

**WHATCOM COUNTY
Health Department**

*Leading the community in promoting health
and preventing disease.*



Regina A. Delahunt
Director

Greg Stern, M.D.
Health Officer

MEMORANDUM

TO: Solid Waste Advisory Committee
FROM: Jeff Hegedus, Solid Waste Division
DATE: July 13, 2105

SUBJECT: July 23, 2015 SWAC Meeting

**Solid Waste Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, July 23, 2015
5:30- 7:00 pm
322 North Commercial Street, Bellingham, WA**

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum
3. Introductions
4. Approval of Minutes
5. Communications
6. Update: Solid Waste Budget, Blaine Fireworks Cleanup, Tire Amnesty Event
7. Motion: Disposal of Toxics Program Fee Schedule for Non-Profit Groups
8. Motion: Draft Comprehensive Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Plan
9. Open Session
10. Announcements, Agenda Items
11. Adjournment

People with special needs or disabilities who will be attending this meeting are asked to please contact our office at least five days in advance, so that we may make accommodations. Thank you.

WhatcomCountyHealth



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WHATCOM COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES
July 23, 2015

Members Present:

Barbara Brenner, Pete Edwards, Casey Heinle, Eric Johnston, Amber Jones, Marjorie Leone, Troy Lautenbach, Mark Peterson, Greg Young

Members Absent:

Marty Kuljis and Ed Nikula

Staff Present:

Jeff Hegedus and Janice Deptuch

Others Present:

John Wolpers – Whatcom County Health Department, EH Manager; Justin Clary – Maul Foster & Alongi; and Calvin Den Hartog – Waste Collection Industry

Agenda Items:

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Whatcom County Solid Waste Advisory Committee was called to order on Thursday, July 23rd, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. in Garden Level Meeting Room by Vice Chair, Mark Peterson.

Agenda Items:

• **Introductions**

Rod Blankers from Sanitary Service Company

• **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes for the, January 22nd, 2015 SWAC meeting were approved as written. The vote for approval was: 1st by Barbara Brenner and 2nd by Casey Heinle, Troy Lautenbach abstained.

The minutes for the April 23rd, 2015 SWAC meeting were approved as written. The vote for approval was 1st by Barbara Brenner and 2nd by Amber Jones.

It was asked that Janice have the minutes to the Solid Waste Advisory Committee in five to ten days from meeting; so the committee members can send back changes. She will use track changes to show the changes and who requested the changes. She will bring emails of the changes to the next meeting.

• **Communications**

Jeff Hegedus congratulated the City of Bellingham on the great job they did on the Day Light Project and the clean project at Padden Creek. Jeff also stated that Sustainable Connection was awarded a grant. Resources were given a grant for beverages to use cans instead of bottles.

The group had a few questions about the recycling of plastics and Rod Blankers said to email him and he would be happy to answer the questions.

Update: Solid Waste Budget, Blaine Fireworks Cleanup, Tire Amnesty Event

Solid Waste Budget:

We are on target for the 2 year Solid Waste Budget. The grant with Department of Ecology (DOE) expired and we are entering into a new grant. DOE was going to give back \$85,000 of the solid waste funds and the Solid Waste Division of the Health Department used it to do some work at the Disposal of Toxics. There will be a 50% cut to the budget this year. The funds for the litter program will remain the same \$37,000. Department of Ecology will be offering another \$19,000 for Adopt a Road program.

Mark Peterson asked about the budget cycles; Jeff Hegedus said that the grant cycle is June to June and the budget is on the calendar year.

The State share of the Disposal of Toxics - CPG grant for the next two years will have cuts. Troy Lautenbach asked if they looked at what percentage were paints and Jeff said yes they did.

The budget will include two roundup events per year, which is currently \$112,000 a year; as well as Solid Waste enforcement for \$22,000 that has to be managed. They are trying to get more Sustainable Connections.

Jeff is putting out an email to the Solid Waste Executive Committee to meet the first week in September and we will be taking a budget for 2015-2016 for them to review. Mark asked what the current fund balance is and Jeff stated about two million.

The owner of Cedarville Landfill passed away and CCR is doing in kind care of the landfill. If one year from now, the landfill leachates trickles out, what would happen? If the property taxes are not paid the property would default back to the County and Barbara stated they could sell it; Jeff stated at that point legal would get involved, it was mentioned about the possible use of the reserve and Greg stated maybe useful to recommend a one-time use to the Solid Waste Executive Committee.

Blaine Fireworks Cleanup:

The solid waste division of the Health Department along with Public Works, Jail Alternative, and Sanitary Service Company did cleanup after the Blaine fireworks. They collected six tons of firework debris. Sanitary Service Company donated the hauling of the debris.

Tire Amnesty Event:

Department of Ecology allotted some money for tire disposal. The Whatcom County Health Department worked with the Nooksack Tribe for disposal of tires on tribal land; they disposed of 30 to 40 thousand tires.

The Whatcom County Health Department, along with help from Public Works and Kendall Watch Group held 3-1 day collection of tires for people in the Kendall-Maple Falls area to bring their tires for disposal; they collected 34,000 tires.

There was discussion about the excise tax on shelf hauls, and that the County decided not to tax at the disposal sites.

Motion: Disposal of Toxics Program Fee Schedule for Non-Profit Groups

When the Whatcom County Health Department took over the complete Solid Waste Division, it was found that the Port of Bellingham was disposing of their fluorescent tubes for free; which was about \$7,700. The Port of Bellingham was advised that they will no longer have this service for free. It was also determined that the non-profits were disposing at no cost and currently we are paying 100% for the non-profits. In 2006 Solid Waste Executive Committee minutes stated that they would look at this each year. There is nothing found in any of the minutes after that stated they relooked at this issue. Jeff listed a few of the non-profits and the number of site visits they had for disposal, so we would be looking at around \$20,000. This is a decision that the SWEC would have to make since it was in their minutes.

It was discussed by multiple committee members that the non-profits should be on a level playing field with everyone else; maybe then they would be more conscience and reduce amount that they are disposing. Troy said maybe do a community donation and then take recycling in; Mark said if they did a community donation and it being trash the non-profits wouldn't pay.

A motion was made for non-profits to be equal with profit places to pay for their disposal of waste; it was 1st by Eric Johnston and 2nd by Amber Jones, all in favor six people and 3 opposed (Barbara Brenner, Greg Young, and Marjorie Leone), motion carries.

Motion: Draft Comprehensive Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Plan

A motion to approve the draft Comprehensive Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Plan from the Solid Waste Advisory Committee to the Solid Waste Executive Committee.

Eric asked what the next step is; Jeff said: Public SEPA review done in the next 30 days, then Department of Ecology approval (has 120 days to review) and we also take it to Solid Waste Executive Committee. Eric asked if it came back to SWAC and Marty said no. There was lots of discussion on if the plan should come back to the SWAC. It was stated several times that the SWAC is an advisory committee only, they don't have final say. Mark said we should have two motions; one on the plan and second on having the plan come back to SWAC.

A motion was made that once the preliminary has been sent back from Ecology the SWAC have a special session. It was 1st by Barbara Brenner and 2nd by Greg Young.

Justin Clary with Maul Foster & Alongi felt the plan looks great; Mark and others have made comments. Jeff stated we could look at the comments one by one and if anyone has verbal comments that need to be added, it could be done at that time. Mark asked if there are any other comments, or are they ok with as it is written.

Eric feels the document well documents education, increasing the number of volume construction; he feels plan is adequate to move forward. The county needs definition to move forward with the budget. He recognizes there are some specific things, but no changes to the way we dispose of waste. The document does not need the changes made tonight; we have 120 days for review.

Mark stated that all the work that the committee has done could be voided; this committee does not approve the plan.

Jeff said with final comments there are good comments/editorial things that need to be cleaned up, example: Excise tax, shelf haul, SHAM recycling issues, and solutions on flow control ordinances. Jeff stated we don't have the funds to police construction sites; we need to look at the ordinance.

The motion was made to approve the preliminary Comprehensive Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Plan to move forward to public comment. The motion was 1st by Barbara Brenner and 2nd by Greg Young.

Amber wants the comments added before it goes to public. She stated the flow control is not reflected in the plan. Troy said there has never been a definition of SHAM, Jeff agreed to both of these items. Several committee members concerned that the plan will look different.

Jeff said it will be submitted to Department of Ecology and public at the same time. Greg asked if the Department of Ecology will review preliminary and final, and Jeff said yes. Mark stated again we are only an advisory committee.

A second motion was made to approve the preliminary Comprehensive Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Plan to move forward to public comment. The motion was 1st by Barbara Brenner and 2nd by Greg Young. Two opposed Amber and Troy, rest approved, motion carries.

Open Session

None

Announcements, Agenda Items

Announcements none

Agenda Items:

1. Disposal of Toxics number and overview.
2. Understanding Excise Tax
3. History of Solid Waste Executive Committee

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:5 p.m.

Eric Johnston 1st and 2nd by Pete Edwards

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify this to be a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Whatcom County Solid Waste Advisory Committee meeting held July 23 2015.

Attest: _____

Janice Deptuch Clerk III
Whatcom County Health Department

Mark Peterson, Vice Chair
Whatcom County Solid Waste Advisory Committee

**WHATCOM COUNTY
Health Department**

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Regina A. Delahunt
Director

Greg Stern, M.D.
Health Officer

MEMORANDUM

TO: Solid Waste Advisory Committee
FROM: Jeff Hegedus, Solid Waste Division
DATE: April 10, 2105

SUBJECT: **April 23, 2015 Committee Meeting**

**Solid Waste Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, April 23, 2015
5:30- 7:00 pm
322 North Commercial Street, Bellingham, WA**

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum
3. Introductions
4. Approval of Minutes
5. Communications
6. Review of Draft Comprehensive Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Plan
7. Open Session
8. Announcements, Agenda Items
9. Adjournment

People with special needs or disabilities who will be attending this meeting are asked to please contact our office at least five days in advance, so that we may make accommodations. Thank you.

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WHATCOM COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES
April 23, 2015

Members Present:

Barbara Brenner, Pete Edwards, Casey Heinle, Eric Johnston, Amber Jones, Marty Kuljis, Marjorie Leone, Troy Lautenbach, and Mark Peterson

Members Absent:

Greg Young and Ed Nikula

Staff Present:

Jeff Hegedus and Janice Deptuch

Others Present:

John Wolpers – Whatcom County Health Department, EH Manager; Justin Clary & Jacqueline Grinder – Maul Foster & Alongi; and Diane Mace a volunteer with City of Bellingham

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Whatcom County Solid Waste Advisory Committee was called to order on Thursday, April 23rd, 2015 at 5:33 p.m. in Garden Level Meeting Room by Vice Chair, Mark Peterson.

• **Introductions**

Troy Lautenbach, the new committee member of SWAC. Troy took over a transfer station in San Juan Island County. He was also a member of SWAC in 2000 and a member of the State Resource Board.

• **Reading, Correction and Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the, January 22nd, 2015 SWAC meeting were not approved as written. Barbara Brenner had some corrections and clarifications. Janice will amend and send back out to the group.

• **Communications**

None

Agenda Items:

1. Review of Draft Comprehensive Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Plan

The Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Plan has changed a bit from 2008, the plan follows the Department of Ecology template. The Hazardous Waste section is still outstanding.

Eric asked where we were at with the process, and Jeff commented for the SWAC committee to review and make comment of the plan. Eric asked about the order of approval; it goes through SWAC, then SWEC, and then CIPA. Mark felt we were 80% to 90 % complete with the plan. Mark asked if there were any comments. Eric said no comments, but felt we needed a more complete document. Justin asked that comments be sent to him so he could update the document.

Troy stated that the SWAC committee is mandated to be in compliance with the Solid Waste Comprehensive Plan. He felt we need a vaguer list of recyclables under section 4.1.3; he felt the current list of recyclables could be considered too restrictive. Mark advised that section 4.1.3, page 42, talks about how to make changes to the recyclables list.

Troy shared his issues in Skagit County with the recyclable list. There was discussion on having an interim for adding to the recycling list. Troy felt that the item they wanted added to the recycling list would have to go to the Health Department first before going to SWAC.

Eric stated that Justin could look into the Whatcom County Code about how to add to the recycling list, and check on limitations. Justin felt it would be an amendment to the Whatcom County code. Justin will also clarify code referring to residential items. Mark said maybe we should ask the Solid Waste collectors what they feel needs to be added to the recycling list. Barbara said maybe we should put language in the Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Plan about an interim for adding to the recycling list. Jeff stated we will bring answers to the next meeting.

Eric asked if there are recyclables that are not on the list that we want to have picked up at curbside. He also asked if there were any other comments, he thought it looked great and liked the goal and action statement. Mark asked if there is a list of facilities accepting batteries.

Amber said there were some inconsistencies in section 1.2.4, she said the County only collects every other week, not weekly. Amber will work with Justin to make comments on hauling. She asked that Justin send her a word document to be able to track changes. Troy wants it on record that he felt there were issues with flow control, collection and disposal leaving the County.

Marjorie said maybe we should add "Including, but not limited to" to sections 3.1.2 and 4.1.2.

Amber said section 8.3 -#2 doesn't talk about hauling of garbage out of County. She also thinks SHAM recycling needs further defining.

Troy asked if #2A under section 8.3 Goals and Action if it should be limited to just construction sites?

Mark said that SHAM is the only reference on special waste.

Amber said some issues with the frequency of service on page 17 #2.2, the solid waste fee is not mentioned, and when the ordinance was in acted or the date.

Jeff will make changes and incorporate. Jeff appreciated Amber's comments.

Open Session

None

Announcements, Agenda Items

Announcements none

Agenda Items – Review changes and minutes review.


Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Troy 1st and 2nd by Eric

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify this to be a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Whatcom County Solid Waste Advisory Committee meeting held April 23 2015.

Attest: 
Janice Deptuch Clerk III
Whatcom County Health Department

 Vice Chair
Ed Nikula, Chair
Whatcom County Solid Waste Advisory Committee

MARK PETERSON, VICE CHAIR

**WHATCOM COUNTY
Health Department**

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Regina A. Delahunt
Director

Greg Stern, M.D.
Health Officer

MEMORANDUM

TO: Solid Waste Advisory Committee
FROM: Jeff Hegedus, Solid Waste Division
DATE: January 12, 2105
SUBJECT: **January 22, 2015 Committee Meeting**

**Solid Waste Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, January 22, 2015
5:30- 7:00 pm
322 North Commercial Street, Bellingham, WA**

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum
3. Introductions
4. Approval of Minutes
5. Communications
6. Solid Waste Division Transfer from Public Works Dept. to Health Dept.
7. Paint Stewardship Program Resolution of Support
8. Solid and Hazardous Waste Comprehensive Management Plan
9. Election of Officers
10. Open Session
11. Announcements, Agenda Items
12. Adjournment

People with special needs or disabilities who will be attending this meeting are asked to please contact our office at least five days in advance, so that we may make accommodations. Thank you.

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WHATCOM COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES
January 22, 2015

Members Present:

Barbara Brenner, Calvin DenHartog, Pete Edwards, Marjorie Leone, Amber Jones, Marty Kuljis, Ed Nikula

Member Absent:

Eric Johnston, Greg Young, Casey Heinle, Mark Peterson

Staff Present:

Jeff Hegedus and Janice Deptuch

Others Present:

John Wolpers – Whatcom County Health Department, EH manager; Justin Clary & Jacqueline Grinder – Maul Foster & Alongi; Elizabeth Larter – NW Product Stewardship Council; Mendy Droke – King County; Rodd Pemble – SSC

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Whatcom County Solid Waste Committee was called to order on Thursday, January 22, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. in Garden Level Meeting Room by Chair, Ed Nikula.

• Introductions

John Wolpers – Whatcom County Health Department, EH manager; Justin Clary & Jacqueline Grinder – Maul Foster & Alongi; Elizabeth Larter – NW Product Stewardship Council; Mendy Droke – King County; Rod – SSC

• Reading, Correction and Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the, October 23, 2014 SWAC meeting were approved as written.

• Communications

This is the end of the 2nd term for Calvin DenHartog, End of the 1st term for Ed Nikula; end of 1st term for Marty Kuljis and he has put in his application and it did get approved. Jeff Hegedus asked that the email from Eric Johnston be entered into the minutes. Eric believes that the Goals and Actions developed by MFA and the sub-committee are headed in the right direction. The City will taking action in the near future on two solid waste contracts. The first service contract with SSC for residential hauling will be renewed and extended. The second is the contract with disposal company for residential waste. The current contract with Recomp/Allied/ Republic services expires in 2016. The City will be developing an RFP, bidding and selection process to find a provider for long term disposal of residential waste. The process will be open and competitive. In developing the RFP the city will using many of the goals and actions outlined in the draft SWMP and Goals and Action documents developed by the SWAC sub-committee. Following development and public input, we expect to have RFP issued in the second quarter of 2015.

Agenda Items:

1. Solid Waste Division Transfer from Public Works to Health Department

Jeff Hegedus gave an overview of the transfer from Public works to the Health Department. Effective January 1, 2015 the transfer happened. Health Department hit the road running. All administrative services and contracts have been changed over. Brought over 50 boxes from Public Works to Health Department, which we need to go through and prioritize. The recycling hotline has been changed to Health Department. For the Web Site we are currently keeping the

Solid Waste page on the public Works page and will move in March. We have updated the information on the web page. Health Department will add the SWAC agendas and minutes on the web page in March. Health Department will renew local agreements with Sheriffs and Public Works.

Health Department sent letter to Port of Bellingham regarding the CFLs that they were recycling for free. Last year the Port disposed of \$77,000 worth of lights. Half of the CPG money that public works was going to return went to paving at the DOT and storage. Recommendations at the DOT Facility. Non-profits have been doing business at low cost, household for free, and businesses have to pay. In 2014, \$8,500 worth of non-profit chemical waste was disposed. It was mentioned about a law regarding reviewing the non-profit waste disposal each year. Calvin asked what law and Jeff replied No law, it was in the minutes from a 2007 SWAC meeting, Pete Kremen said SWAC would look at the non-profit waste disposal each year. A decision was made in 2007 for it to be free. Calvin asked if it should be brought to executive committee. Jeff thought it was more operational level, more for SWAC meeting. Barbara asked if there is a way they can apply for a grant. Calvin commented that he did not believe it to be a burden on a church. Barbara said it may be a burden for the Housing Authority. Jeff said if they have less than 220,000 ton it's an expense they can handle. Ed said we can make recommendations, Jeff agreed, take it to executive. Ed said motion has to be on agenda, he has no problem discussing. Calvin commented, he believes it will be a small amount. Ed asked is it going in garbage or where? Jeff believes all of these and Rod concurred. Marjorie said 10% of businesses are considered non-profit. Barbara ask ED if we had a total of non-profits. She also asked does the Re-Store offer that as a service? Marjorie said No. Household would be a good exception. Barbara said maybe that would be a change. Jeff said paint from maintenance and a can of paint from boat owner, that they left on dock would be considered household waste. Ed deferred and asked that it get put on next agenda as an item.

2. Paint Stewardship Program Resolution of Support

Elizabeth Larter talked about the Light Recycling. She stated as of January 22, 2015 Whatcom County has 6 sites that can accept recycled lights bulbs. They can accept Fluorescent Light Tubes, Compact Fluorescent Lights (CFLs) and High Intensity Discharge Lights (HIDs). Clients can recycle up to 10 lights per day at no charge. A Environmental Handling Charge (EHC) of \$0.25per light will be added to all mercury-containing lights sold at retail in Washington State.

Mendy Droke from King County talked about the Paint Program. The paint industry has been working to pass legislation in Washington to create a stewardship system for oil-based and latex paint. Similar laws have recently passed in 8 other states. If the 2015 bill passes in Washington, the legislation will: create a statewide paint recycling program, provide more convenient locations, create new jobs, increase reuse and recycling of latex paint, and save communities money.

Elizabeth and Mendy were here in October to share information with the SWAC and asked for support of passing the legislation.

Consumers will pay a small assessment for interior or exterior house paints built into the price of the paint at the time of purchase. Consumers take their unwanted leftover paint to one of many collection sites for easy recycling – at no additional cost.

There were many concerns from multiple SWAC members about the additional cost and who pays and tracks.

Jeff stated that small businesses and household bring their paints into Disposal of Toxics.

Lots of discussion within the group regarding cost and retailers having to do paperwork. It was asked why not the manufacture? Mendy said that is negotiated with retailer. Mendy stated the manufacturers wants it set up this way.

Concerns from the group on how it will be disposed of and where, some felt in the garbage.

Jeff stated DOT would still collect paint if we accept the resolution.

Elizabeth said the bill will be going in tomorrow (January 23, 2015), and they are asking for the SWAC support.

Barbara said No for paint care and it was 2nd by several other people.

The Paint Stewardship Program Resolution was voted "No".

3. Solid and Hazardous Waste Comprehensive Management Plan

Justin Clary and Jacqueline Grinder with Maul, Foster & Alongi presented information update on the Solid and Hazardous Waste Comprehensive Management Plan.

Justin said a lot of work has been done on the plan. They received a lot of feedback from SWAC and the SWAC has met four times regarding the plan. The assessment needs were broken down to Goals and Actions. The plan is evolving daily, they are following the Department of Ecology plan.

Jacqueline commented it is a living document. Whatcom County is unique, DOE has more of a public system. They need to amend DOE template to fit for us. Calvin asked if what they sent us was a work in process? Jacqueline asked that comments be emailed to her and Justin.

Justin said they are continuing to draft plan and the timeline to submit to DOE is late March, early April. They broke the goals and actions into 7 groups, they identified goals and 43 actions. Rod asked for number served by Master Gardeners and how many school kids?

Justin asked chair do we open up for comments or can we email?

Calvin is interested in if Amber and Marty would be seeking comments. CDL, and multi family recycling.

Amber stated if they are taking garbage out of county then the county is losing money regarding the solid waste tax.

Barbara would like to see recycling added to 1E, under the Education and Community Outreach section of the Goals and Actions, and see it based on individual. Amber commented it was covered under Residential Recycling. Jeff agreed we could add recycling in 1E.

Rod could see some changes under CDL. He also stated that loads going out of county are not being sorted. Rod will send comments to Justin and Jacqueline.

Ed asked if there was other discussion – None

4. Election of Officers

Barbara Brenner nominated Ed Nikula for a second term as Chair and 2nd by Amber Jones

Barbara Brenner nominated Mark Peterson for Vice Chair and all agreed.

5. Open Session

None

6. Announcements, Agenda Items

Fond farewell to Calvin from Barbara

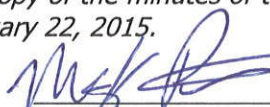
7. Adjournment


Meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify this to be a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Whatcom County Solid Waste Advisory Committee meeting held January 22, 2015.

Attest: 
Janice Deptuch Clerk III
Whatcom County Health Department

 VICE CHAIR
Ed Nikula, Chair
Whatcom County Solid Waste Advisory Committee


MARK PETERSON, VICE CHAIR

WHATCOM COUNTY
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

FRANK M. ABART
Director



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MEMORANDUM

TO: SWAC DISTRIBUTION
FROM: Debbie Bailey
Solid Waste Coordinator
DATE: October 10, 2014

Solid Waste Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, October 23rd, 2014
5:30 p.m.
Garden Level Meeting Room
322 N. Commercial Street, Bellingham, WA

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum
3. Introductions
4. Reading, Correction, and Approval of Minutes
5. Reading and Disposition of Communications
6. **Product Stewardship Presentation**
7. **Solid Waste Comprehensive Management Plan**
8. Other business
9. Open Session
10. Announcements
 - a. Agenda for next meeting
 - b. Time, place of next meeting
 - c. Other announcements
11. Adjournment

People with special needs or disabilities who will be attending this meeting are asked to please contact our office at least 5 days in advance, so that we may make any needed accommodations.

WHATCOM COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES
October 23, 2014

Members Present:

Eric Johnston, Barbara Brenner, Calvin DenHartog, Pete Edwards, Amber Jones, Greg Young, Marty Kuljis, Casey Heinle, Ed Nikula, Mark Peterson

Members Absent:

Marj Leone

Staff Present:

Debbie Bailey, Gary Stoyka

Others Present:

Jeff Hegedus, - Whatcom County Health; Diana Wadley and Peter Christiansen, - WA Dept. of Ecology; Justin Clary, - Maul Foster & Alongi; Scott Bissell – Republic Services; Elizabeth Larter – NW Product Stewardship Council; Mendy Droke – King County.

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Whatcom County Solid Waste Committee was called to order on Thursday, October 23rd at 5:32 p.m. in the Public Works Meeting Room by Chair, Ed Nikula.

Minutes:

The minutes of the, July 24th, 2014 SWAC meeting were read and approved as written.

Communications:

None

Agenda Items:

1. Northwest Product Stewardship Council

Elizabeth Larter from NW Product Stewardship Council and Mendy Droke from King County, gave a presentation on Product Stewardship, whereby the producers of a product must finance the end of life management of the product. The NW Council is a coalition of local governments that finances a staff to work on policy changes for toxic and hard-to-handle products. The E-Cycle program is one example as is the mercury lights program set to take place January 1, 2015. The Council is currently working on paint stewardship, initiated by the American Coatings Assn. (ACA), a trade group that produces paint. Oregon and several other states currently have such a program for paint. The program is financed by a consumer assessment on paint purchases, and includes convenience standards – 90% of residents within 15 miles or every 35,000 residents in urban areas must have access. It is up to the producers to meet the convenience standards for access to the population. A lot of local governments are on board and Whatcom County is being asked for a resolution supporting paint product stewardship. Eric Johnston asked what was the argument against this program? Elizabeth stated that some see the assessment as a tax; the rebuttal to this is that ratepayers are paying now through disposal and this puts the cost on the consumer. Eric said that SWAC did not need to wait for the Comp Plan to be complete and it is appropriate for County staff to take up a resolution and route it through SWEC. Jeff Hegedus asked how the program would work for MRWs participating? Mendy replied that the MRW facility would need a contract, storage capacity, and would handle notification to the stewardship program for pickups. Containers would be provided. Elizabeth can provide a sample resolution of support. It was decided to discuss the issue at the January meeting. In reference to the mercury lights program, LightRecycle Washington, Greg Young asked what was wrong with the 11th bulb? Elizabeth said that she thought it was so the retailers wouldn't be over-whelmed with space issues. There was nothing in place to stop someone from dropping off bulbs at multiple locations in a single day.

2. Comprehensive Plan

Justin Clary did a review of the project to date – interviews with service providers, county staff, and system description. A summary of key themes and a system description had been sent to SWAC members for review. Changes/edits should be emailed to Justin. November 13th is the

target date for the next sub-committee meeting. Justin led a brief discussion on some key themes identified starting with Composting and followed with Construction and Demolition Waste, Educational Programming, Multi-family Recycling, and Commingled Recycling.

Composting – Fast-food restaurants, with the exception of Taco Time, are not participating in the food-waste/composting programs like Food Plus. Jeff Hegedus stated that restaurants should be the target of outreach programs.

Construction and Demolition Waste – Justin said that the current exemption in place for CDL perhaps should be re-visited. Eric said the question is whether it's better participation by keeping it in-county rather than going to Skagit County? Calvin said there is better control if it's kept local. If it becomes garbage it's put in a hole, and there's plenty that leaves the county and ends up in the ground. By keeping it local you can monitor what's happening to it. Eric said that local industry needs to have the capacity to handle it. Jeff wants to understand the current system as it is being handled and needs more information. Justin asked Eric if local could handle it? Peter Christiansen asked how is it being handled at the point of generation? Snohomish is aggressive with ordinances requiring recycling of CDL. Mark Peterson noted that Whatcom has no requirements for recycling CDL.

Education/Community Outreach – There was discussion of low-hanging fruit, and putting more money into education. Are there ways to fund some of SSC's and Sustainable Connections' community efforts in education? Mark stated that Sustainable Connections has had great success with the commercial sector, but needs more funding for Zero Waste. Barbara Brenner asked if there aren't Solid Waste funds that can go to those efforts? Jeff said he will be looking at expanding the current education program for kids to middle and high-school. There also needs to be good work with the commercial sector. He likes what's going on with organics, Beyond Waste, and wants to explore branding. The private sector sells commercial goals. Barbara said the best way is to explain to people how much money they waste, for example, food waste. Saving money hits hard. Jeff said his own opinion is the answer is resource management, as direction needs input. Peter said there is a growing movement about using the food, not buying so much, selling less than perfect produce. As far as compost, make sure there is processing capacity. Diana Wadley mentioned the EPA movies "Food Too Good To Waste" and "just Eat It." Mark said that National Geographics recently published an article on food waste (Volga River analogy). The average family wastes about \$1400 a year on food, and 5.3 billion acres world-wide are farmed and the food not eaten. Eric Johnston said that both Sustainable Connections and RE Sources have good educational programs and he would rather expand those than create new programs at the county level. There needs to be a master plan. Jeff agrees with Eric and would like to bring the private sector in as well under one umbrella.

Multi-family Recycling – Peter Christiansen said that multi-family is one of the biggest challenges out there. You need to get a good handle on the demographics, and none of the counties have been really successful. Diana reiterated that it is a hot topic state-wide and at WSRA. The WSRA website has Best Management Practices on multi-family. There are barriers and you need to go to the site and really see what the problem is such as identical recycling and trash containers, side by side. Ed Nikula said that he lives in a multi-family complex where the containers are different colors and well-marked, but the people will not take the extra steps to use the right container.

Commingled Recycling - There was consensus that commingled should be taken off the table. Both Barbara and Amber said the contamination issues are much less with the three bin system that Whatcom uses than with commingled. Ed Nikula said studies showed that the 3-bin system produced more good material than the commingled. Peter noted that Whatcom contamination rate is 1 ½% where commingled is around 12%. Calvin said the processors are revolting; they

Whatcom County Solid Waste Meeting Minutes – 10/23/2014

do not want material from commingled. Mark said the recycling rate for Whatcom is 45%. Jeff suggested that commercial education/outreach can bump up the recycling rate.

Justin announced that the next step in the Comp Plan is Goal Development .

Other Business

Gary Stoyka reminded the SWAC that this was the last meeting for Public Works. Starting in January, the Health Department would be handling Solid Waste.

Next Meeting Agenda

1. Election of Officers
2. Solid Waste Comprehensive Plan
3. Paint Product Stewardship

Next Meeting Schedule

The next meeting will be held from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 22nd, 2015 at a location to be determined.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify this to be a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Whatcom County Solid Waste Advisory Committee meeting held October 23rd, 2014.

Attest: *Janice Reptuch for*
Debbie Bailey, Coordinator *Debbie Bailey*
WCPW Solid Waste

Mark Peterson Vice Chair
Ed Nikula, Chair
Whatcom County Solid Waste Advisory Committee
MARK PETERSON, VICE CHAIR



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WHATCOM COUNTY SOLID & HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

Project Number: 0744.02.01

SWAC SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting Time: 4:30 p.m., Thursday, September 18, 2014
Meeting Location: Maul Foster & Alongi, Inc. Bellingham Office
1329 N. State Street, Suite 301, Bellingham, Washington

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Introductions and Project Roles
 - a. Washington State Department of Ecology
 - b. Whatcom County Council
 - c. Whatcom County Public Works Department & Health Department
 - d. SWAC/SWAC Subcommittee
 - e. Maul Foster & Alongi, Inc.
 - f. Service providers
 - g. Whatcom County cities/public
2. Comprehensive Solid & Hazardous Waste Management Plan Update Goals
3. Project Background
4. Project Schedule
5. Review Likely Plan Modifications Memorandum and Draft CSHWMP Outline
6. Waste System Goals and Objectives
7. Current Services Discussion
8. Observations and Needs
9. Next Steps



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WHATCOM COUNTY SOLID & HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

Project Number: 0744.02.01

SWAC SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting Time: 4:30 p.m., Thursday, September 18, 2014
Meeting Location: Maul Foster & Alongi, Inc. Bellingham Office
1329 N. State Street, Suite 301, Bellingham, Washington
Attendees: Debbie Bailey, Jeff Hegedus, Bill Angle, Marty Kuljis, Amber Jones, Mark Peterson, Neil Alongi, Justin Clary, Jacqueline Gruber

MEETING NOTES

1. Introductions and Project Roles

J. Clary reviewed the roles of the following entities:

- a. Washington State Department of Ecology
- b. Whatcom County Council
- c. Whatcom County Public Works Department & Health Department
- d. SWAC/SWAC Subcommittee
- e. Maul Foster & Alongi, Inc.
- f. Service providers
- g. Whatcom County cities/public

2. Comprehensive Solid & Hazardous Waste Management Plan Update Goals

J. Clary discussed the purpose of the plan and the regulatory mandates for the update.

3. Project Background

J. Clary reviewed the previous solid and hazardous waste planning documents issued in 1991, 1999, and 2008. He also noted the transition of solid waste division from the County Public Works Department to the Health Department slated to occur January 1, 2015.

4. Project Schedule

- SWAC sub-committee meetings will generally be scheduled for Thursdays at 4:30 p.m. Specific dates will be scheduled based on committee member availability.
- Whatcom County Council has decided to pursue the public advertisement of SWAC meetings and posting of relevant plan materials on the County's existing Solid Waste Division web page as the two primary avenues for public engagement.

5. Review Likely Plan Modifications Memorandum and Draft CSHWMP Outline

- Committee members discussed the different alternatives for incorporating Beyond Waste initiatives into the County CSHWMP. The group generally agreed that Beyond Waste initiatives and goals should be integrated throughout the report and discussed in



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- conjunction with County goals. Sidebars or call out boxes could be used as a design feature, as appropriate.
- The group discussed alternatives for including the Hazardous Waste Plan as either a chapter or an attachment of the greater CSHWMP. The group generally agreed that including the Hazardous Waste Plan as a chapter made more sense because it would compile existing information for all waste streams together. This will be discussed further with the Department of Ecology. The intent would be to not reference or attach the 1991 plan, as it is very out-of-date.
- The group generally supported including the Designated Recyclable Materials List as an attachment to the CSHWMP to allow for a streamlined process if and when the list may need to be updated.

6. Waste System Goals and Objectives

The group discussed goals for the system as they relate to the 20-year planning horizon. Several committee members had recommendations for consideration, including:

- Consideration for the role of waste pharmaceuticals
- Goals for biosolids reduction
- Goals for improving the handling of organic materials and capturing greater portion of the waste stream
- Focus on commercial waste, as commercial waste tends to be treated as one waste stream that is transferred to landfill
- Consideration of goals for vector waste. It is unclear if this comment pertains to all vector waste or just that portion that is not addressed with the County facility. Clarification from the subcommittee is requested on this item.
- Prosecution and management initiatives regarding illegal dumping of materials
- Exploration of additional or expansion of existing biogas facilities
- Potential solutions for problem waste, primarily carpet, mattresses, and Styrofoam.
 - Some prisons throughout the state have programs where inmates strip down mattresses and send materials to the appropriate reuse facilities.
 - This issue may be about education, but it is also a compliance issue. Some users may not want to pay for the hauling of special waste, currently available through service providers such as Sanitary Service Company (SSC).
- Programs for multi-family recycling and disposal. Education may be a component of this.
- Additional education programs are needed, in general, to help prevent and reduce refuse. The County should play a stronger role in maximizing the efficiency of existing and future waste facilities.

7. Current Services Discussion

- The table of existing system facilities could be organized in different ways, including by regulatory framework.
- Robinson Recycled Building Materials is no longer in business.



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- The future of the Clean Green facility is unclear. The County is no longer funding the facility. The Bellingham City Council will decide whether to continue funding of the facility all together.

8. Observations and Needs

- Plastic contamination is an issue with the composting of food waste.
- There are few good solutions for the disposal and recycling of concrete and asphalt. It is unclear what some of the larger facilities do with this material.
- There are issues relating to cold storage and food processing in the County, particularly fish processing plants. What is being done with that waste? This material could possibly be sent to an anaerobic digester.
 - Substantial upgrades are currently being planned for sewage treatment in order to handle excess organic materials.
 - What role could the County play in encouraging a commercial anaerobic digester? The City of Bellingham may be already looking into this.
- Waste dumpsters are often in the wrong location and are, many times, located in close proximity to storm drains. The County should consider efforts to educate developers for new projects, possibly through the existing permitting process.
- There are significant issues related to proper waste disposal in Point Roberts due to the seasonality of its residents. Waste cannot be imported into Canada. Many residents are disposing of garbage at County parks and other public areas. There is no good enforcement mechanism for preventing this behavior. The County code may need to be revised to address the issue.
- There could be better promotion of what businesses have to gain by reducing their waste stream. SSC and Sustainable Connections currently provide waste audits and other assistance to support businesses in reducing waste. MFA should interview Rod at SSC to gain additional understanding.

9. Next Steps

- Maul Foster & Alongi will be conducting service provider interviews and requested any contact information of key stakeholders from the sub-committee. MFA will also be meeting with D. Bailey and J. Hegedus, as well as sub-committee members, one-on-one to collect pertinent information regarding characterization of the existing system.
- Next sub-committee meeting will expand on the discussion regarding goals and recommendations of the revised CSHWMP. Sub-committee members are asked to review the goals from the previous 2008 plan, as well as the Beyond Waste initiatives, to assist in this exercise.

WHATCOM COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES
July 24, 2014

Members Present:

Eric Johnston, Barbara Brenner, Calvin DenHartog, Pete Edwards, Marj Leone, Amber Jones, Casey Heinle, Mark Peterson

Members Absent:

Marty Kuljis, Greg Young, Ed Nikula

Staff Present:

Debbie Bailey, Gary Stoyka

Others Present:

Jeff Hegedus, Whatcom County Health; Diana Wadley, Dept. of Ecology; Chris Benedict, WSU Extension; Justin Clary, Maul Foster & Alongi; Neil Alongi, Maul Foster & Alongi

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Whatcom County Solid Waste Committee was called to order on Thursday, July 24th, 2014 at 5:32 p.m. in the Public Works Meeting Room by Vice-Chair, Calvin DenHartog.

Introductions:

New member Mark Peterson, of Sustainable Connections, was introduced as well as Diana Wadley - Ecology, Jeff Hegedus – Health, and Justin Clary and Neil Alongi – Maul Foster and Alongi.

Minutes:

The minutes of the, April 24th SWAC meeting were read and approved as written.

Communications:

None

Agenda Items:

1. 2015-2016 Solid Waste Budget

The two-year draft budget spreadsheet was reviewed. Chris Benedict, WSU Extension, gave a summary of their program and all the outreach work the dedicated volunteers do. There have been 840 volunteer hours to date for 2014. WSU Extension is requesting an additional \$5,000 for a total of \$25,000 each year, to enhance their program. Jeff Hegedus asked if there was any tracking of the percentage of the county that does home composting? Chris stated that he has to report to the state, so could get those numbers. Eric Johnston moved, and Barbara Brenner seconded, that \$5,000 be added each year to the 2015-2016 budget for WSU Extension. Motion carried.

There was discussion on the lack of education and outreach budgeted for the two-year cycle. Mark Peterson said that Sustainable Connections and others do education. Eric does not want money in that budget item if it is not designated for something particular and that we should wait until the Comp Plan is completed. Gary Stoyka announced that Public Works and the Health Department have made a decision to transfer the Solid Waste division to Health. Jeff Hegedus said that Public Works has been hard pressed to take on a lot of new projects. Gary explained the supplemental budget process by which money can be allocated after the regular budget cycle. Calvin DenHartog doesn't have a problem with putting \$35,000 back into that budget item so that Health will have something available to start with. Jeff said that the budget reflects the approach to the whole program. We should try to change behavior and \$25,000 to \$35,000 is a small amount of money. We need to do more than websites, for example, brand the program. Eric moved, and Casey seconded, that \$35,000 be put in the budget each year for education and outreach. Motion carried.

Gary stated that Solid Waste now had a healthy fund balance. Calvin asked for assurance that the fund could not be raided. He was told that it is a dedicated fund. Eric moved, and Marj seconded, that the budget be passed as presented with the two amendments. Motion carried.

2. Update of Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan

It was announced that Council approved the contract with Maul Foster & Alongi (MFA) for the Comp Plan update. Justin Clary and Neil Alongi were present and explained their backgrounds as well as naming other staff that will be working on the Plan. Justin reviewed the scope of the project and that they would be complying with the new Ecology regulations and asking for SWAC's input. SWAC will be using a sub-committee to work with MFA and then bring the information back to the whole SWAC.

Debbie Bailey said that it was important to build flexibility into the Plan. Mark Peterson said there were great opportunities for construction waste and recycling, overall supply chain management, and food waste. Eric stated that from the perspective of reducing waste to the landfill, the low-hanging fruit is organics, particularly commercial. Mark Peterson said that Part B of organics is bio-digesters; technology should be part of the Plan. Barbara Brenner said that there are digesters in the county, but just used by farmers. Calvin proposed building a bigger one that others (besides farmers) could bring to. There was also discussion on bio-gas. Mark said we should be looking at regional bio-solid management. Jeff Hegedus replied that we can do that, but they must be solid waste handling facilities. Calvin said that Green Earth Technology does a great job, and that Nooksack Valley takes both food and yard waste there. Neil Alongi said that the bio-gas industry needs high BOD (food, grease, fish), no yard debris. Mark stated we need to be focusing on the commercial sector. Digesters cannot take post-consumer. Composters can take post-consumer. Eric Johnston said that Bellingham will be having a conversation on handling bio-solids at Post Point. Vactor waste is also increasing because of stormwater rules. Calvin also mentioned that we need to prosecute illegal dumping and burning in open fields. Barbara said that Envirostars is good for people that are already into it. We need a program that shows people what things cost. It's difficult to get the message across in dollars and cents.

Justin Clary said that Task 1 of the project is visionary, Task 2 data gathering, Task 3 Summarizing the existing system, and Task 4 is evaluating and creating an action plan. MFA has video-conferencing at their State St. office for the sub-committee. The sub-committee members are Amber Jones, Marty Kuljis, and Eric Johnston; Mark Peterson also said he would be available. Gary Stoyka relayed that the County Council wants more public outreach during this process. Public Works is working with Justin on ideas and will return to council with options. Some of the options were hosting an Open House, flyers in garbage bills, dedicated website, and a charrette. Both SSC and NVD said they could accommodate the flyers in their billings.

Other Business

Amber Jones asked about the Service level Ordinance that was sent to Council. Gary replied that the Ordinance passed, but Council put the deleted section on reporting requirements back in.

Next Meeting Agenda

1. Product Stewardship Council Presentation
2. SW Comprehensive Plan

Next Meeting Schedule

The next meeting will be held from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 23, 2014, in the Public Works Garden Level Meeting room.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify this to be a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Whatcom County Solid Waste Advisory Committee meeting held

Attest:
Debbie Bailey, Coordinator
WCPW Solid Waste

*Jenica Reptuch For
Debbie Bailey*

Calvin DenHartog VICE CHAIR

Calvin DenHartog, Vice-Chair
Whatcom County Solid Waste Advisory Committee

MARK PETERSON VICE CHAIR

