

**Clark County
Solid Waste Advisory Commission
Regular Meeting**

Thursday, November 2nd, 2017
6:00 - 8:00pm

Clark County for Community Health
CONFERENCE ROOM 210
1601 E. Fourth Plain Blvd.
Vancouver, WA

SWAC Members Present: Allan Jeska, Rich McConaghy, Alixandra Coker, Steven Willis, Simone Auger, Chris Prothero, Rem Wilson, and Warren Neth

Staff Present: Travis Dutton, Mike Davis, Kim Harless, Melissa Sutton, and Jana Williams

Others: Derek Ranta, Jordan Berkley, and Beth Simon of Waste Connections; Ruby Irving, Solid Waste Manager for Klickitat County

I **ROLL CALL, APPROVAL OF MINUTES – August 3rd, 2017**
Minutes unanimously approved. 6:01 start.

II **UPDATES**

- Clark County Public Health – Solid Waste Program
 - New hire Travis Dutton – Solid Waste Program manager.
 - Sally Fisher promoted to Program Coordinator II. Jill Krumlauf has been filling in, out of class, for Sally's position.
 - 4 new AmeriCorps (Stephanie Bradshaw – Green Neighbors, Andrew Wright – MCR, Eric Stricker – Green Schools, Jesse Barr – Food Waste).
 - Open positions - Environmental Outreach Specialist for Green Neighbors and Environmental Outreach Tech assisting MCR and Green Schools.
 - Regional Solid Waste Systems Study scope development. Requesting permission for the County Council to use Solid Waste Fund to pay for this study.
 - 1 year extension contract with Waste Connections for single family recycling.
 - Evaluating a tipping fee increase to pay for property acquisition of Waste Connection for deceleration lane.
 - MCR Update – Master Composter Recycler volunteer training to begin in late January with record number of registrations; 40 applicants. They are working on tracking all MCR volunteer hours for the year to provide recognition at the Annual Recognition Celebration.
 - Green Business update – Nomination period is now open for Green Awards until Nov 30. The Green Gala is scheduled for February 22, 2018. AmeriCorps reaching out to businesses in Battle Ground to promote food waste recycling.
 - Green Neighbors update – Sept 23 was Shred Event at Whole Foods had over 400 participants, Sep 24 was an Author Talk at Vintage Book Store had 125 participants, Oct 15 was the 5th Anniversary party with Falconer who brought birds of prey and spoke about nocturnal predators, Oct 2: Med Take Back Event at 4 locations:
 - 4,121 pounds of medication turned in.

- Potential change in venue from Police Department to Fire Department, etc. as less intimidating to participants.
 - Upcoming event: Repair Café Nov 7th. This will be the last that is coordinated by Clark County; Columbia Springs received a grant and will be lead in 2018.
 - Green Schools update – WA Green Schools Summit is Nov 8 at Clark College.
 - Clark County Public Health – Solid Waste Enforcement
 - Quarterly report - 54 complaints received; 59 resolved complaints, which consist of some carryover from previous quarter.
 - Last biennium was closed out in June 2017 with Department of Ecology. Biennium recap:
 - New Solid Waste Storm Water facility for Washougal was permitted.
 - Circle C Landfill closure request is still being worked on.
 - Farm with dead cattle issue is being re-established by family of deceased farmer.
 - There are some new Solid Waste exempt facilities. One was denied due to a land use issue and a couple that are still being worked on with Land Use agreements and approvals.
 - Shipping containers at Waste Connections are being repaired or disposed of during the lock closure at the Washougal facility. These containers will be scrapped.
 - City of Vancouver
 - Leaf coupons are out in public; valid October 1 - December.
 - Drop Boxes have been placed in neighborhoods with leaves for neighborhood use.
 - Working with Share House and a group of former homeless who are working 3 days a week collecting trash and litter around Vancouver.
 - City collections rates will be going up and will be publicized next week.
 - Waste Connections
 - Recycling refresher sent out 2nd week in October to all households in Clark County.
 - Working with City of Vancouver for dumpster program for downtown Vancouver.
 - Gorge fire – Eagle Creek fire shut down barge service upriver causing delays in transportation of garbage and a shortage of available containers. Waivers for Tidewater were required with Coast Guard to allow a barge to come down river with empty containers or upriver with full ones. It is not efficient to drive garbage over land. Clark County should not see impacts this winter caused by landslides.
 - Fire at West Van facility caused minimal damage.
 - Preparing for inclement weather; anticipating another winter year like last, where there was 13 days of shut down in Clark County due to weather.
 - Working on rates – 4% increase in garbage tonnage from routes and 17% increase for non-routes. It is difficult to handle all the non-route garbage from contractors and customers not on curbside service and self-hauling.
 - Commercial block foam collection has begun with \$5.00 per yard fee. High volume customers can make arrangements for a dropbox to be picked up and transported directly to the recycling facility.
 - Loss of Scott Campbell – memorial service held.

III Solid Waste Tip Fee update

- CPG has historically funded a large amount of our projects in the past. With the Capital Budget not passing we are not able to continue to support our programs without increasing the Solid Waste tipping fee.

- Solid Waste tipping fee increase was taken to County Council. A \$1.43 per ton and was approved in September.
- Additional upcoming tip fee increases for review:
 - Additional work clauses within the contract for capital acquisition and changes to operation that impact the contractor.
 - \$110,000 spread out over the remainder of the contract; \$.08 per ton.
 - Deceleration lane plans have been in the works for a few years. Costs are increased by extensive utilities in the right-of-way and some stormwater issues.

IV China's "National Sword" and Recyclables update

- Chinese policies that started as Green Fence, an extension of those policies to restrict the types and contamination rates of recyclables for import into China.
 - Put into place in July to begin rejecting mixed paper with contamination greater than 1.5%. Waste Connections material from the MRF was able to reach 1.9% with operational changes.
 - Next successive contamination restriction will be 0.3%; expected in January 2018.
- West Van Materials Recovery Facility
 - Process 7,500 tons of comingled material, 4,500-5,000 comes from Clark County.
 - Prior to National Sword, able to process more and had a 5% contamination.
 - Since National Sword, the process has been slowed down to 15 tons per hour to reduce contamination.
 - Having to turn away incoming recyclables from other areas, such as Eugene.
 - Mixed rigid plastics are not being processed except traditional containers (yogurt, butter, etc - tubs, jugs, and bottles).
 - Domestic mills are starting to open to take on materials, but much more expensive to send materials to.
 - Processing costs have come up \$20-\$30 per ton.

V Election of Vice-chair

- Steven Willis has volunteered to take over until the next meeting to cover for Scott Campbell. Unanimously approved.
- Next meeting was moved to Feb 8, 2018 by vote of the members.

VI Bylaws review

- It's been a year since last revision.
- Possibly add verbiage for someone to step in for a member unable to complete their term.
 - Derek Ranta has volunteered to fulfill Scott Campbell's term. Members unanimously approved him filling in.
- Sub Committee – Maybe there should be something added about how and when one should be created i.e. the chair identifies the need and establishes. Absence policy regarding 2 unexcused absences.
- Meeting cancellation if unable to have a quorum.
 - Currently must have 50% plus 1 of filled seats.
 - Propose change to Article 5, section F: Quorum = simple majority of filled seats.
 - Unanimous approved.
- SWAC Member update:
 - Steven Willis expressed interest to extend service for another term.

- Simone Auger will get back to SWAC about whether she can do another term.
- Recruitment for business position continues.

VII Public Comment – none

VIII Other Business

- Alan Jeska – Landfills tour
 - Very interesting viewing the actual tipping of the trucks of waste into the landfill
 - Finley Buttes Landfill:
 - 1000' high of garbage
 - Methane gas goes back into the power grid at Bonneville and the heat from the process is used to dry onions.
 - Wasco County Landfill – Garbage from Washougal goes to this landfill.
- Bottle bill in OR has an effect on the prevalence of dumpster divers taking cans and bottles for deposit out of curbside carts and dropboxes.
 - Neighborhoods are concerned about trespassing on private property.
 - Suggest that they call the non-emergency number 311 to report the incident.
 - Deposit was increased from 5 cents to 10 cents in April.
- Manufacturing representative might be helpful to have on SWAC. This could help with packaging-related issues, and help communicate on the front end. Potential to invite Costco to come and talk at the next meeting (Simone Auger).
- Slow Food Cascadia – food waste will be the focus. Currently scheduled to be held at Vancouver Waterfront Oct 2018 (Warren Neth).

The meeting was adjourned at 7:41pm.