

APPROVED

Skagit County
Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC)
Meeting Minutes
WEBINAR/CONFERENCE CALL
Tuesday, November 9, 2021

Members Present

Andy Hanson
Carolyn Bowie
Margo Gillaspay
Michelle Metzler
Tamara Thomas
Torrey Lautenbach

Representing

City of Mount Vernon
Department of Ecology, (ex-officio/Diana Wadley)
Skagit County Public Works/Solid Waste Division, ex-officio
Haulers/Waste Management
District 2 Citizens
Lautenbach Recycling, District 1 Citizen

Members Absent

Brian Dempsey
Britt Pfaff-Dunton
Leo Jacobs
Matt Koegel
Scott Thomas
Todd Reynolds
Not Represented
Not Represented

Representing

City of Burlington
Skagit County Health Department, ex-officio
City of Sedro-Woolley, SWAC Vice-Chair
City of Anacortes, SWAC Chair
Town of La Conner
Skagit Steel & Recycling, Recyclers
District 3 Citizens
Agriculture Representative

Visitors

Dale Patrick
Tim Kraft
Wendy Weiker

Representing

Skagit County Public Health Department
Clark County/SWAC
Republic Services-Hauler

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 August 18, 2021 minutes.

Ms. Gillaspy, requested a Motion to Approve the August 18, 2021 minutes as written.

A Motion to Approve was made by Michelle Metzler, Waste Management/Haulers to approve the minutes as written. The Motion to Approve was seconded by Torrey Lautenbach/District 1 Citizens, Tamara Thomas/District 2 Citizens. By a vote of the Membership, the Motion was unanimously passed. Ms. Gillaspy, declared the minutes of August 18, 2021 to be approved as written.

Agenda Items

A Solid Waste Advisory Committee meeting; open to the public, was held on November 9, 2021 for anyone to speak on any topic on the agenda, or items not listed on the agenda:

a. CROP Update

A meeting was scheduled in October, but failed to reach Quorum. Another meeting will be rescheduled at a later date. This is the next step in the approval process. After receiving approval from the Governance Board, the CROP will go out to all of the Cities and Towns for final approval. Hopefully, a meeting can be scheduled in December 2021 to move forward in the approval process.

b. Whitmarsh Update

Whitmarsh/March Point Landfill is the cleanup project currently underway right off of Highway 20. Noise monitoring wells have been installed, and the pre-investigative field work has begun and the contractor has begun to work on the design. The Herons are now past their nesting season. Site construction demolition has begun to remove structures such as concrete pads and old buildings. We are currently waiting on approval for a Storm Water permit from the Department of Ecology. We recently received notification from the Department of Ecology regarding a new rule on their Remedial Action Grant. If permits are not in-hand one year after receiving the grant funding, the Department of Ecology will de-obligate their funding. There is a possibility this could happen in this \$2.5 million funding project. We are working on securing our permits, including the Federal permit which we submitted in October. This particular process can take from 12 to 18 months to review. We are expecting that our Consultant will be doing more design work this upcoming year.

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c. Waste Management Revenue Sharing Agreement

This Agreement is between the UTC Hauler and a County. Waste Management and Republic Services has some of these Agreements in place. They are not exclusive to Waste Management, but is between whatever UTC Hauler is in the area and the County. The goal is to increase participation in recycling and reduce contamination. The goal is to do better in recycling for mostly residential customers which also includes multi-family as well.

The way the rates are structured in the UtC, is there is a basic rate for the hauling service. Each month the customer will get a rebate for the value of the sale of recyclable materials. Under the Revenue Sharing Agreement, Waste Management and the County would have the opportunity to retain up to 50% of that revenue and put it towards a Recycling Education fund to be used to enter into various projects that would enhance recycling. Waste Management has had this program has been in place for about 20 years in other Counties. Waste Management recently offered the program to Skagit County as the County is growing and the recycling market is slowly rebounding. Waste Management would implement the project and work in partnership with the County. It's a great program to get revenue for recycling education and potentially there could be funding for contamination reduction work through this mechanism. The only guideline in place requires that it must be used to increase recycling. Such projects as a Spanish language recycling campaign, developing a recycling app are just a few of the possibilities that can be done to leverage the work that has already been done that would allow us to cut a lot of the program design cost, if deploying programs done elsewhere, or developing new programs custom designed to Skagit County.

The public would see less of a rebate in their monthly bill. The rebate amount fluctuates up and down and is not something that most people notice. On average, the customer sees about .50 cents per month rebate. With the UTC overseeing this program, there is a lot of transparency with the commodity values and where the money is going. It goes to Waste Management to help in Education Outreach and to Scales throughout the County. A 2-year Agreement may average about \$120,000, or about \$60,000 dollars per year going to customers.

Waste Management would work directly with Skagit County. Waste Management has an employee on their Recycling Education Team whose job it is to make these programs. He would work directly with Margo on the Plan and implementation. He would consider those challenges that are specific to Skagit County in preparing the Agreement.

Waste Management and Skagit County would discuss what kind of projects they would like to see in place. Next, the Agreement would be signed by both parties. Waste management would be responsible for implementing the Plan.

Those wanting the program should receive the benefits; but there is always bleed-over with benefits that can be realized by the city.

Waste Management developed a "Where Does It Go" application on their website to search where specific materials end up. A list would be created that is relevant and specific to Skagit County.

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d. Junk Hauler discussion

There appears to be an increase in the number of junk haulers within the City of Sedro-Woolley, who are potentially taking some of the City's business.

There could also be a few junk haulers operating in the City of Mount Vernon as well. There are a few advertising their services and are difficult to contact. The City does have a healthy relationship with haulers that bring in CDL dumpsters. The City usually just gives the hauler a direct phone call advising that their service is not allowed if the dumpsters have garbage in them. When seen, they are contacted by the city and advised on the City's operation policy. Some haulers have been contacted and advised that garbage cannot be removed from the County, but must go to the Skagit County Transfer and Recycling Station for disposal.

If a CDL waste box is brought into the City of Mount Vernon, a Right Of Way permit is required. A customer cannot put a dumpster on the road without a Right Of Way permit. A Code Enforcement violation fine will be issued if there is no permit in place.

e. Future Topics

Ridwell, Inc. is a private recycling county service new to Skagit County. They are a private recycling subscription service geared towards residents for collections of items for recycling that are not going into curbside recycling bins. Those items include plastic bags, batteries, clothes and hard to recycle items such as toothbrushes. They charge a monthly fee to collect the separated and bagged items.

The City of Mount Vernon has a general concern with this type of service. If it is not going to recycling through the curbside Agreement with Waste Management, it should be going to the trash.

Their service is not in conflict with Waste Management's contract with the City of Mount Vernon or any of their other contracts in Skagit County because Ridwell is collecting items that are not accepted in Waste Managements' contracts at this time. Ridwell collects items such as batteries, eyeglasses and styrofoam that people are taking somewhere for recycling or throwing them away. It is not necessarily new products or outlets that are getting recycled, but it is a boutique curbside service rather than having residents bring those materials somewhere else for recycling.

They are growing pretty quickly in Seattle and in Bellingham and Portland. Some feedback is that it is not clear where the collected materials are going.

They are looking at what customers are wanting and at organizations and what they need. For example, bundling eyeglasses to send to South America.

January 1, 2022 will begin the "Single-Use Service-Ware on Request" Law. Currently, the Department of Ecology is requesting Stake-Holder input on Outreach materials.

Shannon Jones is the point of contact. The Law will apply to food services such as businesses and school cafeterias. Health Care facilities are exempt.

There will be a grace period for businesses to use up supplies and what they have on hand. It will be a similar slow roll-out like the recent Plastic Bag Ban law.

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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.