



THURSTON COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes of January 3, 2024
Virtual Zoom and In-Person Meeting

ROLL CALL:		Alternate (A) Excused (E) Not Present (NP) Present (P)
Members/(Alternates)	Interest/Organization	
Renee Radcliff Sinclair — Chair	District #3, Resident Representative	P
Ed Kunkel — Vice Chair	City of Lacey	NP
Gary Edwards (<i>Emily Clouse</i>)	Thurston County Commissioners' Office	P
Lisa Parshley	City of Olympia	NP
Joan Cathey	City of Tumwater	P
Joseph Richardson	City of Yelm	NP
Elaine Klamn	City of Tenino	P
Kiersten Presley	Town of Bucoda	P
Richard Moon	District #2, Resident Representative	P
Greg Schoenbachler	Agricultural Interest	NP
Chad Sutter	Industry — Recycling	P
Arin Robertson	Industry — Refuse	P
David Nightingale	Business Representative	P
Blake Nelson	WA State Dept. of Ecology (<i>non-voting</i>)	P
<i>Vacant</i>	City of Rainier	NP
<i>Vacant</i>	District #1, Resident Representative	NP
<i>Vacant (Shawn Gilbertson)</i>	Port of Olympia	NP

STAFF PRESENT: Jennifer Walker, Karen Weiss, Jeff Bickford, Amanda Romero, Laura Glover, Hope Springer, Rob Pudner, Danielle Winski, Jessica Kelley – Public Works; and Rebecca Harvey – Board of County Commissioners' Office.

GUESTS PRESENT: Travis Dutton – Washington State Association of Counties; David Paine – City of Spokane; Steve Gilmore, Jason Franks – Republic; Ron Jones, Gary Franks – City of Olympia; Tom Rupert – Waste Connections; Tracie Bills– HDR; Trevor Palmer – City of Yelm; Shawn Gilbertson – Port of Olympia.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The January 3, 2024 Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) meeting was called to order at 9:59 a.m. by Renee Radcliff Sinclair.

2. ROLL CALL & DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

3. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA & MINUTES

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Elaine Klamn and seconded by David Nightingale. It was approved by unanimous consent.

The minutes of November 1, 2023 were approved after a motion was made by Elaine Klamn and seconded by Richard Moon. The SWAC approved by unanimous consent.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments.

6. OLD BUSINESS

No old business.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. Legislative Pre-Session

Travis Dutton, Natural Resource Policy Analyst, gave a legislative presentation on upcoming Solid Waste bills for 2024. The Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC) Solid Waste Managers have two legislative priorities. Those priorities are to support extended producer responsibility (EPR) and modernize solid waste program funding. The following bills passed in 2023: Battery EPR, Plastic Pollution, Compostable Packaging, Wind Turbine Blades, Rates & Input Study, and Funding Study. The following bills did not pass in 2023: WRAP Act, Lights EPR, Appliances EPR, and Right to Repair.

The following 2024 Solid Waste Bills have been drafted or pre-filed:

- i. ReWRAP Act – HB 2049
- ii. Recycling Rates – HB 1900
- iii. Dilapidated RV Disposal – SB 5844
- iv. Litter Tax – SB 5878
- v. Conservation in Schools – HB 1935
- vi. Mercury Lights EPR
- vii. Bottle Deposit
- viii. Organics
- ix. Right to Repair
- x. Appliances
- xi. Illegal Dumping

David Nightingale asked for additional information about the Wind Turbine Blades bill.

Commissioner Gary Edwards, Chad Sutter, and Blake Nelson commented with concerns for funding in SB 5844.

Richard Moon asked about the seriousness of illegal dumping. Commissioner Edwards and Kiersten Presley confirmed the severity. Chad Sutter discussed regulation, code enforcement, and funding. Steve Gilmore discussed the cost of services and disposal for Republic.

b. Waste to Energy

David Paine, Plant Manager, gave a presentation of Spokane's Waste to Energy (WTE) facility. The facility is part of a comprehensive solid waste system that encourages recycling and waste reduction along with the recovery of energy. The WTE facility was established in 1991 and burns Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) to recover energy in the form of electricity. The facility can process (combusts) up to 800 tons of MSW a day and can generate 22 megawatts of electricity, enough to power 13,000 homes. The unused power is sold to Avista Utilities with approximately \$5 million in annual revenue. The facility employs 76 employees. The first WTE facility was built by Wheelabrator Technologies Inc. in Saugus, Massachusetts in 1975. There are approximately 75 WTE facilities operating in the United States (compared to 522 in Europe).

Commissioner Gary Edwards asked multiple questions: how much product is left after combustion, how much fossil fuel is used in combustion, if there are alternative supplies for those that experienced inflated purchasing

costs, and if the facility is maxed out at 800 tons per day. David Paine responded. The facility has a 90% combustion efficiency with only 10-15% of product remaining after combustion. The combustion process requires 8-12 hours of natural gas initially and then converts to self-combustion with no supplemental fuel usage. The facility is looking into alternative supplies, but most prices have increased anywhere from 5-50%. This facility is currently maxed out at 800 tons per day but has the space to add an extra boiler.

Chad Sutter asked multiple questions: if retention issues were related to health and safety concerns, if the operational costs that cause other facilities to shutdown would create the same challenges for the Spokane facility, what is the toxicity of the ash, and how environmentally impactful the remnants of combustion are. David responded. WTE employees are required to pass a physical, establish baseline testing, undergo annual health screenings, and maintain historical health records. The ash is treated to become pH neutral, tested quarterly, and there have been no abnormal test results or negative environmental impacts recorded.

c. Solar Installation at the WARC Update

Rescheduled to February 7, 2024.

d. 2024 SWAC Work Plan

Laura Glover, Solid Waste Planner, gave an overview of the SWAC work plan. In February, there will be an election for SWAC Chair and Vice Chair. The approval of the 2024 Work Plan and a Capital Facilities projects update have been added to February. An agricultural slaughter waste presentation has been added to April. A five to ten-year climate data presentation has been added to May. The rate study and the Hazardous Waste Management Plan will be added as updates become available. Arin Robertson became the new contact for LeMay and is a new member of the SWAC.

e. Manager's Report

Jeff Bickford, Solid Waste Division Manager, reported on the following:

Solid Waste Budget

On December 15, 2023, the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) approved the Public Works budget, including the Solid Waste budget. This includes the addition of new staff– two Education and Outreach positions and adding a Litter Control Laborer to the existing Litter Program.

Waste and Recovery Center Compactor Replacement

The Request for Proposal (RFP) was released to replace the existing compactor at the Lacey facility. Proposals are due on January 23, 2024. Once approved by the BOCC, the manufacturing process will take between 6-8 months once the contract is signed. The targeted timeframe for completion is January 2025.

Oil Recycling

Proposals for the RFP to perform oil, antifreeze and filter recycling were received. One was deemed non-responsive, so Public Works will open the RFP again soon.

8. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

David Nightingale requested a future presentation from Education and Outreach regarding current efforts and success rates of local businesses using the HazoHouse for hazardous waste (HW) disposal. Additionally, a presentation regarding participation rates, pounds reused, recycled energy, recovery, and disposal of HW. He recommended a residential demographic survey in anticipation of demands at the future South County Transfer Station.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The January 4, 2024, SWAC meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m. The next SWAC meeting is scheduled for February 7, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. as an in-person and virtual Zoom meeting

Video of this meeting is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iaQGsd3IFUw&list=PLaJjwEHKVN-Qse2ao8XJpmsbJuhcMoY3&index=19>