

APPROVED

Skagit County  
Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC)  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, May 15, 2019

**Members Present**

Andy Hanson  
Brian Dempsey  
Britt Pfaff-Dunton  
Margo Gillaspay  
Matt Koegel  
Tamara Thomas  
Todd Reynolds  
Torrey Lautenbach

**Representing**

City of Mount Vernon  
City of Burlington  
Skagit County Health Department, ex-officio  
Skagit County Public Works/Solid Waste Division, ex-officio  
City of Anacortes, SWAC Chair  
District 2 Citizens  
Skagit Steel & Recycling, Recyclers  
Lautenbach Recycling, District 1 Citizen

**Members Absent**

Leo Jacobs  
Scott Thomas  
Not Represented  
Not Represented  
Not Represented

**Representing**

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

**Visitors**

Elena Pritchard

**Representing**

Skagit County Public Works/Solid Waste Division/*recorder*

**Introductions**

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

**Call to Order**

Mr. Koegel, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m. in the Continental Building Crane Room at 1800 Continental Place, Mount Vernon, Washington.

**Public Comments**

Mr. Koegel, Chair, opened the floor for public comments.

There were no Public Comments.

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**Review and Approve Minutes**

Mr. Koegel, Chair opened the floor to discuss the March 13, 2019 minutes.

Mr. Koegel, Chair, requested a Motion to Approve the March 13, 2019 minutes as written.

A Motion to Approve was made by Mr. Hanson, City of Mount Vernon to approve the minutes as written. The Motion to Approve was seconded by Mr. Lautenbach, Lautenbach Recycling. By a vote of the Membership, the Motion was unanimously passed. Mr. Koegel, Chair, declared the minutes of March 13, 2019 to be approved as written.

**Agenda Items**

Mrs. Gillaspay moved forward to begin discussion of agenda item(s):

**a. LSWFA Grant**

Mrs. Gillaspay

This grant helps fund our Waste Reduction and Recycling position and Education and the Household Hazardous Waste Facility and other stations across the county.

i. Coordination

An e-mail was sent out last week. I wanted to alert the signatories of the Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan that we are getting these funds.

ii. Funding Amounts

So what it came out to for us is about \$150,000 over the 2 year grant cycle. The total amount they funded this biennium for 2019-2021 was \$10 million, the same amount as the last biennium. We just had more funding in the past and this is kind of the reason we talked about this with the Rate Study because we are just not getting the funding we use to get from Ecology. We are not anticipating any changes to our program.

Ms. Dunton

Generally, there is an 80/20 percent split between Solid Waste Planning Operations and Solid Waste Enforcement. The way the money was allocated was different from the last biennium so the Health Department saw a decrease. We had been getting \$50,000 per year, and now it is down to \$37,400 per year. They use a per capita calculation.

Mr. Reynolds

Do you know why they are reducing?

Ms. Dunton

State Legislature allocated less money to the program.

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Mrs. Gillaspy

The big thing is that DOT wanting money for fish passages projects. When we're talking about building roads and storm water and infrastructure, I think that was a big ask during the Legislative Session.

Ms. Thomas

Is it distributed amongst the counties in the same way that it had been? Are we getting hit the same way as the other counties, or is it by population?

Ms. Gillaspy

They do a flat amount for each county. There is a fixed amount and then it is per capita.

Ms. Dunton

For the Public Works, that stayed the same. Because the amounts were lower, the way that they divide up the fixed amounts, were lower for the Health Departments. Per capita, it worked out to be this \$74,860 for the two-year cycle. Last time around, we were closer to \$89,000.

b. First Quarter Tonnage Report

Mrs. Gillaspy

For the first quarter of 2019 we were at 25,720 tons. Compared to 2018, we had a decrease of about 1.8% from the first quarter of last year, possibly weather related. February was a shorter month with less garbage coming in. April showed an increase of 5% over last year.

c. Legislative Updates

Mrs. Gillaspy

I didn't know if you were aware of all these things that were going on, and how they relate to the SWAC and what we need to be doing.

House Bill 1543 – Sustainable Recycling.

Signed by Governor Ensley on April 29, 2019. It creates a recycling development center within Ecology. Ecology is going to work with the Department of Commerce on recycling market research and development. Ecology will create a State Recycling Contamination Reduction and Outreach Plan by July 1, 2020. The local governments will meet to decide if they want to adopt the State Plan or develop our own Plan. I am not sure if we need to develop and adopt it by July 1, 2021. That would be something that we would be a change to our Solid Waste Management Plan. The ideas we would want to look at would be improving less contamination in recycling.

Mr. Reynolds

There was another proposal that Ensley was looking at creating a recycling committee. Is this the same?

Mrs. Gillaspy

They are creating an Advisory Board. There are several bills that might be similar.

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Mr. Reynolds

The one that RHR brought to my attention today is that the Committee or Advisory Board, or whatever it is that they are putting together to look at recycling and better ways to increase our recycling rates, markets; all encompassing for recycling. It listed the members that were going to be in this Advisory Board. There was not one Recycler or recycling company in the Board. There were cities, counties and Solid Waste members listed, but not one Recycler. It noted the number of members required on the Board for each agency, but did not include even one recycler.

Mrs. Gillaspay

Would there be Recyclers within the Department of Commerce?

Mr. Reynolds

They were making spots for the Waste Management companies.

Mr. Lautenbach

Is this the same as the food waste bill too?

Ms. Gillaspay

No, that's a different one. I will look into seeing if I can find out what this Advisory Board is made up of. I know there are several other Bills, but don't know if this is the same one.

House Bill 1114 - Food Waste Reduction.

Signed by Governor Ensley on May 9, 2019. Reducing the wasting of food in order to fight hunger and reduce environmental impact. This sets a goal for the State to reduce by 50% the amount of wasted food generated annually by 2030 relative to 2017 levels. The Department of Ecology is to work with Health and Agriculture to develop a wasted food reduction and food waste diversion plan by 2020. I don't believe that the counties have to individually adopt the Plan. Wasted Food Reduction and Food Waste Diversion activities can be funded through the Waste Reduction Recycling and Litter Control account.

Mr. Lautenbach

Is it mostly reduction in food waste in the sense of giving food away and not so much recycling and finding alternative uses for it other than landfill?

Mrs. Gillaspay

Yes, I think they want to do food donation but also reduction at the source. It did not seem like an increase in composting.

Ms. Thomas

My understanding, after speaking with someone with the Department of Ecology, is the focus is going to be on reducing through education. They were not going to be emphasizing recycling and composting.

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House Bill 1562 – Paint Stewardship.

Signed by Governor Ensley – date unknown.

It requires producers and paint retailers to participate in a stewardship program in order to sell in the state. There is no fees charged on recycled paint. We do have some paint recycling available now, but you have to pay if you want to recycle your paint. Paint Care will be the program administrator. They are possibly operating in Oregon at this time. The Household Hazardous Waste technician has a meeting scheduled with them this week. A Plan must be produced by May, 2020 with the program beginning in the year 2020.

Ms. Thomas

So this is different than the presentation that you made a couple of months ago.

Ms. Dunton

It is the same concept of product stewardship coming from the producers having to fund the disposal aspects. So, it essentially gets built into the price. We did a local Ordinance that only applies to Skagit County for medication return so the pharmaceutical companies that are the funders of the stewardship group and they hired Med Project who will implement that medicine return. It was passed in February of 2018, with the Plan going active in February of 2019. As of May 1, there are 6 kiosk boxes in the county. There are more coming. The boxes can only be stationed with pharmacies and law enforcement so they can be visual as per the DEA licensing. The Ordinance also specifies that Med Project must supply mail-back containers to any municipal office that wants it. Letters went to the mayors in the beginning of 2019, without much response.

Ms. Gillaspay

I did request 3 boxes and received them in about 6 weeks and they will be located at each transfer site.

Mr. Hanson

Have you placed one at the Public Defender's office on Third Street? We've seen an increase in activity in the parking lot at that corner. The sani-cans and garbage cans were removed a couple of weeks ago due to activity there and an increase in garbage. The City of Mount Vernon removed the garbage cans after one was stolen. United Site Services removed the sani-can when it was discovered that people were sleeping in them. A driver reported that there were needles on the ground in that parking lot so I wasn't sure if there was a drop-off box on that site or not.

Ms. Dunton

Medicine return is one thing but needles are handled very differently. The problem with that site is that they stationed those sani-cans and did bring them back unfortunately, without thinking through the whole process. They do have within the sani-can compound Sharps waste containers in there to attempt to keep the Sharps out of the sani-cans, but people aren't using it. They were using the sani-cans but everything else starting ending up there too.

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Ms. Thomas

How big of an issue is it with sani-cans, assuming that it is going to a wastewater treatment that does have pre-screening? Do they go right through that?

Ms. Dunton

It is a big issue for servicing the cans. They are just vacuuming out the liquids but are not set up for clearing jams and are getting needle sticks. Waste Water Treatment Plants will not accept those sani-can companies with whole loads coming in with 20-50 Sharps in there. It presents a big problem with cleaning the screens.

Right now our Solid Waste regulation allows businesses handling their Sharps by having a company pick them up or by doing a mail-back to a regulated bio-medical waste handler. Individuals can put them in the solid waste stream with a Health Department sanctioned label in plastic opaque and taped containers. We are seeing an uptick in needles being put in the trash can wrong and then impacting drivers who may be trying to clear a hydraulic problem and are getting a needle stick. Do we want to shift our Ordinance so that we require the household needles to actually go through a needle service? Some people will not be able to comply due to the economics and will require a whole different program to take them in.

Mr. Reynolds

Is there a cost to dispose of needles?

Ms. Dunton

Yes. The State of California just passed a state-wide stewardship program for needle return where the producers will fund it and have kiosks for controlled drop-offs for the public. It always comes down to how do you fund something like that and how do you deal with the different segments of the population and their different methods of disposal.

Mrs. Gillaspay

So the Paint-Care will work in the same stewardship system.

House Bill 1569 – Marketing the Grade-ability of Products.

It authorizes the States' Attorney General and local governments to pursue false or misleading environmental claims for plastic products claiming to be compostable and biodegradable when in fact they are not. There will also be more updated labeling more standardized on compostable products. The effective date will be July 1, 2020.

House Bill 5397 – Responsible Management of Plastic Packaging.

Not yet signed.

Plastic Packaging Stewardship Organization.

Beginning January 1, 2022, producers of plastic packaging cannot sell in the state unless they are participating within this stewardship with a Plan approved by The Department of Ecology. Each producer must submit their Plan by June 1, 2021 to Ecology for review.

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i. Coordinated Recycling update

We need to create our own contamination or reduction and outreach plan or adopt a State Plan. The deadline is July 1, 2021.

d. WAC 173-350 update

Ms. Dunton

In September 2019, Facilities will need to make their application for permit under Solid Waste Handling when a permit is needed. Letters from The Department of Ecology have been mailed out with instructions to review the WAC to see if you will need a permit to apply for an exemption or a conditional exemption. If you fall under the conditional exemption, then you should submit that Notice of Intent to Ecology. They update records on those facilities. Some facilities that have not had permits in the past will need permits. I will be going out to each one individually. I have not seen the letter, but I would assume that they would have put a deadline for responding in there. The process should be started by September of 2019. The WAC does not stipulate a deadline time as long as the process has been started by September since each permit process is organic and can vary. If the process has not begun by September of 2019, then technically you would be in violation of WAC 173-350 and enforcement could start on that. Everything I do is public record unless I am talking directly to a lawyer.

Mr. Lautenbach

Are there any exemptions?

Ms. Dunton

Yes, there are some exemptions. Everything must be under cover inside.

e. 2019 Membership

Mrs. Gillaspay

The SWAC Membership with the Board of Commissioner's has just been updated for another year.

*Applicants sought for Skagit County Solid Waste Advisory Committee Press Release.*  
There are still vacancies that need to be filled for District 3, the City representatives of Concrete, Hamilton and Lyman. Also, Haulers and the new position of Agriculture Representative.

Mr. Lautenbach

What type of agriculture representative are you looking for, farmer or processor?

Mrs. Gillaspay

Any type would be fine.

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**Announcements/New Business**

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

There were none.

**Public Comments**

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

There were no public comments.

**Unfinished Business**

Mr. Koegel, Chair, opened the floor to address any unfinished business.

Mr. Lautenbach  
Flow Control Sub-Committee.

Ms. Thomas  
I would like to add a topic of discussion to the next meeting agenda regarding plastic recycling in Skagit County and the State of Washington.

Ms. Dunton  
Can anyone enlighten us on recent events with Baker Commodities and the hide market?

I am hearing that Baker Commodities is no longer taking live stock from the North Sound. Hide markets are just going way down. They are slowing down their rendering facility because of the markets. If you have livestock that have been put down, they don't want that meat going into animal feed because of the drug carryover. The hide markets are also down and I don't know if that has anything to do with all the tariffs going on.

They are still taking the oils such as restaurant grease, fat and oils.

Mr. Lautenbach  
I don't know at the moment, but I can find out by making a phone call.  
We haul 14 loads a night 7 days per week from Port of Vancouver B.C., West Coast Reduction to VP Refinery. They are injecting it into their oil and making diesel out of it. We started at 48 loads per week and now we are up to 94 and they want to do a 130-load trial in June for a week. They have been doing it in Europe for a while but I don't think it is called a bio-diesel because they are injecting it in prior to the refining process. I think what is pushing it is the carbon credits.

**Adjourn**

Mr. Koegel, Chair, thanked everyone. The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:30 p.m.