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Skagit County
Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC)
Meeting Minutes
WEBINAR/CONFERENCE CALL
Tuesday, May 11, 2021

Members Present

Andy Hanson
Brian Dempsey
Britt Pfaff-Dunton
Carolyn Bowie
Margo Gillaspay
Michelle Metzler
Todd Reynolds
Torrey Lautenbach

Representing

City of Mount Vernon
City of Burlington
Skagit County Health Department, ex-officio
Department of Ecology, (ex-officio/Diana Wadley
Skagit County Public Works/Solid Waste Division, ex-officio
Haulers/Waste Management
Skagit Steel & Recycling, Recyclers
Lautenbach Recycling, District 1 Citizen

Members Absent

Leo Jacobs
Matt Koegel
Scott Thomas
Tamara Thomas
Not Represented
Not Represented

Representing

City of Sedro-Woolley, SWAC Vice-Chair
City of Anacortes, SWAC Chair
Town of La Conner
District 2 Citizens
District 3 Citizens
Agriculture Representative

Visitors

Dave Bader
Dale Patrick
Wendy Weiker

Representing

Lautenbach Recycling
Skagit County Public Health Department
Republic Services

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.

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There were no Public Comments.

Review and Approve Minutes

Ms. Gillaspay opened the floor to discuss the February 18, 2021 minutes.

Ms. Gillaspay, requested a Motion to Approve the February 18, 2021 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 February 18, 2021 to be approved as written.

Agenda Items

A Solid Waste Advisory Committee meeting; open to the public, was held on May 11, 2021 for anyone to speak on any topic on the agenda, or items not listed on the agenda:

a. Legislative Update

The following Environmental Solid Waste Bills were signed into Law and are waiting Governor Inslee's signature.

Plastic Packaging minimum recycled content for manufacturers with polystyrene Ban- requires customers to request if they want food service ware. There will be an Advisory Committee co-shared with the Department of Ecology and Commerce that will provide a report by 2021.

Delay on the Solar Panel Recycling Implementation dates for the EPR Stewardship and Take-Back Program.

Expanded the use of non-wood renewable fiber such as wheat straw and recycled content paper bags so that the paper carry out bags can contain a minimum of 40% post-consumer recyclable materials.

Re-do of a 2020 Bill delayed due to the COVID-19 that allows Commerce to establish an Industrial Waste Coordination Program.

Bill that requires the Department of Ecology to make recommendations for an EPR-like system requiring manufacturers of items with fluorinated gases (air-conditioners) to support end of life management and disposal.

Washington Climate Commitment Act Cap Green House Gas Program-directs the Department of Ecology to implement a cap on green-house gases from covered entities, 75% of Washington sources and a Program to track, verify and enforce compliance.

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Low Carbon Fuel standard that authorizes the Department of Ecology to create a Clean Fuels Program to reduce green-house gas emissions with a goal to improve air quality.

The future will tell how any of this will directly affect us.

b. CROP

Status Update:

There is an approval process which is slightly different than other Counties. We have a (SWSGB) Solid Waste System Governance Board, which consists of Mayors of Cities and Town of Skagit County. Before the Plan would go to the DOE for review, it must go before the SWSGB.

SWAC is using a Template provided by the DOE. A meeting will hopefully be scheduled for June for review and approval. Next, it will be submitted to DOE for the preliminary review and comment. Then it will be routed to SWAC for review and comment and final approval process.

The CROP will be integrated into the Solid Waste Plan as an Appendix. The next time the Plan is revised, it will then be implemented more fully into the entire Plan.

During the SWAC's last meeting, the CROP's use was reviewed and approved. A review of Step 1 was done at that time addressing Inventory. The curb-side recycling for Cities and Towns is provided by Waste Management. The County Facilities has our own drop-off bins and are fairly aligned with the Waste Management acceptance guidelines as well. The only difference is in the scrap steel and scrap aluminum. We discussed prioritizing the curb-side recycling programs.

The next step will be in getting an idea of the base-line levels of recycling contamination and getting our first base-line recycling contamination data from Waste Management. The goal at this time is to figure out which base-line to start at.

The recycling market is a continuing moving target. Since some of the plastics are starting to come back on-line we need to make sure we are very flexible in this.

Waste Management will be glad to provide any helpful data needed regarding contamination at the MRF. The big problems in recycling are constant and not likely to change based on the markets. Bagged garbage, styrofoam and hoses have never been recyclable and is the bulk of what is seen in the recycling as far as contamination. It is good to be mindful of market changes, but there are so many big problems contamination items not likely to be recyclable in the near term. It will be a big project ahead to prioritize and target those materials and try to get people to focus on recycling the materials that are on the accepted list.

We need to establish our own acceptable materials list.

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Waste Management has contamination residual levels on a monthly basis that is shared with Cities currently in a monthly reporting that has the residual rate at the MRF.

The next step would be to identify the key contaminants and their cost and impacts. The big step would be developing and implementing our education strategies. We need to get the base-line data and decide as a group what materials we want to focus on getting out of the bins.

c. Whitmarsh Update

The Whitmarsh Landfill cleanup is located at March Point Whitmarsh Landfill near the casino off of Highway 20.

The Consent Decree was finalized in March, entering the official Remediation stage of the cleanup.

We were previously working with DNR, Shell and Chevron Texaco as other participants in the cleanup. The County is now the leading interest in the cleanup. Skagit County has contracted with an Environmental Consultant who will be developing the Plans and Permits. They are working on developing Plans for the Corp of Engineers since we will be doing work on the Shorelines. Also, the Plan for the City for the Herron Management Plan. The largest Herron population in Skagit County is located across the street from the Landfill. The Herons' nesting season runs from February through July. We need to develop a mitigation strategy to avoid disturbing the Herons.

The Skagit Land Trust owns a large portion of the land inhabited by the Herons and so have an interest in how Skagit County will be conducting the project.

The work needs to be done at low-tide summer season to cut down into the bay mud and spread a barrier over the top of the landfill. The work needs to be done in July/July when the Herons are nesting and may be problematic. Noise monitoring has begun to determine the background noise level the Herons are currently living with. Skagit County plans on demolition and site clearing this August, after the nesting season is over.

All invoices is currently being paid by the County's own insurance, without having to use any of the Solid Waste funds. We still have \$6 - \$7 million dollars from our settlements from our other PLP's and also grant funding is available from the Department of Ecology. The construction timeline is expected to be in 2023.

d. Long Haul RFP

We currently have a contract with Republic Services to provide the long-haul of solid waste from the County and disposal in the landfill. The end date of the contract is September 30, 2023. The expected start date is 2021 to start a new contract process so we will know several months ahead of time if we will have a new contractor and if we will have new rates.

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It is unsure if we are going to run the Request For Proposals ourselves within the County or hire a Consultant to put the Bid Package together. The original contract began in 1994, followed by renewals. A contract renewal is no longer an option at this time.

Announcements/New Business

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

There were none.

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 2:30 p.m.