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Skagit County  
Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC)  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, August 14, 2019

**Members Present**

Britt Pfaff-Dunton  
Margo Gillaspay  
Matt Koegel  
Scott Thomas  
Tamara Thomas  
Torrey Lautenbach

**Representing**

Skagit County Health Department, ex-officio  
Skagit County Public Works/Solid Waste Division, ex-officio  
City of Anacortes, SWAC Chair  
Town of La Conner  
District 2 Citizens  
Lautenbach Recycling, District 1 Citizen

**Members Absent**

Andy Hanson  
Brian Dempsey  
Leo Jacobs  
Todd Reynolds  
Not Represented  
Not Represented  
Not Represented

**Representing**

City of Mount Vernon  
City of Burlington  
City of Sedro-Woolley, SWAC Vice-Chair  
Skagit Steel & Recycling, Recyclers  
District 3 Citizens  
Haulers  
Agriculture Representative

**Visitors**

Elena Pritchard  
Michelle Metzler

**Representing**

Skagit County Public Works/Solid Waste Division/*recorder*  
Waste Management

**Introductions**

Matt Koegel, Chair, requested introductions of all in attendance. Names and business title introductions were offered by each attendee prior to addressing agenda items.

**Call to Order**

Mr. Koegel, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:40 p.m. in the Continental Building Crane Room at 1800 Continental Place, Mount Vernon, Washington.

**Public Comments**

Mr. Koegel, Chair, opened the floor for public comments.

There were no Public Comments.

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**Review and Approve Minutes**

Mr. Koegel, Chair opened the floor to discuss the May 15, 2019 minutes.

Mr. Koegel, Chair, requested a Motion to Approve the May 15, 2019 minutes as written.

Ms. Dunton requested the following changes:

*Page 2:*

*Generally, there is an 80/20 percent split between Solid Waste Planning Operations and Solid Waste Enforcement.*

*The way the money was allocated was different from the last biennium so the Health Department saw a decrease.*

*Page 6:*

*Individuals can put them in the solid waste stream with a Health Department sanctioned label in plastic opaque and taped containers.*

A Motion to Approve was made by Mr. Scott Thomas, Town of LaConner to approve the minutes with changes. The Motion to Approve was seconded by Mr. Torrey Lautenbach, Lautenbach Recycling. By a vote of the Membership, the Motion was unanimously passed. Mr. Koegel, Chair, declared the minutes of May 15, 2019 to be approved with changes.

**Agenda Items**

Mrs. Gillaspy moved forward to begin discussion of agenda item(s):

**a. Update on Plastics Recycling in Skagit County**

Mrs. Gillaspy

Ms. Thomas did ask about an update on plastics recycling in Skagit County. At our Skagit County Transfer Stations, we had Skagit River Steel, who we were taking plastics to, say that they are no longer able to accept our mixed plastics. After months and months of negotiations on apparently what was a very oddball contact, I did work out something with Waste Management so we are now able to recycle our plastics. We've been working on improving signage at all of our sites with nice pictures. I know that Callie and her group are trying to do a lot of Outreach and I think some people are getting more knowledgeable about the importance of sending out quality products. We have that plastics recycling going on and we are taking 1's, 2' and 5's.

Ms. Thomas

So are they actually defined by the triangle 1, 2 and 5, or their particular types of containers and shapes?

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Ms. Gillaspy

It's by shape. I'd say 1, 2 and 5, but it's actually bottles, jugs, jars and tubs. I am really trying to go by shapes, having people look at the shape. If you do say 1's and 2's, then that's how you get those apple containers, and all sorts of things.

Ms. Thomas

Why is it that it's not by the actual type of plastic but that it is by the shape? What is it that makes that recyclable versus a different shape that isn't?

Ms. Gillaspy

Um.

Ms. Metzler

Do you want me to answer that? So, it's not necessarily that they are not recyclable. The number does note the classic resin type, and that's what a lot of recyclers use. But this material is going to Waste Management and we are not actually a recycler, we are a processor. So what we are doing is we are separating it into the different types into bales of 1's and bales of 2's. Our system is not set up to process by number, we are set up to process by shape. So it just so happens that plastic bottles are made out of number 1's and we sort plastic bottles separately from plastic jugs like a milk jug which happens to be a #2. So it really has to do with the sorting process and the markets for those materials.

Ms. Thomas

So it's a matter of the equipment that will allow the shapes of the bottles?

Ms. Metzler

Yes, its equipment and it's also a lot of hand sorting as well. It's about the equipment, the staff, bale specs, and a number of factors.

Ms. Gillaspy

So those resin codes happen to correlate with the shapes but it's not really anything to go by because they can be in a lot of other different shapes to.

Ms. Metzler

The benefit of recycling by shape is that we know that bottles, jugs and tubs are 1's, 2's and 5's. But if you include other things like clam shells, clam shells could be made of 6's, and they mostly are, but then they could be made of 1's, so then you can't sort by shape.

Ms. Thomas

So what are the markets, where are the plastics going these days?

Ms. Metzler

A lot of the plastics are going in B.C., and a small percentage are still going to southeastern United States.

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Ms. Thomas

So they have an actual processor up in B.C. or are they sending them to somebody else?

Ms. Metzler

It's going to like a secondary sort and then there are some processors, but the people that actually make new products are all over the county. Once it leaves our facility, it has to be flaked before it can be manufactured. So plastics are usually made into flakes or pellets. And that's like what a business does, is they just flake it and it gets shipped somewhere else.

Ms. Thomas

Is that what's happening in B.C., it's getting flaked and then sent to the next level producer?

Ms. Metzler

Yes, it's getting finer sorted and then flaked or into pellets, or sometimes just re-baled and shipped somewhere else.

Ms. Thomas

So what about styrofoam, is there any styrofoam collection or recycling at all?

Ms. Gillaspay

We don't do anything. No, not in the county.

Ms. Thomas

What about Waste Management?

Ms. Metzler

We don't have any styrofoam recycling. Styrofoam is mostly air, and so you are shipping air for just a really small amount of plastic. Styrofoam is made out of a really cheap low-grade material so there is no strong financial incentive for manufacturers to use recycled stock over virgin material.

Mr. Lautenbach

You could fill a 40 yard box and it weighs about 500 pounds.

- i. Changes to WM Acceptance List

Ms. Thomas

So just to ask, what were the actual changes to the Waste Management acceptance list?

Ms. Gillaspay

Well, I guess we are not accepting tubs. I wrote this about a month ago, and I can't remember what I meant to say on that.

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Ms. Metzler

So we haven't made any changes to any of our city contracts or contract via the U.T.C. for unincorporated Skagit County. So, basically, our contracts had a really small list of accepted materials which included the 1's, 2's and 5's that are bottles, tubs and jugs. But, over the years, other materials have crept onto our education and outreach materials as other communities started accepting them. An example of a material that's never been technically part of our list that we've added on over the last 10 years and now taken back off would be things like plastic cups. Some of our guidelines have contained clam shells, but we have taken those back off. There are other materials that we are also not taking that are not plastics, but are similar to plastics, such as coffee cups, milk cartons, plastic coated papers. In the metal category, tin foil.

Mr. Thomas

You guys did put stickers on all the recycling bins so people know what the changes are, that was very appreciated.

Chair, Koegel

That's the biggest thing on our counsel, what can or cannot be recycled. That was their biggest issue. Now we have a brand new sticker on our recycle bins. It helps to educate the public.

Mr. Lautenbach

Please don't throw batteries in there either.

b. Tire Disposal/Recycling

Mrs. Gillaspy

Larry's Auto and Truck Parts. Some of you may have heard that he is going out of business. I've heard that the property has been sold and he no longer has a bond to accept tires and store them on his facility. Our procedure at the Transfer Station is that we accept 4 tires at a time in a load per day per customer. If people had more, or were doing a property clean up, we would refer them to Larry's as kind of the local source. He is no longer operating. Right now we don't really have another source to refer people to. I think the City of Sedro-Woolley might be taking some and they take them to Les Schwab. We've kind of lost this market where someone who has 20-100 tires they need to get rid of. We haven't had any other recent issues where people are dealing with these kind of larger property cleanups. We are looking into changing our acceptance criteria. Sometimes we work out deals with people. We do end up with so many tires, but we are limited by space. We are also limited by the size of the contract that we can do, so Elena is constantly renegotiating a new contract. I don't think that there is anyone in Snohomish County either that we can refer people to either.

Ms. Dunton

And there's nobody up in Whatcom County?

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Ms. Gillaspy

There's no one up in Whatcom County either.

Ms. Dunton

It is dealing with Tire Recycler and L & S?

Ms. Gillaspy

Yes, those are the two businesses.

Ms. Dunton

They are the two companies that can do tire pick-up/tire recycling unless people are able to go to the tire dealers like Les Schwas and pay to have their tires handled through them. It is totally up to them what they want to do because they have to keep their loads under 800 tires. They don't want to get into triggering a permit and bonding and all of those things too. They generate plenty of tires on their own accord so I am sure that they don't want to get into routine tire acceptance. They are having to contract with L & S or Tire Recyclers to come and pick up their tires right now anyways.

Ms. Thomas

Where are L & S and Tire Recycler?

Ms. Gillaspy

L & S is in Tacoma, WA.

Ms. Dunton

They both have offices in Pierce County and Spokane. Most of what they are doing is grinding tires and then selling chipped material. Some tires go to like creating dock bumpers and fenders and things. Some goes into asphalt. They can take small quantities of chipped tires for specialty asphalt mixes.

Ms. Gillaspy

When did you guys do your tire roundup in Concrete, was that April?

Ms. Dunton

Yes, in Concrete.

Ms. Gillaspy

Are you thinking about doing it again next year?

Ms. Dunton

Yes.

Ms. Gillaspy

Do you have the grant?

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Ms. Dunton

It's each one we have to apply for, it's not a grant. Ecology gets a pot of money from when you take your tires in you pay a disposal fee. That money goes into a pot of money that Ecology contracts for L & S to come up and do tire cleanups throughout the state. That all has to be pre-approved with Ecology and of course with a contractor that's working with Ecology. That's all centered around those tire round-up/tire clean-up kind of events. The tail end of 2018 we did a small one in Guemes and the next one was in Concrete. Then the biennium switched over so Ecology didn't have enough money left. The biennium went through June 30<sup>th</sup>. With this new biennium, they are essentially cleaning up a few of those tire piles that they earmarked last year. Probably this fall they will be willing to entertain new projects. That is something for SWAC Members to think about is if you have a preference; would we really like to see one here or there. One of the issues that we want; based on what happened in Concrete, is we want it to be happening at a Municipal piece of land that has a fence so we have control over it. Because the plan was for the contractor to come up and pick tires up that Monday. They had staffing issues and couldn't get trucks up there. We had tires that essentially took about a week and half to get out of there. We had people sorting through the piles. It was right along Highway 20. We were limiting it to passenger tires, but there were a few larger tires that got dumped that we would not have taken. After we got it cleared out, there were additional loads that got dumped. They wound up having to pay for security on those tire piles so that also cost that contractor some money.

### c. Flow Control Discussion

Mrs. Gillaspy

We had a meeting in mid July talking about flow control issues and this was kind of our sub-committee. We made some changes kind of within the Cities about trying to be more pro-active on the permitting end of like education and outreach to people coming in. But we are seeing that this is kind of an issue with large scale projects. Large scale projects are kind of able to by-pass the rules. So we discussed some kind of next steps that we wanted to take. We are seeing kind of loads maybe going straight to the rail spur. They are not coming through our Transfer Station. We're kind of you know losing out on those opportunities of those loads there. There is nothing really in our contract with Republic that states that. The contract was written in 1983 so we didn't have that language in there. So this is something that we need to bring back up with them to see what's kind of going on at the rail spur. Because we don't really have a system set up. Lautenbachs can bring their residuals there in their trucks, but everything else is suppose to come from kind of our Transfer Station. Through the system. We are going to start moving forward on some of those tasks.

Mr. Lautenbach

I think that one of the ideas was to construct a letter from all of the contributors to the interlocal agreement and send them the letter maybe. If it's not in the contract, I don't know what difference that would make.

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Ms. Gillaspy

I will be planning a Governance Board meeting. I am not sure if it will be September or October because I need to show them the new budget. This is something that they did ask us to look into so this is something that we can bring up to the Governance Board because they will definitely want to have an opportunity to comment. So we will get their feedback on what they would like us to do as well.

Mr. Lautenbach

Going back to the flow control, is that going to get brought up in the next Governance Board?

Ms. Gillaspy

Yes, for sure.

d. 2019 Skagit County Budget

Ms. Gillaspy

Going on to the Budget, it's suppose to be the 2020 Budget. This is a roll-up summary of our 2019 Budget to review, and the 2020 Budget as well. I kind of wanted to bring that up because there are some tasks on here that people have been looking for. This is not final approved. This has been kind of overseen by Public Works and now it's been sent off to Budget & Finance but it's not been finalized. The 2019 numbers are not seeing any big changes. And kind of all numbers off the 2019 Budget, my accountant made those and I don't quite know what she was calculating there.

Ms. Thomas

Like planning numbers but not actuals?

Ms. Gillaspy

Yes, kind of her difference. Seeing what our differences were, what we budgeted to what maybe we projected to now. What we do is we go through and look at what we spent for the first half of the year and then we project to the end of 2019. For that first half of 2019 we also make our estimate for 2020.

Mr. Thomas

The difference on the right is the actuals, right?

Ms. Gillaspy

I think so. I think she is looking at the difference from what we budgeted to what we're now projecting. So kind of a big difference from the 2019 to the 2020 is a big jump in expenses. There is a lot of delayed maintenance that hasn't been done at our Facility, particularly with the old incinerator building which is still be used as a Street Waste Facility and storage and is an active building. We have had to do some kind of significant roof repairs. We decided to fix it because tearing it down and building something else would be way more money. That's kind of a major part of those numbers in there including upgrades to that old building. We are also looking at installation of l.e.d. lights at our facility which would be kind of maybe another \$40,000-\$50,000



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investment but would pay off pretty quickly. Under Education and Professional Services, I've increased that to \$25,000 in 2020.

i. Recycling Coordinator Tasks

Ms. Gillaspy

We have been talking about the role of a Recycling Coordinator at the County and bringing on another staff member. I just don't think we would be able to bring on another staff member. What we talked about doing was thinking about what projects we really want this recycling coordinator to work on and seeing if we can hire a professional service to come help us do outreach in a particular program. This would not be a full time person. We would be contracting that work out. We would not be adding a staff member. I just took a stab at \$20,000 to see what we could get done for that amount.

Ms. Thomas

That's always been the kicker is that you have a Solid Waste educator but not a coordinator. I've never been super clear about what exactly the difference is, but it does seem like there is some missed opportunities in terms of trying to connect different orphan recycling potentially with someone else either in the county who might be able to use it or something along those lines. I don't remember exactly what it was, but I know I encountered that on a specific project a number of years ago and that's how it was explained to me, *Well no, she is the educator not the coordinator*. I am a little at a loss right now in knowing what the projects might entail.

Ms. Gillaspy

I put it under Education, and it might be better served under our Administration. It can certainly be moved. It would be a good discussion at a later date of what coordinating we want done and where it should fall. Ideally, I think it would be great if this person could kind of come in and help us set up a program that Callie could kind of like continue with.

Mr. Lautenbach

Do you know what the projected tonnage is?

Ms. Gillaspy

We estimated 114,000 for both years. We estimated about a \$1.00 increase in our disposal, so \$55.00/ton.

e. 2019 Election Of Officers

Mrs. Gillaspy

So, who do we have and what do we need?

Chair and Vice-Chair?

Chair Koegel requested nominations for the position of SWAC Chair.

Ms. Thomas nominated Matt Koegel, City of Anacortes for the position of Chair.

Chair Koegel requested nominations for the position of SWAC Vice-Chair.

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Mr. Lautenbach nominated Leo Jacobs, City of Sedro-Woolley for the position of Vice-Chair.

Following a Second by Ms. Thomas, a vote was taken.

The votes were unanimous in favor of electing Matt Koegel, City of Anacortes for the position of SWAC Chair and for electing Leo Jacobs, City of Sedro-Woolley for the position of SWAC Vice-Chair.

2019-2020 Solid Waste Advisory Committee Officers

Matt Koegel, City of Anacortes, Chair

Leo Jacobs, City of Sedro-Woolley, Vice-Chair

**Announcements/New Business**

Mr. Koegel, Chair, opened the floor to address any announcements or new business.

Ms. Thomas

We don't know yet if we can do that (directed towards Ms. Gillaspy). Are you willing to be on the actual SWAC as the Hauler rep, or are you just dipping your toe in to see how bad we are(directed towards Ms. Metzler)?

Ms. Gillaspy

Or do you know someone who would be a better representative (directed towards Ms. Metzler)?

Ms. Metzler

I would love more information. I don't know what that entails.

Mr. Lautenbach

Aren't you automatic since you're the Hauler?

Ms. Metzler

What does that mean? We can discuss in the future with more information.

Ms. Gillaspy

Sure.

Ms. Thomas

It is basically showing up to a meeting almost monthly, not quite every month.

Ms. Gillaspy

Who was the last Hauler representative? Was it a driver for Waste Management?

Ms. Thomas

No, it was Tim Crosby.

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Ms. Gillaspay  
Oh, he was the driver for Sedro?

Ms. Thomas/Mr. Lautenbach/Chair Koegel  
No, he was the Waste Management driver.

Chair Koegel  
He was having bad health issues.

**Public Comments**

Mr. Koegel, Chair, opened the floor to address any public comments.

There were no public comments.

**Unfinished Business**

Mr. Koegel, Chair, opened the floor to address any unfinished business.

There was none.

**Adjourn**

Mr. Koegel, Chair, thanked everyone. The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:20 p.m.