

**King County Solid Waste Advisory Committee
 March 21, 2014 - 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
 King Street Center 8th Floor Conference Room**

Meeting Minutes

<u>Members Present</u>	<u>King County Staff</u>	<u>Others</u>
David Baker	Jeff Gaisford	Doreen Booth
Jerry Bartlett	Kathy Hashagen	Stacia Jenkins
Bill Beck	Kevin Kiernan	
Elly Bunzendahl	Laila McClinton	
Joe Casalini	Thea Severn	
Bob Dixon	Diane Yates	
Jean Garber		
Steve Gerritson		
Chris Husband		
Kim Kaminski		
Sean Kronberg		
Keith Livingston		
Jose Lugo		
Philipp Schmidt-Pathmann		
Stephen Strader		
Thomas Wray		

Approve Meeting Minutes; Review Agenda

The February minutes were approved with the addition of Kim Kaminski’s attendance.

Updates

SWD

The mercury lighting bill (ESHB 2246) regarding financing of stewardship of mercury-containing lists passed. The bill is a negotiated agreement that is supported by the National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA). The support SWAC members and others toward the passage of the legislation is appreciated.

On February 24, the division briefed the Lake Forest Park City Council on the Transfer Plan Review. The council was interested to hear about the “no Northeast” alternative and expressed concern about traffic and environmental impacts if garbage were to be hauled from the eastside to the Shoreline Recycling and Transfer Station only to have to be transported back to the eastside or Cedar Hills.

Using a best value negotiated procurement process, the division has ranked PCL Construction Services Inc. as the best proposer for construction of a new Factorial Recycling and Transfer Station. The legislative package is scheduled to be transmitted to the Council on April 10. Contract execution is scheduled for July 11, with submittals and limited site work to start July

16. This work is subject to Council removing the budget proviso that limits spending on the Factoria Recycling and Transfer Station project.

Meetings with the Financial Policies Subcommittee of MSWMAC which was formed last summer have resumed. The committee is working to satisfy Section 6.1.h. of the amended and restated ILA which says, "The County will maintain financial policies to guide the system's operations and investments...The policies shall be developed and/or revised through discussion with MSWAC..."

The Compost Days promotional campaign received a Totem Award from the Public Relations Society of America. SWD partnered with Seattle Public Utilities, Cedar Grove Composting, and Waste Management to develop the 2013 Compost Days campaign celebrating the diversion of 350,000 tons of organics from landfills. By offering free and deeply discounted compost, the campaign increased awareness of the benefits of compost and proper organics recycling methods, and increased compost sales. Compost sales during the campaign were significantly higher than in previous years. The 2014 Compost Days campaign will begin shortly.

MSWMAC

The MSWMAC agenda mirrors the SWAC agenda this month. They discussed the Sustainable Solid Waste Management Study, received an update on the rate analysis process and discussed the Final Transfer Plan Review Report.

OTHER

Garber said she attended the SWANA Northwest Region Technical session February 28. She observed that many jurisdictions are struggling with the same issues related to materials diversion. Others noted that rich dialogue occurred at the well-attended session. Members were reminded of the SWANA Regional Symposium on April 9, 10, and 11.

Sustainable Solid Waste Management Study

The consultant working with the Solid Waste Division on the Sustainable Solid Waste Management Study (SSWMS) is incorporating feedback from both advisory groups in their evaluation of best practices and evaluation criteria. The division is discussing ways to present an overview of the information graphically and with brief summaries. Each practice will also have a detailed write up. Those materials will be sent to SWAC in advance of the next meeting. Members are asked to review at least the overview page prior to the next meeting.

Rate Analysis

SWAC received a [presentation on the rate modeling process](#). Severn noted that a rate analysis does not always mean a rate increase. Comments included:

- The division accumulates funds for the maintenance of closed landfills for the period of time after closure that is required by law. Collecting additional funds for a possible future need would add to the disposal rate and has not been pursued.
- The property containing the Cedar Hills landfill was transferred from the State of Washington to King County in the 1960s. The division which operates the landfill on property owned by the County's general fund pays rent for the use of the property in accordance with the State Accountancy Act. There has previously been controversy

about this practice. As a result, auditors have reviewed the practice twice to ensure it complies with the law.

- The amended and restated ILA further discusses rent. The parties agreed that the division will not be charged rent for the use of transfer station properties that are owned by the general fund.
- Maintenance costs for the system that extracts landfill gas is paid out of the post closure fund. Revenue from the sale of landfill gas goes to the operating fund.
- There have been projects where closed landfill space has been successfully reused; the golf course at Newcastle, Husky Stadium and ball fields for example. However, re-use does come at a cost.

Final Transfer Plan Review Report

SWAC received a [presentation](#) on the [Transfer Plan Review Final Report](#). Based on extensive analysis developed for the Transfer Plan review, the report includes the following recommendation from the division.

- Proceed this year with a new Factoria Recycling and Transfer Stations using current design and permits (with minor modifications to retain flexibility)
- Continue siting evaluations for a South County Recycling and Transfer Station
- In collaboration with stakeholders, evaluate implementation of operational approaches that would provide service for the northeast county without building an additional transfer station and compare trade-offs and benefits with the adopted Transfer Plan

Comments/responses included:

- The report recommends that Houghton be closed after the new Factoria Recycling and Transfer Station is fully operational.
- It is possible that the five cities in the system that have chosen not to sign the amended and restated ILA may wish to continue receiving service from the system after 2028. The MSWMAC Financial Policies Subcommittee is working on latecomer provisions intended to address that possible impact.
- The tonnage projections in the report include impacts from the recession and also the departure of the five cities in 2028 that have not chosen to sign the amended and restated ILA.
- If Council accepts the division's recommendation there would be further discussions regarding the provision of service in the northeast region of the county.
- The Sustainable Solid Waste Management Study will help the division increase its focus toward resource management. In August, the work to include that change in focus in the comp plan will begin.
- Flat floor transfer station designs provide increased flexibility to incorporate other technologies.
- The recycling percentage has increased dramatically in the new transfer stations.
- The consolidation function provided by transfer stations continues to be needed regardless of which disposal/recycling technologies are chosen. This has been demonstrated in jurisdictions where other technologies are used.
- Effective recycling at transfer stations is essential to meet the zero waste of resources and seventy percent recycling goals.

- Though the report included some information about collection costs provided by the commercial haulers it did not include an evaluation of the impact of additional travel on roadway costs or other external costs.

Casalini motion:

I move that SWAC recommend Executive and Council approval of the Transfer Plan Review Final Report, including the following key recommendations of the report:

- Proceed this year with a new Factoria Recycling and Transfer Station (RTS) using current design and permits (with minor modifications to retain flexibility).
- Continue siting evaluations for a South County RTS.
- In collaboration with stakeholders, continue to evaluate implementation of operational approaches that would provide service for the northeast county without building an additional transfer station, and compare trade-offs and benefits with the adopted Transfer Plan.

SWAC finds that the analysis and recommendations in the Transfer Plan Review Final Report meet the intent of the Council's directive in Ordinance 17619, adopted July 8, 2013. Furthermore, the Final Report represents a balanced response to comments received over three months of collaboration with cities and other stakeholders to develop the Draft Report (October 2013), as well as to comments received during an additional four months of public comment on the Draft Report.

The meeting was extended to 11:45 to allow debate regarding the motion. Member comments included:

- It is important that the report allow the division to have a viable system in place when the landfill closes.
- The limited hours of recycling at Factoria under option E2 is concerning.
- Could only support this plan if additional language was added that the utmost attention will be paid to zero waste of resources and looking for alternatives to landfilling.
- The division has done an excellent job and I would support immediate approval.
- Not possible to support the motion on the table because of timing concerns raised by the Sound Cities Association.
- What is missing is language about increasing revenues by providing commercial haulers with a collection point and transfer service for recyclable materials at the division's transfer stations.
- The idea of providing this additional service to haulers would need a great deal of further discussion. The public has not been consulted on this type of significant change. Changing the plan would not guarantee revenue.

Wray motion as revised: Propose to change the Transfer Plan Review Report to capture a portion of recyclables collected by commercial haulers at transfer stations.

Motion failed: 9 opposed; 6 in favor

- We've had more than enough time to bring changes to the plan. It's been available for comment since October.

- The plan has been submitted to Council and informs the comp plan which would have policy impact.

The meeting was extended to 12:00 to allow further debate.

- Travel time was addressed in the plan as required by ordinance, but not travel impacts.
- I feel comfortable supporting this motion.
- I have concerns regarding the difficulties of recovering recyclables from the waste stream but will support the report.
- The northeast externalities have not received enough attention.

Baker motion: Move to strike last paragraph of motion as it is commentary

Motion passed

- The Sound Cities Association thinks that an additional month to discuss the issue could allow the association to support the plan and would like to see action delayed.
- We've had ample time to debate. The comment period was already extended. This feels more like a delaying tactic. Most of the cities have already commented.

Baker motion: Move to postpone action on the Transfer Plan Review Report to the April 18th SWAC meeting

Motion failed: 6 in favor, 9 opposed, 1 abstention

Schmidt-Pathmann motion: Move to have a fourth bullet added to the draft motion which says; to focus on zero waste of resources by 2030.

Motion passed unanimously with 1 abstention

Action on the amended motion as follows:

**KING COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SWAC)
MOTION ON TRANSFER PLAN REVIEW FINAL REPORT DATED MARCH 2014**

I move that SWAC recommend Executive and Council approval of the Transfer Plan Review Final Report, including the following key recommendations of the report:

- Proceed this year with a new Factoria Recycling and Transfer Station (RTS) using current design and permits (with minor modifications to retain flexibility).
- Continue siting evaluations for a South County RTS.
- In collaboration with stakeholders, continue to evaluate implementation of operational approaches that would provide service for the northeast county without building an additional transfer station, and compare trade-offs and benefits with the adopted Transfer Plan.
- To focus on zero waste of resources by 2030

Motion passed unanimously with 1 abstention

Open Forum

There was no comment during open forum.