

Clark County
Solid Waste Advisory Commission
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 3rd, 2022
6:00 - 8:00pm
Virtual Meeting Hosted by
Clark County Public Health

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

SWAC Members Excused:



SWAC Members Unexcused:

Staff Present: Travis Dutton, Mike Davis, Jessica Fischberg, Amber McKnight, Mollie Mangerich, Kimberly Walker-Norton


Others Present: Julie Gilbertson, Olivia Carros, Chris Bell, Rich McConaghy, Abbie Swenson, Doug Drennen, Sarah Keirns, Michael Mulligan, Pete DuBois

Meeting began at 6:02 pm


I. Roll Call, Approval Of Minutes – November 4th, 2021 (*00:00:10)

- Allan motions to approve the minutes
 - Joe seconds
 -  Approved
- Motion to adjust agenda by Tim
 - Jason seconded
 -  Approved

II. Updates (*00:01:09)

- Updates stricken in favor of more pressing agenda items
 -  Will be distributed by email after the meeting

III. Solid Waste Management Plan Update – Pete DuBois (*00:04:13)

- Revisit Vision/Mission/Values
 - Vision – What the solid waste system will become in the future
 - Why are businesses and employers not included in the vision portion?
 - Wanted to actively engage the individual level
 - The intent was “Residents, employees, and students” would be synonymous with “Households, businesses, and schools”
 - ▶  May want to adjust this to include them
 - Mission – The overall purpose of SWEO
 - Values – How people in the organization should behave. Guidelines for decision making
- Chapter 5: Hazardous Waste
 - Covers all hazardous waste from businesses and households
 - Currently have an HHW facility at each of the three transfer stations in the county
 - Columbia Resource Company (CRC) owns transfer stations, pays for haz waste collection through a municipal solid waste fund
 - Single family homes with curbside service can also set out used motor oil, antifreeze, and household batteries, in addition to their regular recycling cart
 - In 2017 3.2 million pounds of HHW were collected
 - CRC paid \$932,658 to run the HHW service in 2020

V. Regional System Study Update – Mike Davis

- This agenda item is included in the Transfer Station Minimum Fee presentation

VI. Transfer Station Minimum Fee – JR Miller & Associates (*01:07:53)

- Previously discussed overview of RSS Chapter 3: Operational Efficiencies and Impacts of Self Haul Traffic
 - Will be seeking SWAC recommendations today
- Commercial and curb side customers are subsidizing the cost of self-haul customers
 - ~40% of self-haul customers pays less than the cost of service
 - A \$25 minimum fee and a minimum assigned weight would help offset the cost
 - Each transfer station is losing money on self-haul customers
 - The actual cost of a transaction is \$21.60
 - Adding in disposal fees brings it to \$24.33
 - Current transaction fee is \$10.00
- No data available to support increasing fees will reduce traffic, but seems to be common sense
 - Reducing hours would concentrate trips, creating further traffic issues
 - Extending hours may increase cost, but may not reduce traffic issues
 - Adding days of operation to transfer stations might spread out weekend traffic, and provide more self-haul opportunities
 - Adding days of operation to HHW facilities will provide more opportunities for residential HHW disposal
- 💡 Staff is proposing:
 - Add days of operations of transfer stations, to have all three open seven days a week
 - Additional HHW hours of operation
 - Central – 5 days weekly (TBD)
 - Would also like to consider SQG collection, but need to study more
 - Washougal – every Saturday
 - West Van – add Sunday
 - \$25 minimum transaction fee for customers with 280 pounds or less
 - This accounts for 32.2% of self-haul
- What is the process to get this implemented?
 - Would likely need a contract amendment to the rate section
 - Recommendation from SWAC
 - Present to Regional Solid Waste System Steering Committee (RSWSSC)
 - RSWSSC would present it to various city councils
 - Present to County Council
 - Council would make recommendation to County Manager
- How was \$25/280 lbs. chosen as the minimum fee?
 - Reviewing transaction cost and all associated factors meant that \$25 would capture 283 lbs. of material
 - Would that cost reduce the amount of traffic coming through?
 - Would likely encourage customers to wait until they had a larger load
 - Transaction times seem to remain the same regardless of amount of materials
 - Compared to other transfer stations in WA/OR, this is a conservative proposal
 - \$15-\$35 for 240-460 pounds
- What is the average cost of receiving regular garbage service?
 - At the time of the study, it was ~\$25 monthly
 - Would the increase affect the cost of residential curbside pick-up customers?
 - No. Though, it may prolong a rate hike from occurring in the future.
- Implementing a \$25 minimum fee would hopefully do the following:
 - Help to equalize subsidy
 - Provide economic disincentive to small loads at the transfer stations

- Provide economic incentive to have curbside services
- There will likely be revenue increase, as well as revenue offset
 - Potential increase of \$830,500 in revenue
 - Potential cost of expanded services may be \$705,229
 - Would provide direct public benefit
- 💡 Staff recommended actions:
 - Implement \$25 minimum fee at all three facilities for all loads under 280 pounds
 - Additional revenue generated to be used to implement additional days/hours of operation at Washougal and West Van transfer stations
 - Implemented following approval of minimum fee
 - Additional hours/days of operation at HHW facilities determined based on cost
 - Implement at West Van and Washougal following approval of minimum fee
 - To be determined at Central six months following approval of minimum fee
 - ▶ Will allow time to study SQG and traffic impacts due to minimum fee
 - Changes to days/hours of operations at transfer stations
 - West Van – add Sunday
 - Washougal – add Sunday, and open to public 7 days weekly
 - Changes to days/hours of operations at HHW facilities
 - Central – up to 5 days per week (TBD after 6 months)
 - Washougal – every Saturday
 - West Van – add Sunday
- How is the savings from PaintCare being utilized?
 - Those savings have been calculated into the cost of expanded services
 - Will include this information in studies related to changing Central HHW hours
- Should we look at including a CPI clause for future rate increases?
 - Will either be cost of service or CPI
- Tim motions to approve recommendations regarding the implementation of a minimum fee and additional days of operation of transfer stations and HHW facilities
 - Joe seconds
 - Group votes
 - 🗳️ Unanimous approval

VII. Public Comment (*02:01:41)

- Introduction to Michael Mulligan
 - Applicant to At-Large SWAC position
 - Hopeful to be part of SWAC
 - May have beneficial ideas
 - Appreciative, as a community member

This meeting was adjourned at 8:06 pm

Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 5th, 2022

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