

Clark County
Solid Waste Advisory Commission
Regular Meeting
Thursday, August 2nd 2018
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, Chris Prothero, Warren Neth, Rem Wilson

SWAC Members Excused: Derek Ranta, Jennifer Hawks-Conright

SWAC Members Unexcused: Simone Auger

Staff Present: Travis Dutton, Mike Davis, Kim Harless, Melissa Sutton, Chuck Harman, Amber McKnight

Others: Tanya Gray, City of Vancouver; Steve Gilmore, Republic Services; Cyndi Holloway, Waste Connections

I ROLL CALL, APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 3rd, 2018

- Chris Prothero made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Steven Willis, unanimous approved.
- It was announced that this would be the last meeting for Rem Wilson, whose term expires. Rem has been on the commission for over 5 years.
 - Travis Dutton requested an exit interview with Rem and will follow-up
 - Will not be applying for the position he current represents
 - Recruitment has already started

II UPDATES

- Clark County Public Health – Solid Waste Program
 - Master Composter Recycler
 - Workshops through May had good attendance
 - Now in planning phase for Fall & Winter Workshops, and the Master Composter Recycler volunteer training series in January
 - Continued ongoing outreach & education
 - Green Business
 - Promoting Lean Path project, to help restaurants become more aware of and prevent food waste
 - Funded by Local Solid Waste Financial Assistance from WA Department of Ecology
 - AmeriCorps volunteer Jesse Barr has contacted 120 restaurants, 34 managers, and helped several restaurants start composting
 - Most restaurants unaware composting service was available
 - Next Morning Blend on August 30th at 78th St Operations Center
 - Green Purchasing policies, ISO 14000, Continuing improvements
 - Upcoming workshop on August 25th
 - Green Neighbors
 - Author Talks: Will send out upcoming dates
 - Natural gardens tour : 2117 visitors to all 10 sites
 - Recycled Arts Festival : 35k-40k attendees, 126 volunteers, 133 vendors

- Upcoming events: Repair Café, National Day of Service, Green Neighbors 6th Birthday Celebration
 - Cover Your Load: April – June campaign to reduce litter
 - Green Schools
 - Milk Dispenser Project
 - Funded by Department of Ecology
 - Reduce wasted milk, disposable cartons
 - Study to determine if it will save schools money
 - STEM Science Symposium
 - Share lesson plans with school teachers to teach students on waste reduction, recycling, reuse.
 - New Hire, Amber McKnight, working as Office Assistant for Solid Waste Program
- Clark County Public Health – Solid Waste Enforcement
 - LSWFA funding is back
 - 51 complaints last quarter; typically 25-30 per quarter
 - Circle C landfill owners wish to get out of post-closure permit
 - Working to determine what would be needed to accomplish this
 - Ready to finalize at meeting next week
 - Hopefully give update at next SWAC meeting
 - North County Hardware application received in 1st quarter
 - WSDOT road project near Amboy to remove asphalt material
 - NCH planned to bring material to their lot, grind and reuse it elsewhere – this requires a solid waste handling permit.
 - However NCH didn't get their land use permitting in time, so the handling permit wasn't approved in time for them to do the project.
 - NCH notified Public Health less than 30 days before they would start the project that they had already promised to WSDOT.
 - Tower rock (Section 30) mining operation
 - Applied to be Green Business in December 2017
 - Accepting yard debris from public
 - Requires Solid Waste Exemption Notification and solid waste handling permit for current activities.
 - In process of compiling information
 - As they are working toward progress, a stop work order has not been issued
 - Concerns of leachate to groundwater
 - Multi-agency review to take place, and review notes to be sent to SWAC
 - Plan to accept public comments in October; request recommendation to move forward or abstain at the SWAC meeting in November
 - Tapani “Tebo” pit in Battle Ground complaint
 - Taking yard debris and asphalt, and potentially grinding material at location
 - They would like to become permitted compost and solid waste company, including yard debris
 - Currently have ~2500 cubic yards of vegetation debris, and would like to grind in anticipation of composting
 - Melissa Sutton consulted with Dept. of Ecology & confirmed that this does exceed what is allowed for the exemption, and advised they leave current pile intact until permitted
 - Paper People complaint of outside storage of paper bales

- They've completed Notice of Intent to operate as exempt solid waste facility (a MRF), but Melissa had several questions for them and hoping to receive a response by Friday, and will share with SWAC.
 - WA ST Ecology sent e-mail containing proposed changes to WAC 173-350.
 - Several concerns arise from proposed changes, includes changed definition of solid waste, which may lead to some facilities no longer falling under the "Solid Waste" definition and thus a loss of permitting that may affect budget and LSWFA funds.
 - Dept. of Ecology providing training September 24-25 in Leavenworth, and will provide additional training sessions at later dates.
 - WA Organic Recycling Council composting training October 15-19, this information was given to H&H composting and new facility applicants mentioned.
 - Warren Neth asked if any fines had been issued to Tapani
 - Melissa Sutton issued a formal notice of violation, and they are working toward compliance, but no fines have been issued
- City of Vancouver
 - Hosting community recycle trainings
 - Recycling 101: basics of recycling
 - Typically 1.5 hrs in classroom setting
 - Testing additional 1hr Walk & Talk through WestVan
 - Sessions done May 17 & 18, and July 10 & 20
 - Trying to get diverse population, and tried a "kid friendly" event
 - Recycling 201: items not allowed in recycle bin & reuse options
 - 48 neighborhood cleanups planned this year
 - 34 completed so far; 248 tons of garbage; 61 tons of yard debris
 - 14 upcoming, ending in November, and then starting again in March of 2019
 - Spring coupons from April – June
 - Were for disposal of extra yard debris, and up to four tires
 - 4,400 yds of yard debris collected; 2,401 coupons redeemed; ~90,000 coupons distributed, leading to a ~3% redemption rate
 - Shared article from NPR called "We're Drowning in Plastic Trash" by Jenna Jambeck from University of Georgia, about a research project on origin of marine debris litter
 - US generates considerable plastic trash, but able to prevent most from getting to ocean, and most plastic ocean debris is actually coming from undeveloped countries
 - Links to "Sea of Opportunity" that goes in depth on ocean plastic prevention.
 - Chris Prothero asked if grant was available if they took the 201 class, and commented that although Neighborhood Associations tend to participate in Recycling 101 and are eligible for a grant, then asked if the grant might be eligible for Recycling 201 as well
 - Tanya replied Recycling 201 has not yet been included in the grant program
 - Chris mentioned the idea of splitting the grant may entice people to attend both programs; Get half the grant for attending Recycling 101, and receive the other half for attending Recycling 201, or some other model.
 - Warren Neth commented that the neighborhoods that did not participate in the Neighborhood cleanup projects may be the neighborhoods without leadership, and in the most need of having a cleanup.
 - Entertaining different models of garbage collection in neighborhoods.
 - Consistently return to current model because of the dovetailed missions of building the community and providing the service.

- Warren Neth commented that they would love to see the litter cleanup program with Share expand. Chris Prothero agreed.
- Waste Connections
 - Derek Ranta is out on vacation. Cindy Holloway, the Governmental and Community Affairs Director, gave an update for Waste Connections. She started in January.
 - Compactor @ West Van went down for 2 weeks in July
 - Created logistics issue regarding transport over road vs. by barge, but now fixed
 - No change in recycle market; still not shipping to china, domestic sales have gone up, focus has shifted to aluminum, tin, glass, & plastic
 - Continued involvement with community
 - Involved in RAF again this year
 - Had more than 1,500 visitors at WCW booth

III Legislative subcommittee update – Jennifer Hawks-Conright

- Jennifer Hawks-Conright is absent, and is covered by Travis Dutton
- Jennifer, Travis, & Kim met with county policy advisor to discuss SWAC involvement in statewide legislative efforts
 - Decided to establish subcommittee headed by Jennifer Hawks-Conright
 - Chris Prothero, Warren Neth, & Simone Auger also expressed interest in being on subcommittee
 - Met with County Policy Advisor, Lindsey Schaffer, to talk about process
 - Goal is to build a framework on how it would work with council
 - Jennifer took on task
 - Hoping to present at next SWAC meeting, on how to be involved.
 - WA State Recyclers Association (WSRA) has periodic legislative call-ins discussing updates, priorities, issues – Possible opportunity for subcommittee to be involved

IV Leichner Landfill Master Plan update – Mike Davis

- Mater plan approved, after 5 years, on June 28th, by Community Development
 - Appeal period closed July 12th – No one appealed
 - Requirements:
 - 30' vegetation buffer along south & east edge to screen out neighborhood
 - Road to come in off 88th St & “T” North with traffic light off 94th
 - Estimated \$600k for developer to bear
 - Building height restricted to 50 feet
 - Use of area is limited to light manufacturing and commercial industries
 - Excludes chemical manufacturing, waste management, and meat processing
 - Disposition phase is next
 - Columbia River Economic Development Council (CREDC) has expressed interest
 - Must meet with attorneys and real property services to determine disposition
 - Need to update county website to reflect master plan
 - Must determine type of building to be built vs. load bearing capabilities of site
 - Stormwater investigation plan must be completed
 - All utilities previously installed during earlier projects
 - Should make property attractive to prospective developers
 - Should help get full appraisal value, in best interest of rate payers to FARF
 - FARF initially \$1.15M
 - Public Works added \$350k for 99th Street extension
 - Sans official appraisal, Mike estimates the land value to be \$5-6M

- Expected to take ~1.5 years before property sells
 - ~30 acres to sell of about 26-27 acres of developable land

V Regional System update

- Contract Extension – Travis Dutton
 - In May, Waste Connections proposed a 10 year contract extension (out to 2036), including updates, upgrades, expansion of central transfer station
 - There was support from RSWSSC and County Council to move forward with the Regional System Study (RSS) in parallel with contract negotiations so that at the end we would be able to compare ownership of the facilities or an extension.
 - The study’s results will help in answering CRC’s extension proposal for the best interest for the residents of the county.
- System Study timeline update – Mike Davis
 - Close to having a final draft – hopefully ready within the next couple weeks
 - Committee comprised of Tanya Gray, Rich McConaghy, Kim Harless, and Travis Dutton, and with Scott Sawyer (City of Battle Ground) representing the small cities
 - RFP will be out for ~1 month, ~ 1month of negotiations, with a goal of November to have a contractor in place
- SWAC participation – Travis Dutton
 - Rich McConaghy is on the RSS RFP selection committee representing the City of Vancouver. Travis would like a SWAC representative on the committee, and asked who would be interested. Steven Willis volunteered.

VI Recycling rate proposal – Travis Dutton

- Recycling rates have increased regionally; processing cost is up and revenue is down
- WCW requested review of revenue sharing portion of contract & rate increase to public
 - Need more financial info before a decision is made
 - Will bring info to new county manager, Shawn Hennessee, and policy advisor next week to discuss next steps
 - Will want recommendation from SWAC once more info is gathered, tentatively in October

VII Collections Contracts update (*future meetings will include this as a standard agenda item*)

- Will be providing updates on collection contracts as new information becomes available
 - Would be good to have a SWAC representative, and Steven Willis is interested
 - Already meeting with other stakeholders involved in our contract
 - Cities that have their own collection contracts have similar timelines

VIII Public Comment

- None

The meeting was adjourned at 8:04pm