

**Clark County**  
**Solid Waste Advisory Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
6:00 - 8:00pm  
Zoom Conference Video Call  
Hosted by: Clark County Public Health

**SWAC Members Present:** Steven Willis, Simone Auger, Rich McConaghy, Tim Kraft, Jason Presser, Derek Ranta, Kyle Potter, Joe Zimmerman

**SWAC Members Excused:** Allan Jeska

**SWAC Members Unexcused:**

**Staff Present:** Travis Dutton, Mike Davis, Kim Harless, Brian Schlottmann, Amber McKnight

**Others Present:** Jason Hudson (Waste Connections), Julie Gilbertson (CoV), Jessica Fischberg (CCPH), Kaley McLachlan-Burton (CCPH), Tina Kendall (CCPH), Samantha Springs (CCPH)

Meeting began at 6:00 pm

**I. ROLL CALL, APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020 (\*00:09:50)**

- 📌 Previous meeting minutes approved

**II. Introduction of New Member, Joe Zimmerman (\*00:10:08)**

- Agricultural representative
- Multi-generational Clark County native
- WSU Business Degree in Operations Management
- Currently Farm Manager at Clark County Heritage Farm
- Active in Farm Bureau

**III. UPDATES (\*00:13:57)**

- [Clark County Public Health – Solid Waste Program](#)
  - SWEO Green Team updates provided ahead of time. Highlights include:
    - Both MCR and Green Business have shifted to an online presence
      - Trying to promote through social media
    - RAF cancelled this year
      - Might do something in the winter season
    - SWEO team is currently working from home due to COVID-19
- Clark County Public Health – [Solid Waste Enforcement](#)
  - 2020 Quarter 1 has come out
    - 9 inspections
    - Since April, there have been no inspections
      - Inspections will start again next week
  - Kyle asks if any headway has been made with CC Public Works, on Watley Pit
    - PW is working with Dept. of Ecology on their Contaminated Sites program
    - SWE is receiving updates from PW as they come in
    - PW is asking for a more thorough evaluation of the site
    - ! Brian will send an email update when more information is known
  - Code update has been pushed out a bit due to COVID-19
    - Had RFQ out to hire a consultant for public outreach at ~\$50,000
      - Decided not to hire consultant during COVID outbreak

- Continuing with in-house revisions
  - Would like to get a copy of the update to SWAC by June, for review, but may be delayed
  - The schedule for approval is still about a year and a half out
    - Hoping to get copy to SWAC by July
  - Public outreach plans included in person outreach events at three points in the county
    - Now starting to look into an online public outreach session
    - No current timeline estimated
- [City of Vancouver](#)
  - Yard Debris contract updates have been delayed
    - Scheduled date with council has been bumped to later in May
    - New “piggy-back” provision in the contracts may benefit other cities and the county
    - CoV Spring yard debris coupon program has been extended an extra month
  - Outreach becoming an online format, including classroom presentations and trainings
  - COVID-19 has impacted neighborhood clean-up events
    - Typically 50 a year, with Waste Connections
      - 2 per weekend, from March to November
    - Had to cancel or postpone all of March, April, and May, affecting 21 neighborhoods
    - Working with CDC, State and Public Health on safety guidance for this service
      - Hoping to deliver this service at a later time
  - Monitoring illegal dumping
    - Concerns over residents delaying trips to the transfer stations, or financial hardships, leading to illegal dumping
- [Waste Connections](#)
  - Has been able to act quickly, in response to COVID-19
    - Following local safety procedures, as well as company program, including:
      - Reconfigured some transfer station acceptance areas to limit contact
      - Stopped accepting cash, except in emergency situations
      - 2-man garbage routes are wearing masks when in cab
      - ~50 employees, including Customer Service, are now working remotely
        - ▶ Customer Service getting more calls about billing questions
    - Commercial volumes have dropped 25-30%
      - Almost a 1:1 offset with residential
    - The transfer stations have been incredibly busy, with extremely long lines
      - Put messaging out by news, social media, press releases, and placed signage, encouraging people to stay home
        - ▶ April 2020 had 3,600 more transactions than April 2019
          - ▷ 1-2k tons less than last April
      - Lines at the transfer stations have begun to return to normal
    - Trying to catch up on some of the little projects
  - Simone notes that several people from the community had voiced concerns and frustrations over the traffic
    - CTS is a known issue, and the current situation has just made it worse
      - There are already plans in place to change the entry/exit point
    - Signage has been placed to direct traffic, but have, in some cases been ignored
    - Traffic cams have been placed at all three transfer stations, and messaging put out to encourage people to check the traffic before coming out
  - Local Waste Connections is not currently suspending service due to non-payments, but may need to move forward in a month or two.
    - Took a \$85,000 hit from past due balances in April

- Encouraging people to call and work with them regarding overdue balances

#### IV. Review and Discussion of Bylaws – Kyle Potter (\*00:44:07)

- Would like feedback on the following topics, and may send out survey to that end
  - Meeting Frequency
    - Derek feels quarterly meetings are just fine
    - Tim feels, content-wise, quarterly is enough, but feels somewhat disconnected after three months with no meetings
  - Attendance Policy
    - Rich mentioned the 2 absence policy may have been instituted during a time that meetings were monthly, and may need a change for a quarterly format
  - Improvements
    - Simone recalls a previous SWAC member found it insightful to visit other county SWAC meetings and bring information back from them; and shared an example of member responsibilities from another county's SWAC
      - Kyle likes the idea of SWAC field trips, to educate, as well as build member relationships
      - Tim likes the idea of attending other SWAC meetings
        - ▶ ! Travis will ask, at the next WACSWM, if other counties are holding virtual SWAC meetings that can be attended
    - Tim suggests workshops to get to know the waste system, and other members
      - Kyle agrees
      - Travis suggests the possibility of a virtual format
  - Communications
    - Derek feels communications between meetings are sufficient
  - By-laws
    - It may be good for the members to review the by-laws and determine if an update is needed, as it has not been done for a while
      - Tim suggests defining the SWAC member responsibilities, as well as better verbiage describing the purpose and expectations of the SWAC
    - ? Travis asks would it be acceptable to have the members review the by-laws and the questions mentioned before our next meeting?
      - ! Kyle will head up gathering this information
        - Tim is happy to help if needed
    - Travis mentions much of what is brought to SWAC is also discussed with the Regional Solid Waste Systems Steering Committee (made of Public Works representatives from the Clark County municipalities)
      - Tim asks if it makes sense for SWAC and RSWSSC to have some form of interaction
        - Unknown at this time, though the question can be brought to RSWSSC

#### V. Subcommittees – Kyle Potter (\*01:18:48)

- ? Kyle would like to get someone to help Jason on the Legislative and Policy subcommittee
  - Kyle and Tim are both willing to help
  - May be good to get SWAC position on bills, so the subcommittee can act on behalf of SWAC, without having to run it by them first
- Recruitment subcommittee to help attract the right candidates to fill SWAC positions, and posting notices to the right groups, such as Leadership Clark County
  - Positions are typically posted as a news release, sent to SWAC & SWAC distribution list, posted on Next Door, Facebook, Instagram

- Some positions may be posted in additional areas as well
    - For the Agricultural position, Kim also reached out to the Farm Bureau and other related organizations
- Joe suggests placing recruitment notices at WSU College of Business
- Simone suggests aligning outreach with community based organizations, to gain diversity
- Derek asks what are the main challenges we face in recruitment
  - The time commitment requirement
  - Reaching people who are interested in civic engagement
  - Competing with other advisory committees
  - Not many people aware of the need, or interested in helping
- Rich suggests offering the Council some candidates, as well as the subcommittee's recommendations
- Simone suggests creating a framework of what we are trying to accomplish
- 🟡 Kim needs to know whether this subcommittee will be created, or move forward with the applicant, to give the information to the council tomorrow
  - ☒ Kyle motions to create this subcommittee, and re-post the open position
    - 🟢 Unanimous approval
    - ! Steve will draft something for members to review
      - ▶ ! Travis will send Steven a copy of the PHAC recruitment process

#### VI. Regional System Study – Mike Davis (\*01:43:29)

- Not yet ready to make comments on what has been received
  - Many County reviews still pending
    - Expecting to work through some within the next couple of weeks
    - Financial review proved to be rather time consuming
  - WC is reviewing site info provided by JR Miller
    - Discussions of potential expansions at CTR
  - Behind where they had anticipated, but things are still coming together
    - Anticipating more finalized documents within the next month or two, which JR Miller will collate in a draft report
  - Anticipates a lot of discussions regarding self-haul options (Task 3)
    - SWAC will likely play a role in the outcome of this piece
  - Easily a month to a month and a half behind, due to COVID-19
  - ? If there are any specific questions, route them to Kim, who will get them to Mike

#### VII. Other Business (\*01:54:22)

- Simone recently attended an OR DEQ virtual workshop, on Workforce Development [“Repair & Reuse” grants](#), and found it to be a great idea and possibility for WA state
  - Geared toward small businesses and non-profits focused on repair and reuse
  - They are moving away from recycling, and looking into rebuilding their programs based on current conditions
  - Within our SWMP, a chapter talks about economic opportunities within recycling, including some analysis

#### VIII. Special Waste Project Update – Jessica Fischberg (\*01:58:22)

- Residential battery recycling evaluation has been completed
  - Includes report outlining challenges and solutions used by other regions
    - Currently working with Ops team, CoV, and WC to finalize report
    - Will likely have a presentation to share with SWAC

- Medication stewardship is about a month away from installing kiosks at pharmacies and law enforcement agencies
  - Currently only a couple in Clark County, but hopeful to get more
  - Includes free mail in pouches
    - May promote the mail in pouches during Stay-at-Home orders

**IX. Public Comment (\*02:01:05)**

- None

This meeting was adjourned at 8:01 pm

Next meeting: Thursday August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020

*\* These times correlate to the time each agenda item is addressed in the recorded audio file of this meeting.*

DRAFT