

Clark County Solid Waste Advisory Commission
Regular Meeting
Thursday, January 7th, 2016
Clark County Elections Building
1408 Franklin Street, Vancouver, WA

SWAC Members Present: Rem Wilson, Don Ebbeson, Stephen Schrag, Ty Stober, Alixandra Coker, Simone Auger, Brandon Vick, and Steven Willis

SWAC Members Excused or Absent: Allan Jeska

Staff Present: Pete DuBois, Kim Harless

Others: Derek Ranta, Waste Connections; Rich McConaghy, City of Vancouver; Chuck Harman & Melissa Sutton, County Public Health; Rob Charles, City of Washougal; Bill Turlay, City of Vancouver

I. Welcome new SWAC members (Ty Stober, Alixandra Coker)

Bill Turlay will be an alternate to Ty Stober.

II. Roll Call, Approval of Minutes

The minutes for December 3rd, 2016 were approved as written. Ty Stober abstained.

III. Updates

County Public Health – Chuck Harman

- Rufner Landfill:
 - Working with county attorney regarding the consent decree
 - Section 44: For the consent decree to be closed, the owner will have to petition the court, the City of Vancouver will have to sign off that all the work is done to their satisfaction, and the County also confirms that all required work is complete.
 - All landfill structures removed, all filled to the grade outlined by the permits
 - Clark County Public Health will draft a letter to the City on what the County needs.
 - County will come to SWAC before giving letter of concurrence.
 - Don concerned about the fill material, i.e. asphalt. Melissa said it is up to the jurisdiction, the City of Vancouver, about what is considered clean fill for that project.
 - Rich said he would follow up with Brian.
- Coordinated Prevention Grant (CPG):
 - Weren't able to add data until December 29th.
 - Will send quarterly report copies when completed to Pete for SWAC, if interested.

City of Vancouver – Rich McConaghy: No update

Waste Connections – Derek Ranta

- Weather affected service on Monday, January 4th; delayed service to 25k customers.
 - Customers will get twice the pickup the following Monday at no charge.
 - Customers on every-other-week (EoW) won't get picked up for an additional week.
 - Because it is Christmas tree season, additional drivers can't be pulled from other routes to move more recycling.
- Weather also affected service on Tuesday, January 5th, with a 2hr delay.
- Mike Davis and Tanya Gray are the points-of-contact to determine delayed service.
 - Choice was made Sunday night, so the call was able to get out early.
 - Call blast to affected customers and drivers.

- A call blast will go out Sunday night reminding customers that they can put out twice the amount of recycling due to service delay, or that EoW will be another week to wait.

County Environmental Services – Pete Dubois

- CPG last year was \$1.2M, and now is \$600k, and County matches the grant award.
 - Collection event changes to save money; no HHW collection at mobile events.
- Holiday Collection Event – January 23rd, 9am to 1pm, Cascade Middle School
 - Collection of block foam, strings of lights, electronics, metal-frame reindeer.
- Master Compost Recyclers (MCR) – Training begins on January 28th
 - Program will be run in-house at Clark County, instead of through Columbia Springs
- Morning Blend: January 21st 8:00am at Eastridge, hosted by Waste Connections.
- Latex Paint email from Stericycle
 - They could begin latex processing operation as early as June. We would direct our paint there. Most counties bulk and landfill their paint, Clark County recycles it.
- Sponsorships for Recycled Arts Festival -- 11th year, last weekend in June.
 - Waste Connections is a sponsor, Umpqua Bank sponsoring the kids area, park rental is in-kind donation from City of Vancouver, and Fisher Investments also a sponsor.
 - Looking for Sculpture Garden sponsor.

IV. City of Washougal Stormwater Decant Facility – Melissa Sutton and Rob

- Public Health (PH) received an application in Oct. from Washougal to open a decant facility.
- A copy of the application was sent to WA Dept. of Ecology, Natural Resources, and L & I; SW Clean Air Agency; City of Washougal Planning Dept. and Fire Marshal; Clark County DES; and Clark County Community Development but they defaulted to City of Washougal Planning.
 - Comment from Fire Marshal to add a fire hydrant.
- Washougal wants to make this facility for efficiency and financial reasons.
- Currently the County's Whatley Pit Decant Facility receives waste from the City of Vancouver, WSDOT, Washougal, Camas, and Clark County.
- Vactor wastes from Washougal will instead be sent to the new decant facility to dry out.
 - Material will then be tested and if safe it can be used as fill.
 - Typical contaminates to test include typical vehicle contaminates such as hydrocarbons, heavy metals, volatile organic compounds, CPPHs.
- Design of facility reviewed by Public Health, and they are comfortable with a *conditional approval* so that construction can start.
 - Feedback requested from SWAC before PH submits its comments. PH wants to build a transparent process for any facility projects, and include SWAC as early as possible.
 - Clark County Code 2412; a process for applications; SWAC is to be notified.
 - Application received October 20th, notified SWAC at the November 7th meeting.
 - SWAC is a place for public comment about any facility applications.
 - The plan as submitted doesn't address WAC 173350, permitting regulation.
 - Public Health is going to work with Washougal about how they test and handle waste.
 - Usually for facilities there are concerns with waste water, neighbors, and rodents. But, it is next to the treatment plant and zoned industrial, so there are no concerns.
 - Facility concept and design will be at the Sewer Treatment Plant, where waste water will be diverted to, and the location is already zoned for industrial.
 - At first only the City of Washougal will use their facility until it is better known how much additional volume is available to be taken in from other entities.
 - There are volume limitations. A max annual scenario is 1,480 cubic yards of vactor waste, 1,800 cubic yds of street sweeping, and max storage of 6 months.
- A motion was made by Brandon to give Public Health approval to continue with the permitting process, Rem seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved by SWAC.

V. SWAC Survey Results and 2016 SWAC direction – Don Ebbeson & Kim Harless

- Don requested that discussion about the survey results and the direction of SWAC be on the agenda for next month's meeting, after members have had time to look over the results.

VI. Synopsis on the Recycle Conference in Portland – Stephen Schrag

- Association of Oregon Recyclers' Fall Forum, both Stephen and Rem attended.
- Notes from Stephen:
 - Great presentation about the Tierney article and rebuttals.
 - Didn't realize that Oregon has hundreds of years of landfill space. Landfill *space* is not a concern. However, landfills are the third highest methane polluter.
 - Finley Buttes Landfill methane gas capturing used for electricity and dry onions.
 - Cardboard, metal, and paper are 90% of GHG benefits.
 - Plastic is energy conserving, aluminum is great, but glass has a small benefit.
 - China's economy is affecting recycling; they aren't buying as much. One recycler had to pay \$70 a ton to get the recycling taken away.
- Recycling materials values and communication discussion:
 - Derek: Some rigid plastic has sat on the floor for 6 months that can't sell. Through the contract with Clark County, Waste Connections is compensated about \$40/ton for recycling, but it costs us \$70/ton to get it out, so it costs \$30/ton per ton processed.
 - A need to rethink what we are accepting. If items are being asked to be put in that have no value, the processing costs for what we accept needs to be evaluated.
 - Pete: An opportunity exists this spring for cart tagging, to test different messaging that focuses on what *to* put in, instead of what not to.
 - Investments for more efficient sorting are not currently being discussed.
 - Request of SWAC for suggestions on refresher recycling instructions; staff will try to get some drafts ready for the next meeting.
 - Request from SWAC for staff to look further at other municipalities that might have simpler recycling instructions.
 - Derek: Right now the recyclable material collected gets good marks from buyers.
 - *We should* recycle everything, but not all is economically viable to sustain a recycling program.
 - If recycling was its true rate would people pay for it?
 - Bill asked about tip fees going up. Landfill in OR will go up gradually, but the fee had not gone up in a very long time. Those increased tip fees will go to DEQ programs.

VII. Solid Waste Division 2015 Successes / 2016 Goals– Peter DuBois

- SWEQ 2015 Accomplishments, including:
 - Green Schools: 1st in state for the number of certified schools
 - Green Business: 53 businesses certified, morning blends, showcase
 - Green Neighbors: Recycled Arts Festival, Recycling Day Events, Clean Cart Campaign
 - Communications: Expanding our social media presence
 - Operations: RSWSSC, Paint Take-Back, Leichner Landfill master planning
 - Admin: Restructuring of division, SWMP signed, grant funding, strategic plan
- Goals and Priorities for 2016, including:
 - Operation goals: expanding Central Transfer Station, Leichner campus sold, Waste Stream Analysis, Data management
 - Green Schools: Increase number and level certified, waste audits
 - Green Business: 25 new businesses, recertification, showcase
 - Green Neighbors: 500 newsletter signups, cart tagging, RAF sponsorship, MCR hours
- Waste Busters Challenge
 - Form a habit campaign: <http://clarkgreenneighbors.org/wastebusters-pledge-2016.html>

VIII. Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection White Paper discussion – All

- Recycling Day Events, also known as mobile collections, first came about before fixed facilities were available, and then the events were continued after fixed facilities were built at transfer stations to help with any stockpiles, especially in locations that were farther from any fixed facilities. The events were then continued because of good funding, but now the grant has been cut and the events needed to be reevaluated.
- It is more costly to process HHW at these events because the contractor sets up at each site.
- Events are at each site once a year, whereas the fixed facilities are available most weekends.
- Intent is to shift people to the fixed facilities, such as the transfer stations and paint stores.
- Instead of paying for HHW collection at the mobile events, pay for an additional day at the HHW Fixed Facility at the Central Transfer Station (CTR). The Recycle Day Events will continue to collect other materials, such as scrap metal, block foam, and electronics.
- Costs of additional day and disposal costs:
 - The additional labor will be covered by the County and any additional disposal will be covered by Waste Connections.
 - There is still discussion about this, with regard to the contract between the County and Waste Connections.
 - SWAC requested more information and study about why Friday has been chosen as the additional time for HHW drop-off at the CTR fixed facility.
 - Discussion about a fee for HHW disposal, instead of not charging residents.
 - Incorporating the cost into an increased tip fee.
 - Melissa added additional information about concerns for Public Health:
 - The additional day would provide more time for professionals to handle the waste that accumulated from the tip floor and assist residents dropping it off.
- Most of the material (75% by weight) at the mobile events is paint, that paint should be redirected to paint stores that participate in the Paint Take-Back program and transfer stations.
- When PaintCare comes, much will be ran and paid by them instead.
 - The bill will be reintroduced this year.
 - Don Benton, Director of Environmental Services, has written a letter of support to the chair of the Resource Conservation Committee where the bill got stuck last time because of concerns about the cost and who will be administering the program.
- Concerns with communication for the Recycling Day Events with no HHW collection:
 - SWAC requests Communication Plans from County Staff for next month's meeting.
- At next month's meeting, SWAC will give recommendations and approval for the changes.

X. Other Business

- Plastic Bag Ban; Stephen asked about why there is no ban in Clark County:
 - First, work with grocers to get them recycled through a take-back program.
 - A school program to get kids to bring the bags to school to get recycled.
 - Includes not just bags, but wrap and film as well, which is 2/3 of the film plastic.
 - Ban in Portland only eliminated 1/3 of the plastic film at the MRF.
 - City Council made a decision to look into what can be done first instead of a ban.
 - A ban would perhaps ruin the relationship with grocers for a take-back program for *all* plastic film, not just plastic bags.
 - Reevaluate the issue once other options have been tried.
 - Barriers for film take-back:
 - Small generators or the transfer station have barriers such as having enough material, being able to bale, and keeping it clean and dry.

IX. Comments from the Public on Non-Agenda items – no comments

The meeting was adjourned at 7:47pm