

APPROVED

Skagit County
Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC)
Microsoft Teams Meeting Minutes
Skagit County Conference Room, 1800 Continental Place, Mount Vernon, WA
Wednesday, April 26, 2023

Members Present

Dale Patrick

Margo Gillaspay
Olivia Carros

Pinky Vargas

Representing

Environmental Public Health, Skagit County Public Works, non-voting, *virtual*

Skagit County Public Works/Solid Waste Division, non-voting
Department of Ecology, Regional Planner & Grant Manager, non-voting, *virtual*

Republic Services, Municipal Relations,
Skagit County Account Manager

Members Absent

Andy Hanson

Brian Dempsey

Leo Jacobs

Marcella Manibusan

Matt Koegel

Scott Thomas

Tamara Thomas

Todd Reynolds

Torrey Lautenbach

Representing

City of Mount Vernon

City of Burlington

City of Sedro-Woolley, SWAC Vice-Chair

Waste Management, Hauler/Public Sector, Manager

City of Anacortes, SWAC Chair

Town of La Conner

District 2 Citizens

Skagit Steel & Recycling, Recyclers

Lautenbach Recycling, District 1 Citizen

Not Represented

Not Represented

Vacant

Vacant

Vacant

Agriculture Representative

District 3 Citizens

Town of Lyman

Town of Hamilton

Town of Concrete

Visitors

Britt Pfaff-Dunton

Carolyn Moulton

Dan Christopher

Grace Kane

Heather Lopes

Jacob Anderson

Jeffrey Barcnas

Representing

Skagit County Health Department, *on-line*

Lautenbach Recycling, *virtual*

Commissioner, Klickitat County, *on-line*

Skagit County Public Works, Director

Environmental Public Health, Skagit County Public Works, *on-line*

Commissioner, Klickitat County

Republic Services, *on-line*

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Kate Smith	WSU Skagit Extension, <i>on-line</i>
Landon Campbell	City of Mount Vernon
Robin Freidman	Waste Management, <i>absent</i>
Laura Moser	Waste Management, Hauler
Michael See	Skagit County, Public Works, Assistant Director, <i>absent</i>
Nick Harbert	Waste Management, Hauler
Porter Cooper	Republic Services, Operations Manager
Steve Gilmore	Republic Services

Introductions

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

Call to Order

Ms. Gillaspy, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. at the Skagit Conference Room, Mount Vernon, Washington.

Public Comments

Ms. Gillaspy, opened the floor for public comments.

There were no Public Comments.

Review and Approve Minutes

Ms. Gillaspy opened the floor to discuss the April 12, 2023 minutes.

Ms. Gillaspy, requested a Motion to Approve the April 12, 2023 minutes as written. A Motion to Approve was made by Leo Jacobs, City of Sedro-Woolley 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. Gillaspy, declared the minutes of April 12, 2023 to be approved as written.

Agenda Items

A Solid Waste Advisory Committee meeting, open to the public, was held on April 26, 2023 for anyone to speak on any topic on the agenda, or items not listed on the agenda:

a. Long Haul RFP Discussion

As discussed at the last SWAC Meeting, we received three proposals, namely, Waste Management, Republic Services, and H Cycle. The Committee reviewed them and held interviews with each of the companies. Through the evaluation, the Committee would

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like to recommend the selection of Waste Management as the Contractor for the Long-Haul Transport and Disposal for Skagit County. During this meeting, we will not be voting on the Recommendation for Approval since many SWAC Members will need to meet and discuss with their Cities or Towns that they represent. At this time, it is being merely presented to the group in order to discuss some of the evaluations. Some Members of the Selection Committee are currently present at today's meeting, namely, Britt Pfaff-Dunton, Dale Patrick, Margo Gillaspay. Michael See and Eddie Nersten are absent.

Evaluation Criteria, Evaluation Factors, Criteria(Rating Percentage):

Criteria 1: Letter of Intent and Method of Approach

Republic Services	-	Acceptable
Waste Management	-	Better
H Cycle	-	Unacceptable

Criteria 2: Sustainability

Republic Services	-	Good
Waste Management	-	Good
H Cycle	-	Better

Criteria 3: Similar Service Experience/Technical Expertise/References/Community Involvement/Financial Stability

Republic Services	-	Acceptable
Waste Management	-	Better
H Cycle	-	Unacceptable

Criteria 4: Pricing and County Operations Financial Impact

Republic Services	-	Good
Waste Management	-	Good
H Cycle	-	Unacceptable

Criteria 5: Ability to Contract with Proposer

Republic Services	-	Acceptable
Waste Management	-	Acceptable
H Cycle	-	Unacceptable

The Criteria Ratings were pretty close to the same percentage for all three Contractors/Proposers. It came down to the Alternative Plans, Emergency Backup Plans, Levels of Service Reference that we experience.

Now is a good time for any SWAC Members to pose any questions they might have. I am now asking SWAC Members to take this chance to evaluate and return at the next scheduled meeting (May 7) in two weeks for approval on this Recommendation and review the Approval Process. A governance Board Meeting is scheduled for May 23,

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2023, when we will ask for their approval at that point. The Commissioner's can vote their approval at that time.

SWAC would then prepare a Resolution calling for a Public Hearing. A Public Hearing would then be held in front of the Solid Waste Governance Board, currently scheduled for June 26, 2023. The Board would prepare a Resolution awarding to the Recommended vendor. And lastly, a final contract would be signed by the Commissioners.

Republic Services

During the last SWAC Meeting, it was discussed whether they could present at the Governance Board. This would be possible during the Public Comment period. A Meeting Notification will be available.

There are some differences in services among proposers, such as rail versus truck. How or will there be any discussion with the Department of Transportation around a traffic study, considering there will be an expected 4,700 truck trips per year hauling down the I-5 Corridor? A heavy amount of usage is being looked at by the DOT, for up and down the I-5 Corridor.

Has there been a discussion with DOT, or will they look at a traffic study at all?
There has not been a discussion with DOT about that.

Republic Services

Regarding Criteria Sustainability, Waste Management and Republic Services are both rated as "Good", However, there is always a considerable amount of increased emissions doing hauling versus rail. We are curious as to how Republic and Waste Management were both rated "Good" versus the actual amount of emissions and the contributions to the Roosevelt Landfill contributes to Klickitat's PUD. We supply them **R&G?**, which gets put into the grid. Republic was expected to be marked a little bit higher because they do have those factors as well that does contribute to renewable energy that's being put into the grant and distributed through Klickitat's PUD.

Skagit County

Margo Gillaspy

This point will be discussed with the group again.

WSU Skagit Extension

Kate Smith

There was some discussion from Republic during the last meeting regarding methane recovery. Could we hear more about Waste Management sustainability in reference to the Organics Management Law methane emissions?

Skagit County

Margo Gillaspy

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More discussion on the matter can be raised during the Public Comment period at the Governance Board Meeting. Since there is a low attendance on SWAC Members attending this meeting, we will move forward to Public Comments on the Agenda.

Announcements/New Business

There will be a call for another meeting in two weeks (May 7) giving the SWAC the opportunity to vote on the Proposal.

Public Comments

Ms. Gillaspy, opened the floor to address any public comments. Anyone wishing to comment has a time limit of three minutes in order to vacate the meeting room as scheduled.

Waste Management

Columbia also has gas recovery similar to Roosevelt. They make electricity and put it back into the grid. They have an arrangement with the City of Seattle, historically their largest customer, where a portion of that power goes back to their City light system. All of that data was provided in their Proposal for SWAC Members to look into the Disposal Section of the RFP. The site has been doing similar gas recovery since built four years ago. Waste Management also does a lot of wildlife recovery there as well as having windmills noted in the RFP.

Klickitat County

Commissioner Jacob Anderson

Klickitat County would like to put a face to our partner. For the last thirty years, Klickitat County has been partnered with Skagit County to accept all of this waste. What that has done for the County is currently bringing in \$600,000 to the County that helps support all of their systems programs and employees. Also, there are 180 family wage jobs that are union jobs at the landfill. Most of those people live and work in the community. These union wage jobs are a backbone for that community economy. We appreciate all the years we've worked together and would love to continue accepting your waste to continue partnership. It would be great to continue keeping all the waste in Washington State, as well as all of the jobs and benefits. We did not see community benefits in the Evaluation Criteria and what that does for a partner County. About 5.5% comes from annual renewal tonnage that goes to the PUD. Those are also benefits that all of the residents have with renewable natural gas that helps keep their power prices as low as possible for all of the residents. This is also an ancillary benefit.

Klickitat County

Commissioner Christopher

Was there any consideration given to climate change from the increased truck traffic Waste Management will have hauling your waste to Seattle in order to get on the train? Was the amount of carbon footprint put into consideration?

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Skagit County

Margo Gillaspy

We looked at the transport as a whole but not specifically. They did not figure out any increase carbon footprint from that truck traffic. This will be discussed along with the other items mentioned by Republic Services.

Chat Comment

In comparison, Columbia Ridge Waste Management has approximately 100 gas wells, while Roosevelt has nearly 300, and generates RNG in public partnership.

Unfinished Business

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

There was no Unfinished Business.

Adjourn

Ms. Gillaspy, thanked everyone and called the meeting to an end.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:25 p.m.