

Clark County
Solid Waste Advisory Commission
Regular Meeting
Thursday, June 2nd, 2016
Clark County Elections Building
1408 Franklin Street
Vancouver, WA

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

SWAC Members Excused: Ty Stober

Staff Present: Pete DuBois, Kim Harless

Others: Rich McConaghy, City of Vancouver; Roxanne Wolfe and Chuck Harman, County Public Health; Scott Campbell, Waste Connections;

I. Roll Call, Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the May 5th meeting were unanimously approved as corrected.

II. Updates

County Public Health – Chuck Harman

- Temp to fill Melissa Sutton's position is working well, Kevin Merchel
- At the next meeting, will have the 2nd quarter report on grant

City of Vancouver – Rich McConaghy

- Yard Debris coupons are good until the end of June.
- Neighborhood events since the 12th of March. 75 events planned for the year so far, 25 have happened. 11 were chipper days and 14 were cleanup days.
- Conservation resource challenge for a neighborhood – pick three things to do and once completed the neighborhood gets \$100 for their committee or other neighborhood activities.

Waste Connections – Scott Campbell

- No update, except there was an incident at Central Transfer Station, but no details yet.

County Environmental Services – Pete DuBois & Kim Harless

- Master Composter Recycler June workshops coming up
- Updated website – GreenNeighbors.org
- Clean Cart Campaign going on right now – 23k carts to be tagged
- Recycled Arts Festival is June 25th and 26th
- Last Recycle Day event for the season was at Washougal, two more events in Fall
- Residue Study this coming 17th, 18th, and 29th.
 - Studying the composition of recycling contamination for residential sources
 - Last month's sort rescheduled for July 16th

III. Solid Waste and Environmental Outreach Transition from Environmental Services to Public Health – Roxanne Wolfe, Public Health

- Roxanne Wolfe is the Operations Officer at the Department of Public Health
- Solid Waste Division is moving to Public Health due to the reorganization of DES
 - Environmental Public Health division of Public Health does solid waste related work

- Official transition date is July 1, but don't expect to physically move for much longer
 - Want to make teams co-located, won't be spreading people out wherever there is room; entire Public Health department will be moved around
- What are opportunities and challenges?
 - Learning right now, however one of the opportunities is combining outreach efforts
 - Challenges include space; want to reduce disruption as it is a busy time for everyone.
 - Want to do it right, not quickly. Give it a good year until things really feel in order and allow for better understanding of gaps and opportunities.
- Staffing levels: 14 in SWEO with some current vacancies; Environmental Public Health is currently about 24-26.
 - Environmental Public Health team will end up being about 40-50 staff, and may rename the division.
- Hiring of two SWEO vacant positions:
 - Tech positions are on hold for the time being until we better understand the roles of those classifications.
 - Green Schools position is also vacant.

IV. Draft criteria for evaluating termination of the post-closure permit for Circle C landfill – Chuck Harman

- Have not been able to get answers to the questions from the last meeting.
 - Going to get team to work together to answer and will send as soon as possible.
- Timeline, plan to move forward in fall with the determined criteria.

V. Regional Solid Waste System Steering Committee (RSWSSC) Meeting Recap – Pete DuBois

- Members of the RSWSSC are the Public Works directors from the cities and town
- Dr. Melnick, Roxanne Wolfe, and Chuck Harman were there
- Interlocal agreements are intended for to flow the materials through the system; 40% is cities
- Gives the cities and towns some ownership in how the system operates
 - Capital construction needs, budgeting, and policy
- County is the planning authority, per state codes
 - Clark County is the only county of 38 to contract out recycling, other counties go through UTC, a state regulated system that sets the rates at certain standards.
 - By contracting we can ask for things that we want; i.e. recycling educators, a fee to fund our programs, and more.
- A contract for collection and transportation is through 2021
 - There is a part of the contract where the county can buy the transfer stations; this would push the contract out through 2026.
- The county also manages aspects of the Leichner Landfill.
- Traffic issues at Central Transfer Station:
 - (Phase 1) Entrance to transfer station; drop lane:
 - Have gone out for an appraisal for land that we need
 - Will go to RSWSSC for approval, and then would need approval of SWAC to purchase it; would increase a fee at the transfer station to pay for it.
 - Need a recommendation to move forward to purchase the land
 - Then will go to BOCC
 - (Phase 2) Internal traffic issues:
 - Looking to separate commercial from residential drop off.
 - Developing the back lot; however, it is adjacent to residential properties.
 - Many more tons being processed than designed; with growing population transfer stations need to be looked at
 - Washougal Transfer Station above capacity, but is modular.
 - 64% of all transactions happening at CTR; doesn't include HHW and recycling drop off.

- Self-haul isn't cost-effective for the system compared to having curbside service.
- Potential County Code changes:
 - Currently, you can bury garbage on one's property
 - Enact minimum garbage service levels in County areas
- If the RSWSSC decide to move forward, will SWAC want to move forward?
- Could put different costs on one transfer station over another.
- If County moves forward to take over ownership of the transfer stations, going to need a plan.
 - Metro model: lease them out to a private company to operate, but would have more oversight on how they function.
- Other ways to control queues: reservation system (make an appointment), cost break if they make an appointment, peak hours cost more overall.
- County staff represents RSWSSC at SWAC meetings.
- Right now, the only funding mechanism for capital improvements is a tip fee adjustment, which goes through County councilors, SWAC is the advisory body for that
 - Would need to open contract to allow for a transaction fee as a funding mechanism
 - Transaction fee can pinpoint specific sites
 - Can't change transaction fee unless contract opened; can only do tip fee
 - SWAC looks to Staff to gather information and come back with recommendations

VI. Other Business

- First Friday Art Walk, June 3rd features recycled metal artwork.
- WSJ reports that there are too many artists in landfills trying to find materials.
 - Metro does a resident artist program.
- SWAC made a motion at the last meeting regarding Circle C landfill, with an intention to protect the aquifer.
 - The question was asked if there is a place for SWAC to make a recommendation concerning the casino being built in Ridgefield.
 - It was decided that it wasn't within the scope of SWAC, but individuals could make recommendations to the BOCC.
 - Chuck to follow up about upcoming meetings regarding the casino
 - Only EPA can regulate them – thus PH is asking if they can have a role in monitoring the system.
 - Dr. Melnick, the director of Public Health, has made a recommendation to the BOCC that the casino tie into the sewer system.
 - Public Health will keep SWAC up to date.
 - Stephen Schrag: at the next meeting discuss making a motion for a recommendation to the BOCC with regard to the casino.
- Don Ebbeson announced his retirement for the end of June, and thus his last meeting will be the July meeting; at that time SWAC will need to elect a new chairperson
 - Historically we are a changing group, long time had members on it for 10-15 years
 - Bothered by losing that history; new members aren't aware of the past
 - Clark County decided in the 1980's to not include a hauler as a voting member of SWAC; every other county does.
 - Don described that he has had that responsibility representing a hauler because of his background; he's asked Scott Campbell if he'd be interested.
 - Don to write a letter to BOCC and ask a hauler to be on the committee
 - At the next meeting will discuss making a motion/recommendation to the BOCC about including the hauler as a voting member on SWAC
 - Don will send resignation letter with recommendations to everyone

VII. Comments from the Public on Non-Agenda items – None

The meeting was adjourned at 7:23pm