

APPROVED

Skagit County
Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC)
Meeting Minutes
WEBINAR/CONFERENCE CALL
Thursday, September 10, 2020

Members Present

Andy Hanson
Brian Dempsey
Britt Pfaff-Dunton
Diana Wadley
Margo Gillaspay
Michelle Metzler
Scott Thomas
Tamara Thomas
Todd Reynolds
Torrey Lautenbach

Representing

City of Mount Vernon
City of Burlington
Skagit County Health Department, ex-officio
Department of Ecology, ex-officio
Skagit County Public Works/Solid Waste Division, ex-officio
Haulers/Waste Management
Town of La Conner
District 2 Citizens
Skagit Steel & Recycling, Recyclers
Lautenbach Recycling, District 1 Citizen

Members Absent

Leo Jacobs
Matt Koegel
Not Represented
Not Represented

Representing

City of Sedro-Woolley, SWAC Vice-Chair
City of Anacortes, SWAC Chair
District 3 Citizens
Agriculture Representative

Visitors

Shannon Jones
Wendy Weiker

Representing

Department of Ecology, Recycling Coordinator
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.

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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 July 8, 2020 minutes.

Ms. Gillaspy, requested a Motion to Approve the July 8, 2020 minutes as written.

A Motion to Approve was made by Torrey Lautenbach, Lautenbach Recycling 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 July 8, 2020 to be approved as written.

Agenda Items

A Solid Waste Advisory Committee meeting; open to the public, was held on September 10, 2020 for anyone to speak on any topic on the agenda, or items not listed on the agenda:

a. **Contamination Reduction & Outreach Plan**

The Washington State Department Of Ecology prepared a draft of the Plan in the early part of August, 2020. They are now in the process of reviewing all submitted comments that were due by August 31, 2020. No comments were submitted to the Department Of Ecology from the Skagit County Solid Waste Division. A letter addressing the securing of funds and associated cost was submitted by the WACSWM. At this time, it is unsure when the final document from the DOE will be available.

The CROP makes reference to the state of recycling in Washington State and provides links to other reports and presentations. The CROP Template, created by the DOE, references a work completion time line of 4 years. The County's role in the CROP is to develop a contamination reduction and outreach plan for Skagit County and incorporate that plan into the Solid Waste Management Plan(SWMP) by the July 1, 2021 deadline. The State has provided a local CROP Template to target projections on where work needs to be done to address contamination in recycling. The DOE Template requires providing a Scope Of Work(SOW) and an inventory of current recycling systems in the County; as well as funding resources, focus points and baseline data collection. We must also provide an acceptable materials list and outreach strategies to cover a 4 year period.

Every community is a little different, but there is still not a lot of variation in problematic contaminated materials across Washington communities. Plastics that get tangled in

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equipment have been the most problematic contaminants found in recycling, followed by other non-recycle materials and even bagged garbage.

There are some differences in the processors. Material Recovery Facilities(MRF) may have different concerns for different recycle yards. A non-recyclable material will affect everyone in the same way as a problematic contamination. There is no big difference in contaminants from Region to Region. A lot of work went into developing the Template and should save time as a starting point; implementing adjustments as needed.

Inventory may include designated recyclables listed in the SCSWMP, but composting and C & D is outside of the scope at this time. The current State CROP draft is focusing on single and Multi-family, commercial, and drop-boxes with basic recyclables.

Efficiencies in handling is an operational aspect that highlights one distinction that different counties in the State can have. Some materials are hauled directly to a MRF. Skagit County trans-loads materials so material is arriving slightly more compacted to the MRF. Some materials are being collected but are showing up in a slightly different form. If lids are still in place, they cause resistance and do not smash.

Garbage bags in recycling remains a big challenge and a large source of difficulty. Education is a key factor that needs to be addressed since many customers do not yet realize that there are separate providers for recycling and for garbage. Recycling costs are slowly reaching the same as the cost for garbage cans. It is important to continue to encourage customers to recycle. Customers are questioning the need to pay for recycling services. A contaminated recycle can is dumped and billed as garbage.

With the County being limited on funding, it is not recommended that we spend funds on additional studies to identify contaminants. We should look towards education funding to provide the biggest impact. Continuing education has reduced tonnage and load weights over the last year. Prioritizing the already proven outreach methods in place can have a significant impact.

We need to give some thought to create new ways to approach outreach efforts. Callie Martin is currently teaching on-line. The up-coming Annual Recycling & Composting class will be held on-line this Fall. Adding materials to websites can improve home learning.

b. CROP amendment process

Skagit County would prepare a proposed Amendment.

Present Amendment to the SWAC for review and feedback prior to presenting to the Skagit County Solid Waste Governance Board(SCSWGB) for review.

If action is needed, present a Resolution to Approve any actions taking place in the meeting.

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Review by SWAC for any changes made by SCSWGB.

Send to the Department Of Ecology for preliminary review and/or comment.

Final review by SWAC for needed if any changes by the DOE took place.

Present to the SCSGB for final acceptance.

Route to Municipalities to obtain approval signatures from each City.

Submit final Amendment to the DOE.

Response from the DOE for approval or denial.

The DOE does not have a return timeline in place, but does have the power to refuse an Amendment.

The activities identified under the CROP will be funded by the Skagit County Solid Waste Division. Other options to consider would be to budget funding or even pursue grant funding. Cost and funding options will be reviewed in the Template completion process.

The study portion of the process is not required, and is not included in the RCW. The RCW requirements are a list of actions for reducing contamination, and must be included in the CROP. DOE provided a Template that can be adjusted as needed, based on best management practices and suggestions based on what is possible and what might be considered. In the end, the RCW needs to know what actions are planned, what are the key contaminants identified, an analysis of the cost associated with contaminants in the recycling system, and an implementation schedule. Solid Waste already has an outreach system in place. Once we establish a focus point, we have the ability to manage an outreach process.

The Template has some emphasis on trying to synchronize the message on choosing particular recyclables and trying to make it similar across the State or the Region. This is a great idea to allow for cost savings in terms of materials in sharing flyers and templates for outreach. All the Cities throughout Skagit County and un-incorporated areas have a list of what is accepted in recycling.

The current plan is to wait for the final CROP draft to be released to determine if there are any significant changes to the Template, then prepare a draft of the CROP to be presented to SWAC for review.

It would be a positive thing to implement a regional harmonization, where able, and have a cross-county conversation on handling recyclables and whether it is advantageous. There is still some debate in the recycling industry on how those materials are managed.

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Even though some Cities acknowledge that there is no market for coffee cups or milk cartons, they did not want to remove them from their list because it takes so long to re-educate the public. Plastic bags seem to be the largest contaminate.

The DOE is currently in the process of developing outreach materials in a tool kit form primarily geared toward business owners. The main message out to the public is to bring your own re-usable bag and how to clean those bags. Outreach materials should be available by October 1, 2020, with the website going live this week. A complaint form will be available to report any business not complying with the ban. January 1, 2021 is the targeted implementation date.

c. Governance Board meeting

A meeting is expected to be scheduled for late September or early October of this year. The CROP and its' process will be introduced to the Governance Board at that time to get them familiar with the Plan before the next in-person meeting.

The Board will be presented with new Flow-Control statistics to address the current problems.

The 2021 Budget will be presented, and will reflect how flow-control impacts the budget, and how materials leaving the County can have a negative impact.

Announcements/New Business

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

There were none.

Public Comments

Ms. Gillaspay, opened the floor to address any public comments.

There were no public comments.

Unfinished Business

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

There was none.

Adjourn

Ms. Gillaspay, thanked everyone. The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:55 p.m.