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Skagit County
Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC)
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 10, 2015

Members Present

Brian Dempsey
Britt Pfaff-Dunton
Diana Wadley
John Doyle
Kevin Renz
Leo Jacobs
Sandi Andersen
Scott Sutherland
Tamara Thomas
Todd Reynolds
Torrey Lautenbach

Representing

City of Burlington
Skagit County Health Department
Ex-Officio, Department of Ecology (present by phone conference)
Town of La Conner
Skagit County Public Works/Solid Waste
City of Sedro Woolley/SWAC Chair
Vice-Chair/City of Anacortes
City of Mount Vernon
District 2 Citizens
Skagit Steel & Recycling, Recyclers
Lautenbach Recycling/District 1

Members Absent

Tim Crosby
Not Represented

Representing

Haulers
District 3

Visitors

Bob Raymond
Callie Martin
David Bader
Janet Verrell
Matt Koegel
Rick Hlavka
Sara Holahan

Representing

guest
Skagit County Public Works/Solid Waste
Lautenbach Recycling
guest
City of Anacortes
Green Solutions
guest

Call to Order

Leo Jacobs, SWAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:08 p.m. at the Continental Building Crane Room at 1800 Continental Place, Mount Vernon.

Introductions

Leo Jacobs, SWAC Chair, requested introductions of all in attendance. Names and business title introductions were offered by each attendee prior to addressing agenda items. Diana Wadley, Department Of Ecology, attended the meeting by phone conference.

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Public Comments

Mr. Raymond passed out a commentary sheet regarding Chapter 5 Organics. Matters of interest addressed were *Information on current collection programs* and *Drop off Programs*. Mr. Raymond gave a brief summary of each category in the report. The comments will be reflected in the section of the appropriate chapter.

Review and Approve Minutes

Leo Jacobs, SWAC Chair, opened the floor to discuss the May 13, 2015 minutes. Mr. Sutherland noted one correction needed on Page 4; *sur-charge* should be corrected to read *sur-charge*.

A motion was made by Mr. Sutherland to approve the May 13, 2015 minutes with noted correction. The motion was seconded by Ms. Andersen, Vice-Chair. The minutes were unanimously approved with noted correction.

Agenda Items

Leo Jacobs, SWAC Chair, moved forward to begin discussion of agenda item:
Completion of Review of CSWMP, Chapter 4, Recycling.
Review of CSWMP Chapter 5, Organics

Mr. Renz circulated copies of the end of Chapter 4.

Mr. Hlavka gave a brief orientation regarding the purpose of the Plan review and the review process of the Skagit County Solid Waste Management Plan. He continued the review of Chapter 4 where the previous meeting left off.

4.5 Alternative Recycling Strategies

Mr. Hlavka gave a brief explanation of each Alternative in the group.

Mr. Lautenbach made reference to his e-mail dated June 9, 2015, submitted as suggestions and recommendations for consideration. The group discussed each line item and in what degree those considerations could be incorporated into the Plan. The following is a summary of that discussion.

Include in the Alternatives G, Chapter 4.

1) Disposal bans on items such as fluorescent bulbs and plastic bags. Low Hanging Fruit phase-in approach.

Ms. Thomas provided a comment from Ms. Murray, who suggests, with an eye to reducing waste, she would support a county-wide ban on plastic merchandise bags with a sur-charge on every paper bag that stores provide. The sur-charge would go to waste reduction efforts.

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Covered in Administration and Public Education, Chapter 10.

4) Increase tip fee at the Transfer Station. Adding a Recycling Coordinator

Include in Alternative G, Chapter 4.

5) Provide C&D drop boxes at the Transfer Station and drop box locations.

Include in Administration and Public Education, Chapter 10.

6) Require collection companies to provide and promote drop box use for C&D and land clearing debris.

7) Asbestos Survey; the survey's results and the importance of having those results prior to acceptance at the Transfer Station.

Mr. Lautenbach requires survey results for a full demolition and a remodel prior to acceptance of Asbestos. Skagit County does not provide an asbestos product check-off list prior to issuing a building permit. Skagit County also does not require an asbestos inspection prior to issuing a renovation or demolition permit.

Mr. Doyle commented that there is no survey requirement for the Town of La Conner. Since most of the construction is non-friable, most focus is on HDAC.

Ms. Thomas inquired if there is a specific list of asbestos-containing materials.

Mr. Lautenbach responded that a list could include putty, windows, sheetrock mud, popcorn ceiling, glues and flooring as some of the main items.

Ms. Thomas suggested a *recommendation* of promoting the recycling of these materials to help facilitate recycling of greater volumes of appropriate material. Items not accepted without a permit and, as a result, taken to the Transfer Station, would be a loss of potential recycling.

Mr. Lautenbach raised the question as to how would the Transfer Station determine whether a permit was needed. He commented that a more attainable approach to recycle demolition materials is to implement a standard inspection before issuing demolition or renovation permits.

Mr. Renz commented that the point of impact needs to be at the level of the Planning and Permitting Department since it cannot be assumed that every load of construction debris has asbestos and therefore refuse it all. Asbestos handling is generally directed to Clean Air Agency for disposal as a health and safety measure to protect workers. The asbestos will ultimately go to the landfill.

Mr. Doyle will calendar this issue on the Planner's Agenda for their comprehensive plan review for demolition permits in the next meeting. He will follow up with the outcome.

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Mr. Hlavka commented that a section could be added called Asbestos in the Special Waste Chapter with language pertaining to requiring asbestos testing for all demolition permits.

8) Unify countywide enforcement efforts for Flow Control.

Mr. Jacobs asked for a clarification. Mr. Lautenbach explained that county waste needs to be hauled within the county system versus, for example, contractors transporting the waste out of county.

9) Link the Transfer Station, Skagit Soils and Lautenbach Recycle with a roadway and communication system to weigh and direct to one of the other facilities.

Mr. Renz commented that the Scale House attendants and office routinely refer visitors to these facilities, where appropriate, for a less costly fee. Even so, the Transfer Station does maintain a yard waste area for customer convenience to enable one stop service, promoting recycling rather than making multiple trips to other facilities.

4.6 Evaluation of Recycling Alternatives

Mr. Hlavka explained that the rating determines the Alternative's priority and whether it becomes a Recommendation. The rating chart is located on Page 4-13, entitled Table 4-2 Ratings for the Waste Reduction Alternatives.

Ms. Thomas suggested that the Ratings should be assigned by the Solid Waste Advisory Committee through a discussion process. Mr. Hlavka commented that the process can be done, but is not without time constraint challenges. It was the general opinion of the group that the existing rating was accurate and should remain as assigned.

Mr. Hlavka commented that, using the overall ratings, he will write Recommendations which are High, Medium and Low and that express what we want the Alternatives to turn into. Those Recommendations will be provided for review at the next SWAC meeting.

Mr. Hlavka began review of Chapter 5, Organics.

Mr. Hlavka commented that the county has already accomplished more locally than in the last Plan. Unfortunately, it was realized during last month's meeting that there is little data to measure how well. Craig of Skagit Soils discussed with Mr. Hlavka that he is getting mixed loads and is unaware of how much is commercial and how much is residential. Mr. Sutherland has curbside numbers to share, but tonnage numbers only from the drop off site. Mr. Jacobs has yard waste curbside service customer numbers along with tonnage information. Mr. Doyle commented that he sells punch cards and can provide that information as well. Mr. Hlavka requested the statistics are sent to him by E-mail for the incoming yardage for the year 2014 only.

Mr. Jacobs asked if he needs to track any bio-solids from waste clutter for land applications. Mr. Hlavka commented that the information is not needed for land applications and will not be addressed in the Plan revision.

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5.1 Definition and Goals for Organics

There were no comments.

5.2 Existing Organics Programs

There were no comments.

5.3 Planning Issues for Organics

Climate Action Plan

Mr. Hlavka may add additional information on *anaerobic digestion*, a type of liquid waste, at the end of the Plan revision. It will not be included in depth in the Plan since it is not a solid waste.

Mr. Jacobs commented on a new invention in Sedro-Woolley, relative to bio-solids, and designed by Janicki Omni Processor, which is being designed to eventually include yard waste. Bio-solids will not be addressed in the plan since it is not a solid waste.

Mr. Hlavka reported that he previously met with Craig of Skagit Soils to discuss contamination issues which is the source of some points noted in this section.

Ms. Martin mentioned a newly forming Washington Organics Council who will initially meet in King County and provide conference call availability. The discussion will cover contamination in municipal compost collection.

Ms. Thomas commented that the invention of bio-degradable types of plastics was a very well-intended approach but has caused significant confusion; predominantly involving food waste, and will only compost in certain systems.

Ms. Wadley commented that Silver Springs no longer accepts bio-degradable plastics. The City of Portland has just converted to accepting food and yard waste only. The Department of Transportation is a large user of compost for roadway remediation and cannot use much of the compost being utilized due to litter content. Especially the coarser types, which are the best for erosion control.

Mr. Renz suggested that a *recommendation* could be made to the effect that in residential organics collection, compostable plastics are not acceptable.

Mr. Hlavka requested that any additional data wishing to be inserted into Chapter 5 be forwarded to him by e-mail over the next month to allow him to create a revision with track-changes. He will then re-send the chapter out with those additional changes. The next meeting will finish the discussion of Chapter 5 with composting Organics and waste collection. Additional data on shipped-out tonnage will be reported from Mr. Renz, Mr. Sutherland, Mr. Doyle and Mr. Jacobs. Additional data from Mr. Lautenbach should include tonnages generated from within Skagit County only.

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Announcements/New Business

Leo Jacobs, SWAC Chair, opened the floor to address announcements or new business.

Mr. Renz informed the group of a recent call he received from the Department of Ecology informing him of their plan to do a Waste Audit and Characterization in Whatcom County. Unfortunately, the chosen facility did not meet the necessary criteria and was no longer available. As a result, on June 25th of 2015, the Skagit County Transfer & Recycling Station will be hosting the consultants contracted by the Department of Ecology. These consultants will conduct the Waste Audit and Characterization study. The audit will be a one day collection audit since there is currently no funding available for further study to accumulate multi-seasonal data. An informal assessment by the drivers may give about a 90% accurate account of what percentages will be found in the audit based on what we see daily in the garbage stream. The idea was suggested to add an agenda item to a future SWAC meeting to pursue an informal study in the future to collect Skagit County's data and compare it to data from the Department of Ecology.

Ms. Martin introduced guests Ms. Holohan and Ms. Verrell, both of whom are Master Composter Recycler volunteers invited by Ms. Thomas. For the benefit of the guests, Ms. Martin explained the purpose of the current meeting is to review the Solid Waste Comprehensive Management Plan. Today, Chapter 5 Organics is being reviewed to address the diversion of food waste and green waste from the garbage and into more useable compost.

Ms. Thomas inquired about the progress of making previous SWAC meeting minutes available on the county website.

Mr. Renz reported that he has been in contact with Brian Young, who manages Skagit 21 television station and the county web site. They have addressed updating the Skagit County Solid Waste page by adding the CSWMP chapters as they are reviewed by SWAC. The SWAC approved minutes will be added along with agenda and review materials. The web page also contains an advertisement regarding the need for members for the Solid Waste Advisory Committee. In connection with the county's new phone system roll-out, there will be a new section on the Litter Control Program with a web on-line reporting page. Smartphones can access a geo location

Ms. Thomas was contacted with citizen input to be added into the plan review process and asked how it should be presented. It was commented that Ms. Thomas should present the nature of the commentary in the appropriate review section, and provide an e-mail copy to Mr. Renz and Ms. Martin.

Mr. Lautenbach requested an update on his e-mail address for future SWAC meetings.

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Public Comments

Leo Jacobs, SWAC Chair, opened the floor to address any public comments.

Ms. Holahan was curious why there was nothing in the Plan addressing business requirements for recycling and organics.

Mr. Hlavka commented that businesses are predominantly responsible for the majority of contamination issues with the wrong kind of plastics going to Skagit Soils, according to feedback from Craig Clumbach. Mr. Hlavka commented on the possibility of adding an Alternative to look at mandatory commercial recycling modeled after a number of other communities.

Mr. Lautenbach and Mr. Reynolds was in agreement that this would raise some conflict, but reporting their volume of recycling would be advantageous as a sales tool.

Unfinished Business

Leo Jacobs, SWAC Chair, opened the floor to address any unfinished business.

Mr. Renz asked everyone to consider summertime schedules and their attendance availability for the July meeting. He asked the group for their input on their projected schedules for July and availability for meeting quorum for that meeting. Mr. Renz will send out a monthly planner for July's attendance.

Reaching the 2-hour meeting deadline, the Members agreed to review the balance of Chapter 5 at the next SWAC meeting.

Adjourn

Leo Jacobs, SWAC Chair, made a Motion to Adjourn. The Motion was seconded by Ms. Thomas. By a vote of the membership, the Motion passed unanimously. Chair Leo Jacobs thanked everyone for attending the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:00 p.m.