

DRAFT

Skagit County
Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC)
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 10, 2018

Members Present

Britt Pfaff-Dunton
Leo Jacobs
Margo Gillaspay
Matt Koegel
Todd Reynolds

Representing

Skagit County Health Department, ex-officio
City of Sedro-Woolley, SWAC Vice-Chair
Skagit County Public Works/Solid Waste Division, ex-officio
City of Anacortes, Chair
Skagit Steel & Recycling, Recyclers

Members Absent

Andy Hanson
Brian Dempsey
Scott Thomas
Tamara Thomas
Torrey Lautenbach
Not Represented
Not Represented
Not Represented

Representing

City of Mount Vernon
City of Burlington
Town of La Conner
District 2 Citizens
Lautenbach Recycling, District 1 Citizen
District 3
Haulers
Agriculture Representative

Visitors

Callie Martin
Diana Wadley
Elena Pritchard
Rick Hlavka

Representing

Skagit County Solid Waste, *absent*
Department of Ecology, ex-officio, *absent*
Skagit County Public Works/Solid Waste, recorder
Green Solutions, *absent*

Introductions

Chair Koegel, requested introductions of all in attendance. Names and business title introductions were offered by each attendee prior to addressing agenda items.

Call to Order

Matt Koegel, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. at the Continental Building Crane Room at 1800 Continental Place, Mount Vernon.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

DRAFT

Review and Approve Minutes

Chair Koegel opened the floor to discuss the December 13, 2017 minutes.

Chair Koegel asked for a Motion to Approve the December 13, 2017 minutes as written.

Mr. Reynolds requested the following corrections:

Agenda Items

d. Update on recycling markets:

Paper recycling has been increasing despite present concerns with China's import regulations.

Materials coming out of MRF's cannot reach even a 1.5%.

Chair Koegel requested a Motion to Approve the December 13, 2017 minutes with the noted corrections. Vice-Chair Jacobs made a Motion to Approve the December 13, 2017 minutes as modified by Mr. Reynolds. Mr. Reynolds, Member, seconded the Motion to Approve as modified. Chair Koegel declared the minutes approved.

Agenda Items

Chair Koegel moved forward to begin discussion of agenda item(s):

a. Election of Officers

Ms. Gillaspysuggested that there isn't sufficient quorum to vote at this time.

Nominations can be taken at this time, with voting to follow at the next meeting.

Nominations for the position of Chair:

Matt Koegel, City of Anacortes,

Andy Hanson, City of Mount Vernon

Nominations for the position of Vice-Chair:

Tamara Thomas, District 2 Citizens

Ms. Gillaspys will present the nominations to the Committee for voting at the next scheduled meeting.

b. Review of Chapters 3 & 4 of the CSWMP

There is no voting requirement on Chapters 3 and 4, only a review is needed at this time.

Ms. Thomas is expected to have a late arrival to today's meeting. Ms. Wadley of the Department of Ecology gave her verbal approval that the review today will be considered completed and acceptable as long as someone contacts her by e-mail to verify that the chapters have indeed been reviewed.

Ms. Gillaspys requested that the record state that the SWAC is reviewing the Waste Reduction Recycling Element as requirements dictate in RCW 70.95.167.

DRAFT

The RCW also includes Waste Reduction Strategies, Source Separation Strategies, programs to monitor the collection of Source Separated Waste, programs to collect Yard Waste, programs to educate and promote the concepts of Waste Reduction and Recycling, and the recycling strategies including the description of the markets. After review, everything in the chapters appears to be included in the SCSWMP. There were no further questions regarding these Chapters or the RCW requirement in the Plan. Ms. Gillaspay shared that this review must occur on the record before the next step in presenting the Plan to the Department Of Ecology.

Mr. Reynolds brought it to the attention of the Committee that a recent event could trigger a discussion relative to Chapter 4, in particular:

4.5 Alternative Recycling Strategies, page 4-12, *Alternative G-Disposal Bans for Specific Materials, Alternative H-Mandatory Commercial Recycling*. Mr. Reynolds made reference to these *Alternatives* before SWAC in the interest that it might need to be addressed with the Board of Commissioners; and to also help curb this type of activity from happening in the future.

Mr. Reynolds presented a 4-part picture of a Tri-County Recycling 30 yard roll off container, front load truck, and large pile of recycled material as evidence of improper disposal of recyclable materials.

The 2017 Tonnage Report reflects 690 tons for the year for TCR. This tonnage is comparable to a waste hauler. The roll off truck material being dumped as trash could potentially be the result of not having an outlet due to the fallen markets, or the cleanup of some contaminated product that is a result of handling processes. The front load truck is a collection of material at sites. TCR recycles for all the County facilities and is transporting these materials to the County Transfer and Recycling Station and dumping it as garbage. TCR's customer base could address their collection practices with TCR. The county should have some authority to reject the materials, or lease police it in some way to prevent it from being treated as garbage.

Chapter 3, The Waste Reduction *Purpose*, page 1, relates that the comprehensive plan must consider (a) Source separation..., (b) Collection..., and (c) Handling and proper preparation of materials for reuse or recycling.

Skagit River Steel and Recycling recycled 20,000 tons last year, but threw away only 70 tons, which equates to less than 1/2 a percent.

4.3 Designation of Recyclable Materials, page 4-8, *Table 4-1 List of Designated Recyclable Materials, Group 1, 2, 3 Materials*.

Group 3 Materials: On the feasibility side, when the markets drops and they are not available; this could be said for some of the plastics. But the paper and cardboard can be sold all day. Some customer recyclable materials do get contaminated and must be disposed of as trash.

Ms. Dunton shared that Tri-County Recycling is a conditionally exempt facility. Conditionally exempt from Solid Waste permit as long as they meet those conditions.

DRAFT

The conditions are that they are processing materials that are going into the recycling market. There has been a past history of materials not being handled appropriately at that site, or moved out on a timely manner. The Department of Ecology has been requested in the past to complete inspections. To date there has been no enforcement from Ecology. Given this type of information, if Ecology makes a determination that TCR is no longer conditionally exempt, then the Health Department would step in and permit them as a solid waste or disposal facility. This would not be allowed for in the Code given that the only disposal site, according to the Plan, is the Skagit County Transfer and Recycling Station. If TCR operates as a processing facility, then they must process recyclable material. TCR is letting the recyclable materials sit and are not handling as a commodity, but are handling it as a waste and letting it degrade and then taking it to the Transfer Station. Their actions are showing disposal. The Department of Ecology polices this type of activity as part of the first part of enforcement. Then the Health Department would make contact as the next course of action.

Mr. Reynolds commented that TCR is letting it degrade is one concern. Also, they are picking up what is a recyclable material or commodity and are dumping it as waste.

Vice-Chair Jacobs asked if it is the intention to put a rule in place to monitor future disposals immediately.

Mr. Reynolds responded that he does not want to go there because he does not like to think about bans or how it would be constructed. Another reason to bring it to the table is to look for a way to get better control of these events. When his materials are brought to the Transfer Station, the Scale House attendants ask questions on its contents. When this material comes in, is the scale attendant required to ask what type of material is coming in?

Chair Koegel commented that the truck does not touch base until it gets to the floor. The big trucks go through a different scale, the card scale.

Ms. Gillaspy commented that the materials are coming in from commercial haulers who are not checking in with anyone, but are just coming in and dumping.

Ms. Gillaspy inquired whether TCR has to report his volumes of what he recycles to the Department of Ecology? Large numbers were report over November and December of 2017.

Ms. Dunton responded that he must provide an annual report. The next report is due on 4/1/18. There are two different veins to pursue. The recycling service will need to be dealt with through the contract. How the site is being operated falls under the permitting regulations. The State is going through a revision of the Solid Waste handling standards. There has been a lot of push to bring conditionally exempt facilities back under permit for these reasons. The conditionally exempt prioritization stems from allowing less permitting if people are doing lower risk activities from the standpoint of contamination. They require an annual report only, versus routine inspections and annual permit. Any

DRAFT

additional information provided to the Health Department will assist in addressing the situation.

Ms. Gillaspy commented that it will be interesting to see a monthly comparison in fluctuations, as well as 2016 versus 2017.

Mr. Reynolds commented that he is unsure of how the UTC regulations work.

Ms. Gillaspy and Ms. Dunton will contact Diana Wadley of the Department of Ecology regarding UTC regulations to get some direction on a course of action. They will also contact Facilities regarding any contract violations.

Chair Koegel commented that he was totally unaware of TCR's activities.

Mr. Reynolds inquired whether this information spurs some further action that something is needed in the Plan without going overboard and implementing bans?

Chapter 4, *Commercial Recycling Programs*, page 4.

Mr. Reynolds referred to the last paragraph of this section regarding the monitoring of these activities by the Recycling and Waste Reduction Educator who collects this information. If this situation reoccurs in the future, how can it be deterred before it reaches 690 tons?

Vice-Chair Jacobs inquired whether this type of situation could be handled through Flow Control? The City of Sedro-Woolley implements penalties for this type of activity.

Mr. Reynolds asked if the county has authority to reject over certain size limits. Could the same principle apply as far as the material meeting a certain percentage of recyclable content, otherwise the product would be refused?

Ms. Gillaspy commented that approach would be a new criteria for the Transfer Station, and could be enforced on many other businesses. The Transfer Station does not offer commercial recycling, and therefore a lot of cardboard makes its way to the garbage. It is uncertain as to whether they could be stopped.

Vice-Chair Jacobs commented that if a ban is implemented on cardboard, then TCR would have to contact Waste Management or a recycler to haul their cardboard.

Ms. Gillaspy commented that Callie Martin can check with recyclers as part of a promotion, but does not actively perform any monitoring.

Mr. Reynolds asked if there are residual percentages for construction materials.

Mr. Dunton responded that they have a Solid Waste permit for their facility. There are percentages and really specific requirements in place because there is a permit.

DRAFT

Ms. Gillaspy commented that 45% of TCR's trips to the Transfer Station came in the last 2 months of 2017, which equates to approximately 32 to 37 trips each month.

Mr. Reynolds commented that the figures speak more to the fact that this is happening at the collection site and is not an accumulation. The materials are being collected as recyclable and delivered on the same day. Currently, the only thing that Skagit River Steel is not able to move is mixed bottles. Everything else is able to be recycled despite being low value. Cardboard is still bringing in a premium.

c. Flow Control Sub Committee formation

Ms. Gillaspy suggested the first step would be to get coordinated with the Cities and assess what needs to be done education and promotion wise for flow control.

Vice-Chair Jacobs would like to put together a sub-committee. The ideal candidates are the Cities and the County. Those involved in assisting in implementation will ultimately be involved as well. A representative from each City and the County will be needed, not excluding any other interested participants. We need to look into whether an official public notice and public meeting will be required.

Volunteers for the Flow Control Sub-Committee:
Leo Jacobs, Vice-Chair, City of Sedro-Woolley
Britt Pfaff-Dunton, Skagit County Health Department

Ms. Dunton commented that it was previously required to publicize the time because it was part of the SWAC. Whether recording notes is required is unclear.

Vice-Chair Jacobs volunteered to put together drafts of the work that everyone has done so far to have available for the first meeting.

Ms. Gillaspy will look into the requirements and report back to the rest of the SWAC group. A meeting date will be set at a later point.

Announcements/New Business

Chair Koegel, opened the floor to address any announcements or new business.

Vice-Chair Jacob requested creating a sub-committee to address Flow Control. The next SWAC meeting may possibly be scheduled for March, 2018.

Public Comments

Chair Koegel, opened the floor to address any public comments.

Ms. Dunton touched base on a potential ordinance coming forward on secure medicine return for Skagit County.

2/5/18-11:00-12:00, Presentation to the Board of Health/County Commissioners.

DRAFT

Opening of the Public Comment period. The Ordinance draft will be presented and available on the County website. Comments can be submitted on the website. 2/27/18-2:00-3:00, Public Hearing. A vote could take place as early as 2/27/18, or in March after any modifications to the draft.

Unfinished Business

Chair Koegel, opened the floor to address any unfinished business. There was no Unfinished Business.

Adjourn

Chair Koegel thanked everyone for attending the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:05 p.m.