facilities (MRF). There are four options to handling plastic bags that are not all mutually exclusive:

- retail store plastic bag ban with a charge on paper bags – A concern is that it may/will result in the use of more paper bags which also has environmental costs.
- retail store bag fee on both types of bags – would not remove as many plastic bags from the waste stream as the first option.
- plastic bag disposal ban – would require education enforcement – bans on recyclable materials have been used fairly successfully in Seattle.
- education – previous campaigns have had limited success.

The division surveyed more than thirty organizations and cities (not including Seattle) about plastic bags in the summer of 2012. A summary of the results of that survey is available [here](#).

The plastic bag industry has shown limited interest in product stewardship programs. Statewide legislation has not been successful elsewhere in the United States. A model ordinance could be prepared for use in smaller jurisdictions.

Comments included:

- It's unclear why this product that represents such a small percentage of the waste stream should be a priority.

- Consider less flimsy plastic bags to encourage re-use.
- Some cities accept plastic bags for recycling so long as they are bundled together. Others do not. Consistency would be helpful.
- Consider a life cycle study comparing the impacts of plastic versus paper bags. Ensure the true costs can be reviewed; environmental and economic. Create a plan that considers those true costs rather than just removing plastic bags from the waste stream.
- There are conflict regulations regarding plastic film – for example, food handling. Not all plastic film can be recycled or disposed in the same way.

Open Forum

The Seattle-King County Board of Health subcommittee will finish drafting a resolution in February on Secure Medicine Return. It is possible that public hearings on Secure Medicine Return will occur in March or April. Pharmaceutical organizations filed suit against Alameda County, California after they passed similar legislation. The DEA has issued draft rules allowing pharmacies to collect controlled substances.

The following information was distributed at the meeting and is included for your reference.

Accessing Your New Email Account Simple Procedures

- 1) Go to web address: <https://owa.kingcounty.gov>
 Enter user name: KC\SWAC1 (i.e. 1 is position number)
 Enter temp Password:Lucky123 (first time user)
- 2) Change Password: go to options tab (left column) and select
 Options page will appear: click on change password
 Enter old password Lucky123
 Enter new password
 Confirm new password

Your “NEW Password” must contain at least three (3) of the following elements:

- English Upper Case Letters (A, B, C...Z)
- English Lower Case Letters (a, b, c...z)
- Westernized Arabic Numerals (0, 1, 2...9)
- Non-alphanumeric Characters (! @ # \$ % ^ & *)
- Passwords must be at least **8** characters long
- Passwords cannot contain your username or your first or last name.