

APPROVED

Skagit County
Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC)
Meeting Minutes
WEBINAR/CONFERENCE CALL
Thursday, February 18, 2021

Members Present

Andy Hanson
Diana Wadley
Leo Jacobs
Margo Gillaspay
Matt Koegel
Michelle Metzler
Tamara Thomas
Todd Reynolds
Torrey Lautenbach

Representing

City of Mount Vernon
Department of Ecology, ex-officio
City of Sedro-Woolley, SWAC Vice-Chair
Skagit County Public Works/Solid Waste Division, ex-officio
City of Anacortes, SWAC Chair
Haulers/Waste Management
District 2 Citizens
Skagit Steel & Recycling, Recyclers
Lautenbach Recycling, District 1 Citizen

Members Absent

Brian Dempsey
Britt Pfaff-Dunton
Scott Thomas
Not Represented
Not Represented

Representing

City of Burlington
Skagit County Health Department, ex-officio
Town of La Conner
District 3 Citizens
Agriculture Representative

Visitors

Representing

Introductions

Margo Gillaspay, requested introductions of all in attendance. Names and business titles were offered by each attendee prior to addressing agenda items.

Call to Order

Ms. Gillaspay, called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. via Webinar/Conference Call, Mount Vernon, Washington.

Public Comments

Ms. Gillaspay, opened the floor for public comments.

There were no Public Comments.

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Review and Approve Minutes

Ms. Gillaspay opened the floor to discuss the December 8, 2020 minutes.

Ms. Gillaspay, requested a Motion to Approve the December 8, 2020 minutes as written.

A Motion to Approve was made by Michelle Metzler of Waste Management to approve the minutes as written. The Motion to Approve was seconded by Andy Hanson, City of Mount Vernon. By a vote of the Membership, the Motion was unanimously passed. Ms. Gillaspay, declared the minutes of December 8, 2020 to be approved as written.

Agenda Items

A Solid Waste Advisory Committee meeting; open to the public, was held on February 18, 2021 for anyone to speak on any topic on the agenda, or items not listed on the agenda:

a. Contamination Reduction & Outreach Plan/Discussion and Approval

Review of the CROP Plan began during the December 8, 2020 meeting. Not many changes were made to The Department of Ecology original draft released by the DOE.

If the SWAC is in agreement, the next step is to vote to approve the Contamination Reduction and Outreach Plan (CROP). Once approved, the following step will be to present it to the Skagit County Board of Commissioners for their review and approval before moving forward.

The CROP also needs to focus on C&D and Composting as well.

The Plan is mostly curbside focused.

Maybe we should start with this and let all the mistakes be made on the recycling part and then have it all figured out when it gets to composting.

As far as the terms of the whole Implementation process; what is the intended structure, will it be done mostly through SWAC, or will another task force be put in place?

The plan is to go through SWAS. It will need to go out through other stakeholders as well; others who are not involved in SWAC.

Are there any comments on working through it with SWAC, or setting up a committee off of it? The plan was to go through SWAC.

Some of it may depend on the funding received for the process. There is no cost to go through SWAC, while paying for studies would be different. We are not paying for anything right now. We are suppose to collect base-line recycling contamination data.

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There would be a cost in doing research, studies, and developing and implementing education and outreach strategies. Someone has to develop priorities, scope of work and prioritize the programs.

Is the State is requiring us to set up a program to understand and look at contamination, but there is no funding? They're requiring the counties to come up with funding and teams to do the studies?

The study is not required. The RCW is saying to analyze what programs you have, and key contaminants, the cost impacts of the key contaminants; and then conduct outreach related to that. It's saying to make a Plan. The plan is to have an Implementation Plan in it. It is true that there is no funding attached to it. If the Local Solid Waste Funding Assistance (LSWFA) should be restored to full funding, it can be used towards those efforts. Studies are not required. Forming the CROP, making a Plan, and doing ones best to implement it, is required.

There is grant funding available as an option. We do have a Recycling and Education Outreach person available to help in planning the Implementation, and who can pursue grant funding.

Skagit County is somewhat luck that all curbside recycling basically goes to one place. We can simply request their data on their highest contamination and then put an Outreach Program in place to reduce contamination on that one specific thing. We are also suppose to look at commercial and drop-box as well.

If we did include the commercial, there is still so few entities in the county that handle it. We work so closely together making it relatively easy to pull the data.

Foreign drop-boxes that show up in the City are 50% contaminated.

Remember that this is traditional recycling, not C&D. Meaning curbside and source separated.

Is it reasonable that we start doing the work and if needed, pursue other options? There were no objections.

The RCW does not really speak to studies. It's put into the Template because it's nice to have. The DOE is supportive in the SWAC's approach to the Plan.

Step 4: Establish acceptable materials list.

Please explain SWAC's thought process in putting *Step 4* in its present location in the CROP, rather than as *Step 8* as it appears in the Ecology CROP Template. You put the *Step 7: Identifying key contaminants and their cost and impacts* below *Step 4:*

Establishing the accepted items, which is later in the process. It seems that you would want to have the discussion of what's in the bin, what do you want in the bin, and what are the key problems, before establishing the accepted items list.

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It's possible that the list is already standardized within the county compared to other counties. The order may be more logical for a county that already has a more concise list of recyclables.

The local CROP Template in the State CROP shows that the Acceptable Materials List is *Step 4*.

A different version of the CROP Template was mistakenly referred to by the DOE which was not the Final Published version, so the Skagit County CROP order of Steps is accurate and not a concern.

Step 9: Evaluate the effectiveness of anti-contamination strategies and set next steps. "These assessments will use, at least in part, the same methodology used in Step 6 to establish baseline contamination levels."

This language discusses using the same steps as noted in *Step 6* to determine whether the actions are working or not. Could this be worded a litter mushier? It's not always clear, just because something changes, why it changes. There might be better ways to look at it. It seems like that should get thought out a little bit more later on.

New language suggested:

These assessments may use, in part, similar methodology as used in Step 6 to establish baseline contamination levels.

This way, we are not stuck to saying, well if it went up, it's because of this; as opposed to, because our population doubled or something.

The wording can be changed from "*will*" to "*may*".

I may be over-thinking it. If it isn't going to impact anything, don't worry about it.

If you want to compare your data from one time to another, you need to collect the same sort of data or doing it in the same way; to even be able to compare. Otherwise, you are not comparing the same thing, which is what they're getting at. If we are doing random cart checks, then we need to do random cart checks again. You're saying that the assessments results inform what is working and what adjustments to make for better results. You're talking more about what do we do after we have this assessment, does it necessarily mean that it's working or not. *Step 9* says, have the things that we've done in this program worked.

This is just a little beyond whether the levels have gone down or not. I don't want to set in stone that you have to look at just the same things you've been looking at. "*The assessment results will help to inform...*" softens the language, and will be added.

SWAC Members were in agreement to accept the CROP draft as amended.

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Motion to Approve: Tamara Thomas
Motion Second: Todd Reynolds
All Members approved the Motion.

b. CROP/Discuss Steps 1 & 2.

Step 1: Inventory current recycling collection services and programs

Each City representative was invited to speak on their recycling programs and the systems that they currently have in place.

Department of Ecology

The DOE just recently released a spreadsheet that discusses the Acceptable Items List for each Jurisdiction. This List will be utilized by DOE to house that data, and then contact each Jurisdiction to confirm their List.

City of Anacortes – Matt Koegel

curbside collection – Waste Management

multi-family – dumpsters

multi-family – Waste Management

curbside collection - not required

standardized list

drop-boxes in City – recycling – Waste Management

drop-boxes – residential – temporary rental

solid waste drop-boxes – City

dumpsters: choose from *Tri-County, Skagit River Steel, Waste Management,
or haul themselves

recycling services – not mandatory

*Tri-County Recycling – out of business

Skagit River Steel and Recycling, Inc. has taken over accounts

City of Burlington – Brian Dempsey

residential recycling – Waste Management

commercial – open market

multi-family recycling – included

City of Mount Vernon – Andy Hanson

curbside recycling – Waste Management

roll-off dumpsters

no drop-boxes in City

organic residential

curb-side organics

curb-side recycling – mandatory

multi-family – up to 5-plex

6-plex – commercial

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City of Sedro-Woolley – Leo Jacobs
multi-family duplex – residential
not open market
curb-side recycling
commercial – open market, choose from: City, Waste Management, Skagit River Steel
city collects all curb-side recycling
drop-boxes – source separated recycling

West of Highway 9 – Waste Management
recycling – not required
curb-side – not offered East of Hwy. 9
drop-boxes – 3 Transfer Station sites

Ms. Gillaspay requested that each Municipality send her a copy of the most recent lists that are being sent out to their customers.

The CROP is scoped just for the traditional recyclables, not C&D, and not organics.

Before beginning this process, is it important to put those pieces in before we start, rather than trying to add it later? There are agencies that can answer those questions as well. Are there CROP reports available that already have those pieces added? Would it be beneficial to have one or two paragraphs in the CROP that relate to the C&D and organics, if the information is needed? It would be easier to have those things in place, then to try to amend to add those pieces at a later date. Waste Management being in charge of curb-side recycling is an important piece to us. Having Waste Management, Skagit River Steel, and Lautenbachs is important in that industry. It is important to have them as part of a Plan and be able to track things. If information is already in there, we can pull data as needed. We could say that we've adopted a Plan that has curb-side along with C&D waste and organics. It would be great to add that information, if not too far out of the realm, and if it can be added at a reasonable inexpensive way, even if it is just used by SWAC. The more information that can be added now the better, to prepare for addressing sometime in the future, especially if it is just as easy for everyone to answer now.

If we are considering forming a small group to capture that additional C&D and organics, we should conduct an inventory of what we have for organics and C&D.

The CROP will be amended into the Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP), a rather lengthy endeavor. If a paragraph is added, whether it is added as part of the CROP or a different Chapter of the SWMP, you are technically opening up the SWMP, so there is the opportunity.

I has been suggested that this be added in as a side note jus for SWAC's reference.

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There are not a lot of CROP Plans out yet. DOE is compiling them on-line for viewing. If the SWAC wanted to make a statement by putting it in the CROP (organics and C&D) there are others that may want to read it.

C&D and organic statistics can be added to *Step 5* during the review process.

With all the tasks involved in the CROP, it can be a light task to add the information, or it can become an in-depth analysis. It does not need to be added to the CROP and can become just an item that we compile statistics on.

There is a Motion on the table to adopt the Plan and move forward. It can remain an item on the back burner and be added at a later time, years down the road. There is a goal we need to meet to complete the CROP Plan. The organics and C&D overview can be discussed at a later meeting. It was agreed that we move forward with the CROP review as long as there is no objection from the organic and C&D haulers.

c. Legislative Update

Bag Ban:

The ban was originally targeted to go into effect in January of 2021, but was postponed for 30 days. It is currently postponed until the COVID-19 State of Emergency signed by the Governor is over.

PaintCare of Washington:

The program is expected to launch on April 1, 2021, based upon approval by the Department of Ecology. The City of Mount Vernon is currently working on an Agreement with PaintCare to designate the Skagit County Household Hazardous Waste Facility as a collection site.

Whitmarsh/March Point Landfill:

The Skagit County Board of Commissioner's signed the Consent Decree authorizing Skagit County to take over implementing a remedy for that landfill site. Skagit County hired a Consultant to oversee the work. Skagit County will be installing noise monitoring equipment during the Herron nesting period. This equipment installation is part of the permit process mandated by the City of Anacortes for land clearing activities. The landfill project is expected to begin sometime around the end of the year 2023. The County received funding from the oil companies and the State, so it is a relief that the funding will not be provided by the Solid Waste Transfer Station tipping fees.

Announcements/New Business

Ms. Gillaspy, opened the floor to address any announcements or new business.

There were none.

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Public Comments

Ms. Gillaspy, opened the floor to address any public comments.

There were no public comments.

Unfinished Business

Ms. Gillaspy, opened the floor to address any unfinished business.

There was none.

Adjourn

Ms. Gillaspy, thanked everyone. The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:00 p.m.