

APPROVED

Skagit County
Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC)
Meeting Minutes
WEBINAR/CONFERENCE CALL
Wednesday, June 8, 2022

Members Present

Olivia Karras
Leo Jacobs
Margo Gillaspay
Matt Koegel
Marcella Manabusen
Torrey Lautenbach

Representing

Department of Ecology, Regional Planner & Grant Manager
City of Sedro-Woolley, SWAC Vice-Chair
Skagit County Public Works/Solid Waste Division, ex-officio
City of Anacortes, SWAC Chair
Public Sector Manager, Haulers/Waste Management
Lautenbach Recycling, District 1 Citizen

Members Absent

Andy Hanson
Brian Dempsey
Britt Pfaff-Dunton
Scott Thomas
Tamara Thomas
Todd Reynolds
Not Represented
Not Represented

Representing

City of Mount Vernon
City of Burlington
Skagit County Health Department, ex-officio
Town of La Conner
District 2 Citizens
Skagit Steel & Recycling, Recyclers
District 3 Citizens
Agriculture Representative

Visitors

Dale Patrick
Heather Lopez
Pinky Vargas

Representing

Environmental Health, Skagit County Public Works
Environmental Health, Skagit County Public Works
Republic Services, Municipal Relations,
Skagit County Account Manager

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.

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Public Comments

Ms. Gillaspay, opened the floor for public comments.

There were no Public Comments.

Review and Approve Minutes

Ms. Gillaspay opened the floor to discuss the April 12, 2022 minutes.

Ms. Gillaspay, requested a Motion to Approve the April 12, 2022 minutes as written.

A Motion to Approve was made by Matt Koegel, City of Anacortes to approve the minutes as written. The Motion to Approve was seconded by Torrey Lautenbach, Lautenbach Industries. By a vote of the Membership, the Motion was unanimously passed. Ms. Gillaspay, declared the minutes of April 12, 2022 to be approved as written.

Agenda Items

A Solid Waste Advisory Committee meeting, open to the public, was held on June 8, 2022 for anyone to speak on any topic on the agenda, or items not listed on the agenda:

a. Rate Changes(2018 Rate Study)

The latest rate increase went into effect on June 1, 2022 at the Skagit County Transfer Station.

\$103.00/ton - General Public
\$102.00/ton - Municipalities
\$20.00/minimum charge up to 360 pounds per load

The last scheduled rate increase will take place in June of 2023.

\$105.00/ton - General Public
\$104.00/ton - Municipalities
\$20.00/minimum charge up to 360 pounds per load

The Long-Haul Contract is set to expire in September of 2023. At that time, the Plan will be re-evaluated once the new contract is in place to determine if a new Rate Study is needed.

b. Mid-Year Check In

The May data(January-May, 2022) shows that the tonnage is up 6% through May, compared to last year. The customer count is slightly down.

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c. Rail Service Status

There have been some issues lately with BNSF relative to service, switches and labor. As a result, BNSF decided to streamline their company and reduce staffing. They initiated a new PTO program this year which required mandatory vaccines and lost some staffing. As a result, they were no longer able to fulfill customers needs such as the grain and waste industries. Republic Services has had a contract with BNSF for the last 30 years. They worked with BNSF to help improve their service. Republic reached out to Legislature and to Senate representatives. The Surface Transportation Board at the Federal level started having hearings with BNSF due to them not fulfilling contracts and industries not being able to service their customers.

Staffing:

To remedy the situation, BNSF conducted a hiring campaign in March. The graduation class of new Engineers is expected in June.

Check-ins with BNSF:

Senators have taken charge of the situation since the meeting with the Service Transportation Board. Republic Services has conducted weekly meetings with Senators Murray and Cantwell about their status. BNSF has a weekly accountability for meeting their directives and service. There have been some improvements. The key result is that they are more accountable now and are checking in with our Senators.

As a customer of BNSF, Republic Service made every effort to be respectable to BNSF. Republic was also in the middle of trying to serve their customers. No one wants anybody's customers to suffer. It is expected that the third and fourth quarters of this year will show improvement with the new Engineers on board in July.

Island and Snohomish Transfer Stations temporarily closed to the public, adding to Skagit County's tonnage.

It is great that Republic Services has been working so closely with BNSF to get things moving forward. Waste Management experienced some impact in Snohomish County. Some City clean-up events were re-scheduled for Stanwood, Darrington and Mukeltio. Waste Management will be providing drop-boxes for Concrete's event planned for this weekend, and will then transport the boxes to Skagit County Transfer Station on Monday. No other clean-up events have taken place this year in Skagit County by the Cities. Republic Services re-scheduled some Spring Clean-up events in Snohomish County to a later date.

The City of Anacortes is on schedule to host their second Spring Clean-up on September 10th, 2022.

The Health Department hosted a tire round-up in 2019, which was very successful. The Skagit County Transfer Station is planning a free tire round-up and disposal for Skagit County residents. The event will likely be held in Concrete, WA.

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Announcements/New Business

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

Laurie Davies of the Department of Ecology is scheduled to give a presentation at the Skagit County Solid Waste Managers meeting next week and will hopefully provide some clarification on the Bill discussed at the last SWAC meeting. Any new information will be provided at the next SWAC meeting.

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.

The CROP was finalized within the SWAC group, but all the Cities still need to accept the Amendment to the Solid Waste Management Plan and file a Resolution for each City. A new reminder e-mail will be sent out to everyone.

Adjourn

Ms. Gillaspy, thanked everyone and called the meeting to an end.
The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:20 p.m.