

APPROVED

Skagit County
Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC)
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 9, 2015

Members Present

Brian Dempsey
Britt Pfaff-Dunton
Kevin Renz
Sandi Andersen
Tamara Thomas
Todd Reynolds
Torrey Lautenbach

Representing

City of Burlington
Skagit County Health Department
Skagit County Public Works/Solid Waste
Vice-Chair/City of Anacortes
District 2 Citizens
Skagit Steel & Recycling, Recyclers
Lautenbach Recycling/District 1

Members Absent

Diana Wadley
John Doyle
Leo Jacobs
Scott Sutherland
Tim Crosby
Not Represented

Representing

Ex-Officio, Department of Ecology
Town of La Conner
City of Sedro Woolley/SWAC Chair
City of Mount Vernon
Haulers
District 3

Visitors

Bob Raymond
Callie Martin
David Bader
Elena Pritchard
Matt Koegel
Rick Hlavka

Representing

guest
Skagit County Public Works/Solid Waste
Lautenbach Recycling
Skagit County Public Works/Solid Waste/recorder
City of Anacortes
Green Solutions

Call to Order

Sandi Andersen, SWAC Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m. at the Continental Building Crane Room at 1800 Continental Place, Mount Vernon.

Introductions

Sandi Andersen, SWAC Vice-Chair, requested introductions of all in attendance. Names and business title introductions were offered by each attendee prior to addressing agenda items.

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Public Comments

Mr. Raymond introduced himself and passed out a cost/analysis informational chart pertaining to organic Commercial and Residential collection, and drop-off programs; relative to Chapter 5 Organics. These charts were designed to assist the SWSGB in their understanding of SWAC's plan recommendations, and the Board's decision making. Mr. Raymond gave a brief summary of each category in the report. Matters of interest addressed were the absence of cost/benefit data, service alternatives and steps necessary for their implementation.

Vice-Chair Andersen inquired as to how the Plan is presented to the SWSGB for review.

Mr. Renz explained that the Board members consist of a Mayor from each city and one representative from the Board of County Commissioners. The SWSGB meets at least twice a year. It is at this time that SWAC will give them a presentation of the CSWMP to allow the Board to address any changes or areas of concern. The SWSGB will then make a recommendation to the County Commissioner to adopt the Plan. Then each city, through the Inter Local Agreement, has agreed to adopt the CSWMP.

Review and Approve Minutes

Sandi Andersen, SWAC Vice-Chair, opened the floor to discuss the June 10, 2015 minutes.

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Andersen to approve the June 10, 2015 minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Brian Dempsey. The minutes were unanimously approved as written.

Agenda Items

Sandi Andersen, SWAC Vice-Chair, moved forward to begin discussion of agenda item(s):

Completion of Review of CSWMP, Chapter 5, Organics
Review of CSWMP Chapter 6, Waste Collection

Mr. Renz addressed agenda items and brought everyone up to date on where the stopping points were in the review process of Chapters 5 & 6.

Mr. Hlavka confirmed that everyone had the latest version of Chapter 5, dated 9/3/15 with track changes. He continued the review of Chapter 5 where the previous meeting left off.

Chapter 5, Organics

5.1 Definition and Goals for Organics

Table 5-1: Hierarchy of Preferred Management Methods

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Mr. Hlavka explained the definition of WISerg, which is marketing assisting in King, Thurston and Pierce counties used by restaurants and grocery stores for containerizing food waste. The food holding tank is serviced often to control odor.

5.2 Existing Organics Programs

Ms. Thomas addressed the subject of banned yard debris in the county which had been raised during the last meeting.

Mr. Renz consulted with Mr. Reynolds on the banning issue after the last meetings discussion on the matter. Mr. Reynolds suggested that the City of Mount Vernon had banned yard waste from their disposal system based on a ban that the county had implemented. In following through, since the county was thought to have a ban in place, Skagit Steel also implemented a ban in effect to keep yard waste out of the disposal system. Mr. Renz did extensive research on scanned materials dating back to 1970, and there was no information indicating that there was a yard waste ban at the county. There was mention of a ban on an organic saw-dust material only due to a handling problem.

Mr. Hlavka commented that it was a recommendation of the State that yard waste be banned by the year 2012 in areas where there were alternatives, which was probably mentioned in the previous waste Plan.

Mr. Dempsey commented that storm water regulations have changed in the last 5-10 years, which may have been a source of the ban to prevent it from entering creeks. There is no ban currently in Burlington, WA.

Mr. Hlavka informed everyone that as of September 1, 2015, Sedro-Woolley city crews began collecting yard waste.

5.4 Alternative Organics Strategies

Alternative D-Encourage markets for Compost

Ms. Pfaff-Dunton inquired as to whether this alternative should be divided between subsections for public sector and private sector. To encourage markets through private sector can most likely only be done by educational means.

Mr. Hlavka agreed to add and build the information into Alternative D.

Ms. Martin suggested adding language to the Plan to request that the county Planning Department ask for compost usage during land use or land disruption when issuing land use permits.

Ms. Thomas commented that there are many ways that public agencies can encourage use of compost through their own specifications such as requirement for use of alternative sedimentation erosion techniques, compost blanket on construction sites, or use in public building landscaping. Ms. Thomas asked the group's input on how this Plan could encourage these things to take place.

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Ms. Pfaff-Dunton encouraged the provision of an education packet during the building permit process. The county will not create another set of regulations for those requirements since they are already meeting storm water requirements. But in meeting their water quality criteria, Planning can present other options and/or recommendations at that time to get information out to contractors. Planning would not be able to put the information together, but given the information, it would be something that could be passed on during the permit process.

Mr. Hlavka commented that for this to materialize, the suggestion could be added to the Plan, but it would ultimately be the responsibility of someone to make the packet of information to provide to the Planning and Permit departments.

Mr. Renz commented that a Recycling Coordinator, whose job it is to follow up on the recommendations within the Plan, would be the tool to get the information to the Planning Department that would encourage the use of the methods during building projects.

Ms. Thomas commented that Ms. Martin is promoting use of compost by the general public and individuals, whereas the cities and public sectors could develop a specification and include it in all of their building projects.

5.5 Evaluation of Organics Alternatives

Feasibility: ...Alternative D, encouraging markets may be difficult.

Ms. Thomas asked for an explanation for this statement.

Mr. Hlavka commented that the difficulty is due to questions about who is in charge and what the methods would be to get it done.

Ms. Martin inquired about the possibility of considering an Ameri-Corp position as an interim position until the option to hire is available. A successful example would be Skagit Fisheries Enhancement who has had an Ameri-Corp volunteer for many years.

Mr. Renz commented that this type of assistance has never been investigated. Also, after the Plan was made, economic changes eliminated positions across the county, so therefore, creating and hiring a new position may be increasingly difficult.

Table 5-3: Ratings for the Organics Alternatives

Ms. Thomas commented that if categories such as *Cost Effectiveness* and *Feasibility* are stated as *uncertain*, then it should not be given a rating. Other Alternative items in the chart could be rated differently.

Mr. Renz and Mr. Lautenbach suggested that an easier solution could be to remove the list or an item from the list since reducing the list of acceptable materials is easy, but implementing the list is a much more difficult endeavor. Ms. Martin and Mr. Lautenbach suggested changing the list.

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Ms. Pfaff-Dunton commented that compostable plastic has been a problem since created. Changing the list and allowing a business to refuse plastics in any version, should be allowable. This could present a major challenge with the State of Washington, the United States and Waste Management as well, who has a history of not being willing to change their marketing to the different jurisdictions.

5.6 Organics Recommendations

Mr. Hlavka reviewed each priority level and it's matching or corresponding Alternative.

Chapter 6, Waste Collection

Mr. Hlavka explained that this Chapter addresses the solid waste collection system in Skagit County.

6.1 Background For Waste Collection

Regulations Concerning Waste Collection

Mr. Hlavka explained that there are four forms of collection services that are allowed by State law in the cities. The county has virtually no authority in collection services. The county can form a collection district and enter into a collection contract for the unincorporated areas.

Chapter 36.58 RCW, Solid Waste Disposal, and 36.58A RCW, Solid Waste Collection Districts.

Ms. Thomas asked for a further explanation of a Solid Waste Collection District as opposed to County.

Mr. Hlavka commented that there is both a Collection District and a Disposal District allowed by State law. A Disposal District is a method of giving the County taxing authority and other revenue generating authority. The proceeds can be used for paying for Solid Waste planning and disposal cost. A Collection District uses taxes on the collection. It gives itself authority to create an agency or county board.

6.2 Existing Waste Collection Programs

Table 6-1-Collection Rates in Skagit County

Mr. Hlavka confirmed the listed Residential and Commercial collection rates with Waste Management at the time that the chart was created.

Mr. Reynolds inquired as to whether the County has in place anything with the definition of solid waste exempting recycling. The Department of Ecology is in the process of bringing their definition more in line with the Federal definition.

Mr. Renz commented that the chart could be tied back to the Interlocal Agreement that specifically excludes any material that is removed as part of a curbside recycling program from being part of the Solid Waste System.

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Announcements/New Business

Sandi Andersen, SWAC Vice-Chair, opened the floor to address announcements or new business.

Mr. Renz distributed event flyers prepared by WSRA/Washington State Recycling Association. Troy Lautenbach and Lautenbach Industries were instrumental in putting this event together. The event entitled “wred Washington Recycles Every Day, Public & Private Partnerships: Success in Skagit County” will be sponsored by Republic Services and Lautenbach Industries. The event is scheduled for Thursday, September 17, 2015, from 9:15 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Burlington City Hall in Burlington, WA. In addition to other points of interest, the event will include behind the scenes tours of Lautenbach Industries and the Skagit County Recycling & Transfer Station. Mr. Renz invited everyone to participate in the event.

Public Comments

Sandi Andersen, SWAC Vice-Chair, opened the floor to address any public comments. There were no public comments.

Unfinished Business

Sandi Andersen, SWAC Vice-Chair, opened the floor to address any unfinished business. There was no unfinished business.

Adjourn

Sandi Andersen, SWAC Vice-Chair, made a Motion to Adjourn. The Motion was seconded by all in attendance. By a vote of the membership, the Motion passed unanimously. Vice-Chair Sandi Andersen thanked everyone for attending the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:30 p.m.