

DRAFT

Skagit County
Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC)
Meeting Minutes
WEBINAR/CONFERENCE CALL
Tuesday, December 8, 2020

Members Present

Andy Hanson
Diana Wadley
Leo Jacobs
Margo Gillaspay
Michelle Metzler
Tamara Thomas
Torrey Lautenbach

Representing

City of Mount Vernon
Department of Ecology, ex-officio
City of Sedro-Woolley, SWAC Vice-Chair
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
Matt Koegel
Scott Thomas
Todd Reynolds
Not Represented
Not Represented

Representing

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

Visitors

Callie Martin
Dave Bader
Wendy Weiker

Representing

Waste Reduction Recycling Outreach Specialist
Lautenbach Recycling
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. Gillaspay, opened the floor for public comments.

There were no Public Comments.

Review and Approve Minutes

Ms. Gillaspay opened the floor to discuss the September 10, 2020 minutes.

Ms. Gillaspay, requested a Motion to Approve the September 10, 2020 minutes as written.

A Motion to Approve was made by Michelle Metzler of Waste Management to approve the minutes as written. The Motion to Approve was seconded by Torrey Lautenbach, Lautenbach Recycling. By a vote of the Membership, the Motion was unanimously passed. Ms. Gillaspay, declared the minutes of September 10, 2020 to be approved as written.

Agenda Items

A Solid Waste Advisory Committee meeting; open to the public, was held on December 8, 2020 for anyone to speak on any topic on the agenda, or items not listed on the agenda:

a. **Contamination Reduction & Outreach Plan**

The Department of Ecology created a Template for their CROP. Utilizing this Template, local Governments can simply insert their name, making it an easy document to approve and incorporate into the Solid Waste Management Plan.

The original legislative Amendment set a deadline date of July 1, 2021 to put an approved Plan in place. The DOE Template will help make it easier to reach this deadline. After entering our name in the Template, a review of the RCW 70A.205.045(10) was needed to determine the requirements of what should be included in the Plan, and then we compared that to the DOE Template.

A copy of the local CROP Template, along with additional comments, has been provided for review. The Template is an example of a local CROP that meets and exceeds the requirement of the law. It includes a diverse set of contamination reduction strategies to choose from. It also includes the following ten Action Steps and a three-year Implementation Schedule.

The Template includes many valuable and useful links/hyperlinks to access State documents which serves to set a useful background.

1. Inventory current recycling collection services and programs.

This Step is not directly spelled out in the WAC, but could be a useful tool for Skagit County.

2. Develop scope of work with stakeholders.

This Step is not directly spelled out in the WAC. Skagit County is a small enough group that those in the SWAC are sort of stakeholders in this system.

3. Prioritize the recycling program(s) to focus on first.

This Step is not spelled out in the WAC, but we might want to choose which programs to focus on.

4. Establish acceptable materials list. +

5. Define what data to collect to determine baseline levels of recycling contamination.

This Step is not required in the WAC. It is unsure what good it would serve.

It is important in the sense that a lot of this is where a lot of entities are starting their conversation. It would serve to help harmonize what those accepted materials list as much as possible. Even though it is not in that core chunk of RCW, it does talk about the list of key contaminants identified by the jurisdiction. In another piece of the RCW, it defines contamination. Contamination means any material not included on the local jurisdiction's accepted list. It is good to have conversations about what is accepted in our County. We should look at our regional partners, since it is going to the same MRF. It does seem confusing that if the City of Sedro-Woolley wants to add aspirin bottles to the acceptable materials list, but nobody else does, it is considered a contaminate in Sedro-Woolley, but is not considered a contaminate otherwise because everyone has it on the accepted list.

It is meant to be a county-wide CROP. It is the general intent that every City in a County would come together under one umbrella with one accepted items list. By reducing confusion, we reduce contamination.

It is the goal that everyone in all Cities in the County area agree on one list for this process.

The list are already harmonized and established, with maybe one or two small exceptions. One item such as an aspirin bottle will probably not make the cut for a top contaminate. It more likely would be something on a community recycling list in Washington like a coffee cup or a container that held food. Those are the things that there would more likely be an outreach on; not something on someone's acceptable list.

In the future, if there is an item to be added to the acceptable list, it would not likely be a City-by-City choice which caused the issue in the first place. If adding a new item, the process would most likely go through the SWAC and require a Plan update. Cities would likely work with Haulers and the City to harmonize items, given MRF capacity to shift gears to add a new commodity to the stream that is viable. CROP is trying to hit the aspirational goals and we can pivot and adjust along the way, City by City, with the DOE's guidance and framework.

Having a list generated by those MRF's that our disposals are going to would be a lot more efficient if we are provided an acceptable list to pass on to Municipalities.

The SWAC for San Juan County currently examines their acceptable materials list. They have three different islands that send to three different places. They are looking at the market and where stuff is going; starting with the end in mind. Skagit County is at an advantage being one UPC certificate if all the Cities are contracting similarly. Skagit County is ahead of the game as far as harmonization.

It should be noted that on Step 4 that the “Criteria for determining the acceptable materials list may include, but are not limited to” is just a suggestion in a bulleted list. As a group, you can add a decision-tree to the CROP for criteria to go through when changing an accepted items list.

It would make sense that the “accepted list” would come from those receiving materials since they would know if there is a market for those materials. Then the SWAC could implement any needed changes or updates.

The CROP currently being written will be added onto the Solid Waste Management Plan. It would not be a short process to update it. Any SWMP state-wide can be updated in one of two ways. One method would be a cover to cover revision. The second option would be an Amendment, which is a locally defined process. Skagit County has a lengthy defined process. In the end, the DOE needs to see the Amendment to have an opportunity to approve or reject it.

The CROP is not a stand-alone Plan. It is an Amendment to the Solid Waste Management Plan document.

The established List in the Comprehensive Management Plan will need to parallel the CROP list. The UPC ensures that the Haulers utilize that list. This point should be discussed and examined while going through the CROP. Some Counties will have an Amendment process described in their Plan for any Amendments in general, and also another process described in their Plan specifically for the designated recyclables list due to fluctuation. It would be helpful to add a visual list to the Plan to establish where we are; moving forward.

6. Gather baseline recycling contamination data.

This Step is not directly required. All recycling materials are going to Waste Management and getting mixed in with other County materials.

There is great data from the Cascade Recycling Center where Skagit County materials go so that data can be provided very easily. Generally, the top contaminants are the same. If more local data from Skagit County is needed, an analysis would be needed as materials are being transferred, or at the cart level. The materials are trans-loaded locally and not taken directly to Woodinville so there can be a type of waste-sort done at Lautenbach Recycling facility.

Commercial versus Residential contamination data-tracking at Commercial or Multi-family locations is another data point to help with Outreach to different recycling customers. Waste Management does have some data, but not Skagit County specific. The loads come in separate and then get mixed. Multi-family and Commercial loads are typically collected in different trucks from that of Residential, so it’s easy to get data, although there is not being collected at this time. Defining whether we look at curbside, commercial, or multi-family can be done in this process as well.

Given the needed parameters, the City of Sedro-Woolley has the ability to conduct a Commercial and Residential sample survey. There is opportunity to collect local data.

7. Identify key contaminants and their costs and impacts.

This next step is to identify key contaminants and their cost and impact. Skagit County will identify the most problematic and costly contaminants. It is important to gather

locally specific data. This data is critical to designing Outreach campaigns and other strategies targeting the most problematic materials.

8. Develop and implement contamination reduction education and outreach strategies.

Skagit County will develop and implement Education and Outreach strategies based on best practices. This starts with addressing any inconsistencies in recycling information and messaging as identified in Step 1.

9. Evaluate the effectiveness of anti-contamination strategies and set next steps. This Step is not required in the WAC, but it is necessary to identify and evaluate the effectiveness of these anti-contamination strategies. Part of this could involve re-collection of data to determine where we stand. Assessment could help to gauge effectiveness.

Once data is collected, there are Outreach Programs that could be considered and used. From this, at a State-wide level, we can expect to see new sweeps of educational messaging. Waste Management's Recycle-Right slogan has been really effective and a good way to educate in general about recycling. As far as detailed programming, there is nothing planned in addition to what is already in place. It would be good to see, in the case of more broad harmonized messaging, is a more broad scale campaign out of Skagit County for education. Workshops are wonderful. Also, less nuanced offerings and more broad sweeping messaging. The purpose of a harmonized State-wide Plan and system of getting everyone on the same page would allow us to do bigger messaging.

It could be a fairly quick process to put together a public service announcement involving Municipalities, and others as required. A quick video can be put together and attached to every City website. It would be more beneficial if released from the Public Work Directors. Include every Public Work Director on the same page of a public service announcement about recycling. It could prove to have a lot more value than if we did it individually.

It is always worth it to work together to use broad messaging; using SWAC as a base to accomplish that. If we use other platforms through the Cities, this could be very successful. If the Cities can field the message into their platforms, it could make a more effective workload in terms of getting a broad message out.

Viral broad messaging can cause a trickle-down effect to reach hospitals, schools and large organizations that need the information as well from a commercial side. Viral is a very efficient avenue to get a message out to the public.

10. Explore contamination reduction strategies beyond education and outreach.

This Step is not required in the WAC, but serves as the logical next step to determine if Outreach is successful and if there is a decrease in contamination. These could address regional planning, operations and collection, contracting, incentives, pricing, mandates, enhanced data collection, etc. Based on this evaluation, Skagit County will identify and pursue the most promising initiatives.

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The CROP Implementation Schedule is separated by year, Year 1 – 2021, Year 2 – 2022, Year 3 – 2023.

If everyone is in agreement, a final version will be drafted for SWAC approval. Once approved, the CROP will be presented to the County Commissioners and then to the Governance Board for their review and approval before adding on as an Amendment to the Solid Waste Management Plan. If there are no objections, we can move forward with the document as it is in its current outline.

Skagit County's Implementation Schedule is part of the RCW, as discussed, and is moving forward on a faster timeline than scheduled. The CROP is proceeding with good progress. Once completed, any unnecessary shelf life should be avoided in order to maintain its momentum for continued success.

b. Governance Board Meeting

The meeting was held on September 29, 2020 to discuss Flow Control. The Board understood the flow control issues that have been a concern to Skagit County.

A draft of the CROP was introduced to the Board to prepare them for the upcoming final draft that will be presented to them for review and approval in the near future.

A copy of the 2021 Budget was presented to the Governance Board for their review and approval.

c. Whitmarsh Update

There has been quite a bit of movement in this project over the last half of 2020. A settlement has been signed with one landowner. There is currently a cedar mill on one of the landfills. An agreement was negotiated with the mill owner to allow Skagit County to take possession of that saw mill property through a Quick Claim Deed. Skagit County can now move forward in signing the Consent Decree and commit to Department of Ecology that the County can move forward with a remedy. Skagit County is now in the final stage of setting up a bank account in order to get funding from DNR, Texaco and Shell. Once the Consent Decree is signed, Skagit County will be taking on the project of remediation and will no longer be working with the other PLP's. We are retaining the same consultant that was used by the other PLP group. They are working on the engineering plans for remediation construction through 2021, and possible into 2022. At this time, it is unknown what the total cost will be to Skagit County. There will be some funding from insurance settlements.

d. PaintCare Update

Skagit County is in the process of signing a User Agreement to accept paint at the Ovenell Household Hazardous Waste Facility, hopefully starting in March or April of 2021.

Announcements/New Business

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

There were none.

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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 3:00 p.m.