



## THURSTON COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes of February 7, 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
Gary Edwards ( <i>Emily Clouse</i> )	Thurston County Commissioners' Office	NP
Lisa Parshley	City of Olympia	NP
Joan Cathey	City of Tumwater	NP
Trevor Palmer	City of Yelm	P
Elaine Klamn	City of Tenino	P
Kiersten Presley	Town of Bucoda	P
Richard Moon	District #2, Resident Representative	P
Greg Schoenbachler	Agricultural Interest	P
Chad Sutter	Industry — Recycling	NP
Arin Robertson	Industry — Refuse	NP
David Nightingale	Business Representative	P
Christina Kullberg	WA State Dept. of Ecology ( <i>non-voting</i> )	P
<i>Vacant</i>	City of Rainier	NP
<i>Vacant</i>	Port of Olympia	NP
<i>Vacant</i> — Vice Chair	City of Lacey	NP

**STAFF PRESENT:** 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:** Nicolas Dunning – City of Lacey; Steve Gilmore – Republic; David – San Francisco, CA (Resident).

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

The February 7, 2024 Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) meeting was called to order at 10:00 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 Trevor Palmer. It was approved by unanimous consent.

The minutes of January 3, 2023 were approved after a motion was made by Elaine Klamn and seconded by Trevor Palmer. The SWAC approved by unanimous consent.

## **5. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comments.

## **6. OLD BUSINESS**

### **a. Approval of 2024 Work Plan**

The post legislative session review has been rescheduled to April 2024 due to the short session.

David Nightingale requested an update on the Hazardous Waste Management Plan (HWMP) that was recently approved by the Board of County Commissioners' (BoCC) Office. Jeff Bickford reported Public Health is overseeing the plan and the date is to be determined. The HWMP will be added to the SWAC meeting agendas at decision points and as new information becomes available.

Richard Moon clarified that he would like the climate data presentation in May to be focused on a climate resiliency plan.

A motion to approve the 2024 SWAC Work Plan was made by David Nightingale and seconded by Richard Moon. The SWAC approved by unanimous consent.

## **7. NEW BUSINESS**

### **a. Election**

David Nightingale volunteered to serve as the Chair and Greg Schoenbachler agreed to serve as the new Vice-Chair. There were no objections.

### **b. Solar Installation at the WARC Update**

Rebecca Harvey, Climate Mitigation Senior Program Manager, provided an update on the project planning and approval of the solar installation at the WARC. Collaborative efforts will be completed by Thurston County, Puget Sound Energy (PSE) and EDF Renewables. This project will utilize 25 landfilled acres to house the Solar Photovoltaic (PV) System, produce enough energy (3.00 MW AC power) to power 375 homes, and provide revenue to the county through lease payments. Thurston County and EDF Renewables are currently working on finalizing the agreements with proposed construction beginning in 2025. The County will ensure the project does not cause environmental harm to the closed landfill or disrupt operations.

Hope Springer asked for clarification on whether the power generated by the solar panels would be for the surrounding community or for the WARC. The front of meter solar installation will go straight into PSE's electric grid to increase resiliency.

Hope Springer asked if PSE intends on using battery storage. Rebecca Harvey said it is to be determined but will most likely be addressed in future economical/technical assessments.

David Nightingale asked who would be credited for the renewable energy project. PSE will most likely take the credit.

Richard Moon asked if there are any comparable projects/policies with solar panel installation on County properties or municipal buildings to encourage renewable energy growth in the community. Rebecca Harvey stated that some of the current projects are reviewing county codes and permitting requirements. Six technical assessments were completed for County buildings and the most favorable properties will be prioritized.

### **c. Capital Projects Update**

- The SCADA Project is completed.

- The Flare System Project is completed.
- The Pumps System upgrade experienced supply chain delays. The project is now expected to be completed by April 2024.
- Fencing and access controls are on-hold until WARC Master Plan approval. Security cameras upgrades at the WARC have been installed and IT is making final adjustments.
- HDR performed Basis of Design Study for the WARC Master Conceptual Plan. Staff is investigating less-cost options that still meet the goals of the project.
- Security camera upgrades at the Rainier and Rochester drop-boxes have been installed. Construction is ongoing on the two break buildings and is expected to be completed by March 2024. Major upgrades are currently on hold while the County investigates possibly moving to a new location.
- The siting study for the potential South County Transfer Station has been completed and narrowed down to three potential sites. Staff is investigating next steps and will brief the BoCC in the next few months.
- An RFP for the compactor replacement was issued in November 2023 with proposals to be received by February 13, 2024. The existing compactor will be used for WARC reconfiguration. Installation is tentatively scheduled for beginning of 2025.

Hope Springer asked if the compactor installation would affect operations. Jeff stated that operations were only affected for a few days when it was last replaced in 2017. Scheduling replacement/repairs during the slower months helps alleviate any interruptions to operations.

David Nightingale asked if there have been any reported fires at the WARC due to crushed lithium batteries. There have been no reported fires in the compactor, most fires occur in the pit. Steve Gilmore reported compacted loads generally have less risk for fires compared to open-top containers. Battery related fires are more common in the garbage trucks.

#### **d. Litter Program Update**

Amanda Romero, Solid Waste Senior Program Manager, provided an update on the Litter Program and shared photos of litter that staff has been requested to pick-up. In 2023, over 275,000 pounds of litter was picked up in Thurston County. Current grants assisting with the litter efforts include the Department of Ecology's Community Litter Cleanup Program (\$152,800) and the Ramp Litter Cleanup Program (\$16,000) for the 2023-2025 biennium. These funds helped purchase a new vehicle for the Litter Program. The current volunteer program assists individuals and groups interested in cleaning county roadways and publicly owned spaces/parks. Future opportunities within the Litter Program include the addition of one full-time permanent employee, a County Litter Control Program webpage, an Adopt-a-Road/Spot program, and increased community engagement.

Renee Radcliff Sinclair asked what the newly added position would pay. Amanda Romero shared that the position is a classified position (Laborer/Flagger) and the salary can be found online.

#### **e. Manager's Report**

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

##### Moderate Risk Waste Hauling Contract

On January 23, 2024, the BoCC approved a new contract for the Moderate Risk Waste Hauling and Disposal Services with Clean Harbors Environmental. Clean Harbors was one of two contractors that responded to a RFP for these services and were the highest scoring proposer. The contract is for one year, with four additional one-year renewable options. The maximum value of the agreement is for \$1.5 million over the five-year period. The funds for this agreement come from solid waste tipping fees, as well as from Local Solid Waste Financial Assistance grants (\$500,000) from the Department of Ecology.

## **8. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**

## 9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The February 7, 2024, SWAC meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m. The next SWAC meeting is scheduled for March 6, 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=iaQGsd3lFUw&list=PLaJjwEHKVN-Qse2ao8XJpmsbJuhcMoY3&index=19>*