

Clark County
Solid Waste Advisory Commission
Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 4th, 2021

6:00 - 8:00pm

Meeting held virtually on Zoom

SWAC Members Present: Kyle Potter, Allan Jeska, Simone Auger, Rich McConaghy, Tim Kraft, Jason Presser, Derek Ranta, Joe Zimmerman

SWAC Members Excused:



SWAC Members Unexcused:

Staff Present: Travis Dutton, Kim Harless, Jessica Fischberg, Pete DuBois, Brian Schlottmann, Amber McKnight

Others Present: Julie Gilbertson, Peter Lyon (DOE), Philipp T. (Clark County Junk Removal)

Meeting began at 6:02 pm

I. ROLL CALL, APPROVAL OF MINUTES – August 6th, 2020 (*00:00:17)

- Motion by Kyle to amend agenda by adding a section to elect new chair and vice chair
 - Joe seconds
 -  Motion approved
- Kyle motions to approve last meeting minutes
 - Allen seconds
 -  Motion approved

II. UPDATES (*00:01:50)

- [Clark County Public Health – Solid Waste Program](#)
 - Updates sent out prior to meeting.
 - Will also discuss as various agenda items
- Clark County Public Health – [Solid Waste Enforcement](#)
 - Q4 update came out.
 - All site inspections are now done online, by appointment
 - Conducted 11 permitted facility inspections
 - Two applications approved
 - ▶ [Columbia Rock](#) & [Rotchey's East County Materials](#)
 - [Haag & Shaw](#) had open barrels on site, but cleaned up by the time inspection came
 - Referred to Burlington Environmental
 - SWE fees are increasing ~30%, which was delayed from last year due to a miscalculation
 - These fees were approved by Council in November, and are now in effect
 - SWAC should have been informed last quarter, but Covid delayed the info
 - Should have finalized, proposed ordinance by the 2nd or 3rd SWAC meeting
 - What percentage of funding comes from DOE?
 - ~80%. PH finance finds the rest
 - Applying for new grant (\$160k-\$170k), which starts in June
 - Code update
 - Good participation from SWAC
 - Sent review out to stakeholders in the community and industry
 - Deadline for review extended to Feb. 15th
 - **!** Will update SWAC on received comments at next SWAC meeting
 - Next step: submit for public comment
 - Should human remains fall under Solid Waste?

- PH & DOE both felt it was insensitive to call human remains “solid waste”
 - [Recompose](#) is proposing a Clark County facility
 - 700-acre plot not zoned for crematoria or cemetery
 - ▶ County Council believes that is what it should be cited as
 - Would like to be rezoned as an exempt composting facility
 - ▶ Starting product volume would be too large to be exempt
 - County Policy Advisor looking into rezoning, or redefining business type
 - [WAC 173-350](#) speaks of “feed stock”, which this may fall under
 - May want to address this in SWMP update as this is an up and coming issue
- [City of Vancouver](#)
 - Fall leaves coupon program has new data dashboard
 - Has reduced the time it takes to process invoices
 - Hope to refine even more, to better promote program
 - County residents redeemed 3,961 coupons, and diverted 9,047 yards of leaves
 - CoV residents redeemed 2,568 coupons, and diverted 6,367 yards of leaves
 - ~\$172k across all four vendors
 - Organics program has now been in service for 1 year
 - Piloting program in Multi-family Living spaces
 - Dirt Hugger says quality is good overall, will report if that changes
 - Hoping to give quarterly updates to route inspections
 - Concluded a greenhouse gas survey within the past year
 - Had previously done one several years ago (2007 or 2009)
 - Council has requested CoV engagement in climate work/emissions reduction
 - Will be working on strategies for Council to consider in the spring
 - ▶ Strategies may impact solid waste industry
 - What percentage of CoV residents are using the organics program?
 - Single Family Home participation is ~60%
 - Decline in customer participation, mostly from “On Call” clients
 - Many clients opt for smaller bins
- [Waste Connections](#)
 - Very few winter weather disturbances
 - Offices currently at ~25% capacity
 - 12 or 13 employees, out of 320, tested positive for Covid
 - Staff has done well overall, but holidays did provide quarantine challenges
 - Has caused minor issues, but still able to function
 - Will be reminding employees not to attend large parties
 - Strong volume of solid waste in Clark County
 - Record amounts of glass and aluminum from residential
 - Commercial volumes reduced, likely due to remote employees
 - Education team has shifted their service methods
 - Ridgefield to be added to Organics program in April or May
 - Believe it should be an easy transition
 - Record volumes for transfer stations, as people are still coming in, in record numbers
 - 10,500 tons of 3rd party garbage in January
 - Last year was 8,800 tons in January
 - Up 40% in transactions every day in January
 - Working on entrance to CTR
 - Almost done with utilities
 - Will build turn out lane to help with traffic issues
 - Should be done late winter/early spring
 - Hoping to include a sign with a wait time
 - Upgraded processing at West Van

- New cardboard sort screen can sort additional 500 tons, which may have been missed
 - Three robotic arms added in January
 - Can collect ~80 pieces per minute, vs. ~50 pieces per minute by hand
- Simone asks has there been any progress on selling and processing the materials locally?
 - Very little material is being shipped internationally
 - Cardboard is going to Georgia Pacific mill in Toledo, OR
 - Paper is shipped to Wenatchee, Spokane, Port Townsend
 - Plastic is also local
 - DOE created a Recycling Development Center to develop/preserve local markets
- Jason states WC did a fantastic job coordinating the annual Scott Campbell Bike Build
 - ~700 unassembled bikes were picked up, built, and dropped back off later

III. Batteries, Motor Oil and Antifreeze Reports – Jessica Fischberg (*00:50:15)

- Reports were emailed out to members earlier this week
 - County, WC, and CoV have reviewed reports, and proposed projects based on the findings
- Household batteries recycled curbside are collected and sorted by hand, and can easily be missed
 - Lots of contamination by other battery types
 - Lithium ion batteries can explode when damaged
 - In 2019, 10 trucks damaged 1 truck was a total loss
- Non-household batteries must be taken to HHW centers or participating retailers for disposal
 - In 2018 more than 90,000 pounds of batteries were collected in Clark County
 - ~75% of batteries collected were from curbside collection
 - Outreach is not enough; we need to do something in our processes
 - Final recommendations include:
 - Satellite collections at participating facilities
 - End curbside collection in January 2022, aligning with contract timing
 - Outreach for both satellite collection and ending curbside collection
 - Continuing support for state legislation of product stewardship
 - Tim and asks about inclusion of the other cities in Clark County
 - Will give presentation to RSWSSC, and get their feedback
 - Simone asks are there any existing situations of battery product stewardship?
 - Yes, in some California counties & Canada provinces
 - How will the PR campaign be funded?
 - PH, CoV, and WC outreach teams, team websites, apps
 - Kyle is concerned that January 2022 might not be enough time
- Oil & Antifreeze can be recycled curbside, at transfer stations, or participating facilities.
 - ~75% of oil in Clark County's transfer stations is picked up curbside
 - Problems include:
 - Curbside jugs can leak
 - Drivers leave these at the curb, with a note to repackage
 - ▶ WC has agreed to provide drivers with bags to place leaking jugs in
 - Mixed jugs are left curbside
 - Must be sent for hazardous waste incinerations
 - Opaque jugs left curbside
 - Drivers cannot tell what is inside
 - Recommendations for outreach include updating apps, and making info more accessible
 - Has curbside collection gone up, or down over the past few years?
 - There were some peaks in motor oil in 2004 to 2008, during recession years
 - Is there any messaging going on at the retail level?
 - Retailers are required to have signage of disposal methods for large quantities
 - This program will continue as is

IV. SWEO Outreach During Pandemic – Pete DuBois (*01:39:25)

- MCR just started new class last night
 - Now offering virtual classes
 - Condensed from 10 classes to 7
 - 1-on-1 field experience with masks & 6' distance
 - Classes are offered in return for volunteer hours (30 hours per participant)
 - 2020 had little opportunity for volunteering due to pandemic
- Spring webinars had record number attendees
 - Recycling Done Right, and Preventing Food Waste classes do not have quite the same allure as compost
- Fall webinars drew 162 attendees
- Changes to program were reflected on MCR website
 - Now have a [virtual learning page](#) which can be accessed 24/7
 - Now offering compost bins, worm bins, and green cleaning kits

V. SWEO Program Projects – Travis Dutton (*01:51:15)

- Contract Negotiations
 - Transport & Disposal (ongoing)
 - Residential Recycling (ongoing)
 - Hopefully wrap up in 2021
 - SW staff will keep SWAC informed, but will have SWAC involvement
- Regional Systems Study
 - Being worked on by JR Miller
 - Selected by subcommittee
 - Reports are starting to wrap up
 - SWAC will review the recommendations & findings
 - Vote & provide input on recommendations
 - Input will go into SWMP update and contract negotiations
- SWMP Update
 - Will be kicking off 5-year cycle update
 - SWAC increases meeting frequency
 - Participates in the review and drafting of all chapters
 - Once SWMP update is approved by SWAC, it goes to DOE for review
- Equity Project
 - Kim will present on this
- Contamination Outreach
 - Will develop input into SWMP re: addressing contamination from an outreach standpoint
 - SWAC will review and provide input
 - SW staff will keep SWAC informed
- Data Project
 - Better system for incoming data and its use to develop & evaluate our program
 - Identify incoming data and data gaps
 - Build plan for use and sharing data internally & externally
 - May want a SWAC member on the project team
- Grant Planning
 - 2-year grant expires in June,
 - Next grant starts in July
 - Will begin planning March or April
 - SW staff will keep SWAC informed


VI. SWMP DEI Chapter – Kim Harless (*02:00:07)

- This project will feed into the SWMP update
- Have had meetings to gather and evaluate info on equity within county solid waste system
 - Meeting with GIS tomorrow, to overlap service areas and demographic data, to review equitable service within county
- Interviewed SWEO outreach teams to find out where equity is already included and identify opportunities for improvement
- Have spoken with contracts team who have already made steps toward inclusion of women and minority owned businesses
- Will include section on inclusion work from the SWAC Recruitment sub-committee
- Will present to SWAC at a later time

VII. Subcommittee Next Steps (*02:07:00)

- Bylaws
 - Kyle Proposes moving this to the next meeting, and reviewing document created by Simone & Rich in the meantime
 - Worked on charter regarding Recruitment committee
 - Needs to be reviewed prior to presentation
- Recruitment
 - Vacant positions were posted in November but did not garner any interest
 - Will be resubmitting recruitment notice again soon
 - Need to figure out how to reach out to more diverse populations
 - Derek & Simone’s positions both ending next month
 - will need to reapply if interested in continuing
 - May want special meeting before the next SWAC in May
- Policy
 - Currently no big push in legislature for solid waste
 - There is a bill regarding change to medication stewardship
 - ! Travis to send info to Kyle, Jason, and Tim; and work with Jessica to discuss impact

VIII. Chair Position (*02:18:14)

- The current bylaws state in the absence of the chair, the vice chair will assume the role
 - Tim nominates Kyle for Chair
 - Allen seconds
 - Kyle nominates Tim for Vice chair
 - Jason seconds
 - Group votes to approve Kyle as chair, and Tim for vice chair
 -  Approved

IX. Public Comment/Other Business (*02:25:49)

- Kim notifies the group of the intent to reach out for potential agenda items one month prior to regular SWAC meetings in the future.

This meeting was adjourned at 8:31 pm

Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 6th, 2021

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