

**Clark County Solid Waste Advisory Commission**

**Regular Meeting**

Thursday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018

6:00 - 8:00pm

Clark County for Community Health

CONFERENCE ROOM 210

1601 E. Fourth Plain Blvd.

Vancouver, WA

**SWAC Members Present:** Rich McConaghy, Steven Willis, Simone Auger, Chris Prothero, Rem Wilson, Derek Ranta, Jennifer Hawks-Conright, Warren Neth

**SWAC Members Excused:** Allan Jeska, Ali Coker

**Staff Present:** Travis Dutton, Mike Davis, Kim Harless, Melissa Sutton

**Others:** None

**I Appointment of Chair Pro-Tem**

Steven Willis volunteered, unanimously approved.

**II ROLL CALL, APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

Chris Prothero made a motion to approve, Rich McConaghy seconded, unanimously approved.

**III Election of Chair and Vice-Chair**

Allan Jeska emailed to say that he can be chair, but during the winter will be snow-birding and VC will need to step into the chair role during those months. Steven Willis volunteered to be vice chair. Chris Prothero nominated Allan Jeska as chair and Steven Willis as Vice Chair, Rem Wilson seconded, unanimously approved.

**IV UPDATES**

- Clark County Public Health – Solid Waste Program
  - MCR program:
    - 33 new volunteers in the program; largest class ever
    - Tabling at Farmers markets, HGIF, Small acreage expo, and more
    - Working with staff to come up with a project for MF education
    - New workshop about waste reduction with a guest speaker
  - Green Gala Awards
    - Green business, master composter volunteer, green neighbor, and green schools (green apple) awards were presented. Ali Coker won the Green Apple award
  - Green Schools
    - Educator session with WA Green Schools was on February 8<sup>th</sup>
    - Lacamas heights and camas certified for waste and recycling
    - Milk dispensers (steel cows) at schools through a grant from Ecology
    - Next generation science standards and common core – developing lessons for schools to talk about resource use and waste and recycling
    - More share tables going out at schools to capture food that would have gone to waste and provide to hungry kids
  - Green Neighbors
    - Author talk about green burial
    - Natural garden tour coming up
    - Medication Take-Back event last weekend. 1,400 participants.
    - Recycled Arts Festival won awards again this year. Best T-shirt, best website, and runner ups for other categories.
    - Waste Busters challenge concluded
  - Green Business
    - Morning blend at Mighty Bowl. Next morning blend at Habitat for Humanity ReStore.
  - Kaley new hire working as a tech for MCR and Green Schools

- Jana Williams accepted a job at Pierce County, Julie Mayfield hired as a temp
- Jill Krumlauf, our GN/GB tech, now the lead for Green Nighbors, Sally's former position
- Working a little under capacity, with the vacancy of Jill's former role
- Kim Harless shared about the Cover Your Load campaign
  - Electronic reader-boards near the transfer stations
  - New handouts for customers at the transfer stations that come in with unsecured loads
  - Tracking the litter and number of unsecured loads
- Kim Harless shared an update about the Residue Studies
  - The material at the end of the recycling sorting process is being characterized to better understand our stream and the contamination.
  - Studying both single and multi-family residential streams
- Kim Harless shared an update about Recycling Day Events
  - Yacolt event had HHW collection this year in addition to the other items accepted last year.
  - Ridgefield event also occurred with collection of the same materials as last year; community really came out to assist with the event
  - Both events were successful
  - County has worked and is working to continue to improve fixed drop off locations and moving away from mobile events that cost more
- Travis Dutton shared that SWAC will have opportunities to be a part of the vendor selection process for upcoming projects, such as the Regional System Study, Residential Recycling, and others in the future. Can take the form of a subcommittee.
  - Rich McConaghy already a part of selection committee for the RSS, as both the CoV and SWAC role.
- Mike Davis shared that the Leichner master plan soon to be approved, as early as end of next week may be approved by Director of Community Development. There is a 30 day appeal window, and then county will be able to surplus and sell (surplus) the property, and that can take up to a year.
- Mike Davis shared that Rich, Tanya, Kim, and himself are working with CRESA and others on updating the Disaster Debris Management Plan.
  - Recently hired a consultant (Tetra Tech) to draft the plan and did site visits. Hoping to complete this summer, and looking for additional grant funding for table top exercise.
  - A plan is required for FEMA reimbursement for costs associated with a declared disaster. First plan started several years ago but was not completed to the level required for FEMA reimbursement.
- Clark County Public Health – Solid Waste Enforcement
  - Melissa Sutton shared that she has been with Public Health for 15 years now.
  - The LSWFA grant was awarded this week. She will be backcharging for last two quarters plus this quarter; report will be updates from three quarters instead of just one.
  - Not a lot of complaints. Aim for 150 to resolve a year, but if don't get calls then don't have any to address to resolve. This quarter was low, but usually picks up during the summer.
  - All facilities inspected and annual reports due April 1<sup>st</sup> of each year according to WAC codes.
  - Stericycle started a latex paint recycling operation, mixing WA paint for recycling.
  - Yesterday received an application from North County Hardware as a exempt facility to take asphalt from a rebuilt road (17 mile stretch of highway) and sell the aggregate to property owners for use on their own driveways, which is indeed a marketable product according to Ecology. Contaminates of concern don't bind to water, so won't affect ground water. Public Health has asked for additional detail for the application before continuing, and Ecology is the one that actually issues the permit.
  - City bark accepts yard debris and scrap metal as an exempt facility. In December had some Stormwater issues and was cited by the City of Vancouver. The City withdrew them from their leaf take-back program. Sutton has visited with DOE and both agree that the stormwater issue is not a result of the solid waste operation, but something else unrelated to

- it. But since they noncompliant with the city, they may not be in compliant with solid waste handling permit because they must comply with all local and federal laws to be compliant.
  - Attended a local SWANA conference. There was discussion about lithium ion batteries, where there is a fire risk. Was suggested that municipalities don't start curbside collection, and if they do it now, consider stopping.
- City of Vancouver
  - Rich McConaghy also attended SWANA. For curbside, may consider taping them or zip-locking them in individual bags.
  - Asbestos policy implementation at the transfer stations and permit centers. New handouts.
  - Been getting information out about asbestos concerns at neighborhood cleanups.
- Waste Connections
  - Derek Ranta shared that they are in cleanup season. Two county ones and multiple City neighborhood ones.
  - Georgia Pacific mill in Camas closed up
    - Impact: 50,000 tons plus of hog fuel was taken; one still running, but only maybe taking 10k, and go to zero at some point
    - Most of Clark County material going to CapStone paper mill in Longview
    - Buyers' market for hog fuel; prices dropping with surplus of materials on the market
  - China's National Sword update
    - Further restrictions coming, but currently few orders going to China at this point
    - Everything moving still, but a lot less in total now going out because they used to take much more material from out-of-the-county at the MRF to sort and sell too
    - February 1<sup>st</sup> implementation of asbestos rules
      - A lot of material was coming from Portland area; without a non-system license that material wasn't supposed to be coming out of Portland
      - On first day about half of loads that were rejected were due to origin of material.
    - Washougal Transfer Station is now open to the public on Fridays too, in addition of Wednesday and Saturday.
      - Slow roll out in April. 200 transactions on Wednesdays. 250 on Saturday. 60-80 on Fridays so far. Takes some traffic from Central Transfer Station.

#### **IV Local Solid Waste Funding Assistance Grant update – Travis Dutton**

- Travis gave a handout to everyone.
- Grant is from the Department of Ecology. Some goes to enforcement, and then rest goes to planning and implementation (our program)
- Was called Coordinated Prevention Grant. Funds from MTCA has decreased every year, and thus the size of the grant we received.
- With the capital budget delayed in its passing the grant was held up. As a result we had come to request and got approved a tip fee to fill that gap in funding.
  - The capital budget has now passed, and Dutton commented that he thought we would need to go before council for permission to keep both the grant and tip fee, but county council decided a work session on it was not needed.
- Applications were due very quickly after news about the capital budget passing.
  - Effective date is July 1<sup>st</sup>, so were already almost a year into the 2-year cycle. So this application was based on last year's and the work we've been currently doing.
  - Have until June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019 to spend it down.
  - Broken down into four categories.
    - Task 1 - Moderate Risk Waste collection and management: Looking at the fixed facilities, mobile events, paint take back program, education and outreach about MRW with green cleaning and pesticide free gardening with Master Gardeners, and a Small Quantity Generator assistance, specifically schools for technical assistance.
    - Task 2 - Residential Recycling: Contamination for single and multifamily recycling and increasing recycling participation

- Task 3 - Organics management: MCR program; Food waste prevention – LeanPath tool for businesses; expanding demo sites to Pacific Park too.
- Task 4 - Business Recycling and Waste Prevention: Washington Green Schools contract for waste areas of work; Milk dispensers at schools – pilot program. Reduces wasted food and packaging. Testing recess before lunch.
- Simone Auger commented about appreciating the food waste reduction pieces and asked if it was a requirement. Travis responded that it isn't but a choice by the county to include those in the grant.

## V Policies and Legislation – Travis Dutton

- At previous meeting it came up that SWAC wanted to be more involved with statewide legislation.
- Travis and Kim met with Lindsey Shafer, policy analyst for BOCC, to help us understand the role that SWAC could have.
- Travis shared Lindsey's suggestions:
  - A person be appointed as the SWAC liaison for legislation that SWAC wants to support.
  - Put together a recommendation and send to BOCC for collaboration with BOCC to work with existing lobbying efforts.
    - If BOCC does not want to act on it, then SWAC can move alone but have support from staff to get it moving.
    - If BOCC does not support at all, then SWAC would need to do on own with own resources. Worst case scenario, but unlikely.
  - This needs to be an independent body separate from our staff and BOCC.
  - If council agrees with SWAC's position then BOCC/Lindsey will work for that legislation.
- Travis said that a goal for today would be for a person to take the role of getting this going and asked Steven to facilitate the conversation.
- Steven Willis asked the group if there were any volunteers. Jennifer Hawks-Conright volunteered to take a lead role. She already lobbies for realtors and has a background in political science.
- Chris Prothero asked if they wanted a subcommittee, or one person doing this? Could put together a group and it wouldn't be a quorum, so not an official meeting.
  - Travis will bring it to Lindsey for her opinion and report back.
  - Steven asked Jennifer for preference, and a small group of maybe three would be best.
- Rich asked if that group could meet between quarterly meetings and do email conversations so that they can report back at general meetings.
- This year would be a pilot learning year to see what works best. Can do special meetings for urgent approvals for legislative support. Could be a regular item on agenda.
- Travis asked other solid waste managers about this and of those in the email they were not aware of other SWAC's doing something similar.
- Simone Auger requested a framework of how this would be built out. Flow chart and pros/cons and working with council. A framework document could be a first step for this lead and group.
- Rich mentioned that the Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) has recommendations to some legislative actions, and other programs it is in support of. BOCC approved the plan with those recommendations in it.
- Warren Neth asked about state groups that may be doing lobbying. Derek Ranta and Travis Dutton responded that there are a number of waste associations (i.e. WSRA, WRRRA) and also county and city associations.
- Steven Willis asked the group who would join the group; Chris Prothero volunteered. Warren Neth would like to know when meetings are and can come if available. Simone Auger would like more information about it before overpromising commitment to it.
- Steven asked Jennifer to put together a proposal with Chris and put on agenda for next meeting.
- Motion made by Steven Willis to make legislative subcommittee with Jennifer as the chair, and Chris as a member. Chris seconded. Passed unanimously.
- Steven suggested to Jennifer to meet with staff and Lindsey between the meetings and come back to the next meeting for the group to discuss more.
- Warren Neth requested a list of listservs or newsletters about waste issues, and a copy of the list of recommendations from SWMP.

## VI Regional System Study update – Mike Davis

- Staff has been working on a system study to help with a major update of the SWMP.
- Now is a good opportunity to look deep into the options available for the system because of rapid growth and major waste contracts expiring.
- First phase of the study focuses on the financing of the system. What revenues and expenditures exist today and what opportunities there are to improve the operation of the system, or change existing facilities for improvement, but without new major capital improvements.
  - Cost components of the system as they exist today
  - Existing sources of revenue and how to invest in the system of today for operation in the future
  - Update population and waste generation figures as the past estimates occurred during the economic collapse, and so far we are far ahead of those estimates.
    - Self-haul is crushing the system right now with lots of traffic. Central has the largest problem, but now West Van and Washougal Transfer Stations are being impacted.
    - Economic and other disincentives as tools to curb traffic issues will be looked at.
      - Implementing a minimum service fee, similar to Metro.
      - Could charge different rates at the facilities to encourage residents to go to other less busy facilities, or choose to not self-haul and get curbside service.
      - Currently county does not require residential dwellings to have garbage service. Zipcode study showed large amount of self-haul from Battle Ground. BG city council failed to pass a minimum service level. But if County moves with a requirement, then they would want all cities to implement too.
  - Prepare presentations for SWAC, RSWSSC, and staff of recommendations and a phase one report.
  - In future, could extend contract to 2027 and buy facilities for \$1. Study will look in the financing piece about what it would take financially for the county to own them.
- Phase Two, capital improvements if options identified in Phase One aren't enough for the system.
  - In 2014, county looked at siting another facility and Ridgefield was identified but they were not interested. There is a need to revisit and see what other sites may now be available.
  - Central Transfer Station has some room to expand into the back property to site a public self-haul separated from the commercial, with lots of queuing space on the property.
    - Eventually a light will go in at 107<sup>th</sup> and a median down Highway 503 preventing left-in and left-outs of the site.
      - WCW purchased some property for a turn lane radius improvement or deceleration lane. May not be enough space still to move the utilities.
    - Site is operating under conditional use permit, and now residential properties are all around the site. Mitigations for neighbors could be done; area up top could be a park.
- In summary:
  - Phase One – what can we do with the existing infrastructure.
  - Phase Two – guiding piece on what could do; engineering and capital intensive.
  - Optional Phase Three – assistance with incorporating recommendations from the study into the SWMP update. Could be grant funded through Ecology, not sure.
- Rich McConaghy is on the selection committee for the RFP for this study already, as City of Vancouver representative. Rich would prefer someone else from SWAC be there representing SWAC, but can be that representative too if no one else is interested.
- Can send more information about the timeline and people can then see if they want to volunteer to be on the selection committee.

## VII Other business

Warren Neth mentioned that Simone Auger has asked for a speaker from packaging industry and asked if that was something they wanted to still do. 20-minute presentation. Warren will ask someone.

## VIII Public Comment

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:06pm.