

**Clark County**  
**Solid Waste Advisory Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
Thursday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 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, Kim Harless, Mike Mulligan

**SWAC Members Excused:** Derek Ranta, Joe Zimmerman,


**SWAC Members Unexcused:**

**Staff Present:** Mike Davis, Jessica Fischberg, Mollie Mangerich, Kimberly Walker-Norton, Amber McKnight, Brian Schlottmann, Pete DuBois

**Others Present:** Julie Gilbertson, Rich McConaghy

Meeting began at 6:04 pm

**I. Roll Call, Approval of Minutes – February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022 (\*00:00:11)**

- Alan moves to accept
  - Tim seconds
  -  Approved
- Kyle asks if there have been any updates regarding Small Quantity Generators, as presented by Jessica in the Feb. 3 meeting
  - None at the moment, but hoping to be able to present more detail at a future SWAC meeting

**II. Updates (\*00:02:40)**

- [Clark County Public Health – Solid Waste Program](#)
  - Jessica hoping to have more information about
  - Updates sent out in advance
  - Program Manager II position has been offered, and accepted by George Sidles
    - Well known state wide in the Solid Waste industry
      - Previously with the County in early 90's when Environmental Services was still part of Public Works
      - Went to Dept. of Ecology as a Technical Advisor
      - Spent time with Seattle Public Utility, ending in 2015
        - ▶ Managed \$900m budget
    - Managed family estate
      - Retired, but chose to return to work force
    - Expected to start June 1<sup>st</sup>.
    - Plan to set up introduction meetings
  - Program Coordinator position will be recruited next.
    - Have postponed recruitment in order to let new program manager (George) decide that role
    - Sarah Keirns is currently working out of class to fill the need, temporarily
- Clark County Public Health – [Solid Waste Enforcement](#)
  - Updates sent out in advance
  - Quarterly report submitted to Ecology
  - In communications over City of Battle Ground facility permit
    - Will need SWAC review

- West Van MRF lower yard modification permit in process
  - Will need SWAC review
- Have set up online portal to submit reports
  - Have had several submissions, thus far
    - Seems to be doing well
  - Tested by Derek Ranta
    - Received good feedback
- Watley Pit has submitted a finding of clean soils, and no further action, in their Q2 report
  - ! Brian will work with Melissa and Kimberly to get more information to the group
- [City of Vancouver](#)
  - Took over lead of one year contract for Residue Study due to time and staffing constraints
    - Begins May 8<sup>th</sup>
    - Will sample Multi-family materials, and use findings to asses outreach effectiveness
    - In June, will sample both single family materials from City of Vancouver, and materials from unincorporated and Urban Growth areas of the county
    - Expect report to be completed in September
  - Had stalled Neighborhood Clean-up events due to pandemic
    - Resuming this year
      - Have taken time to recalibrate the program to ensure equitability
      - Have also reduced the number of events due to truck and labor resources
        - ▶ ~25 scheduled this year, beginning in March
          - ▷ Four completed, 21 remain
          - ▷ Average of 10 tons per event collected
          - ▷ Events held on Saturdays
  - Spring yard debris and tire coupons sent out in April
    - Will conclude in June
    - Was very helpful after storm created considerable yard debris
- [Waste Connections](#)
  - No representative present

### III. Solid Waste Management Plan Update – Pete DuBois (\*00:17.03)

- Working with consultant to update workplan
- SWMP is required to be updated every five years
- This update is being done as Phase 3 of the Regional System Study
- Last SWAC meeting, Chapter 4 (Moderate Risk Waste Plan) was reviewed
  - Toxic materials are being brought to the transfer stations, and shipped to the landfill
    - Hoping to address this issue, specifically around businesses
- Three chapters are being led by technical consultants
  - Chapter 1 – Introduction
  - Chapter 3 – Transfer station Capital Improvement Plan
    - Transfer stations have not been significantly improved over the past 20 years
  - Chapter 6 – Funding and Financing
    - Will be completed last
- Hoping to present Chapter 2 – Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, at the next meeting
  - This is the education outreach chapter
  - Working with another consultant to get workplans prioritized. Main focuses include:
    - Food waste prevention, rescue, and prevention
    - Contamination within recycling
    - Reducing toxins, and properly managing hazardous waste
- Need to update Interlocal Agreements (ILA) with each city/town within Clark County
  - Serves as flow control document

- Cannot complete plan until ILAs have been completed
- Consultant contract goes through July 2023
  - Likely wrap up in Q3 of 2023
- How will Equity be wrapped into each chapter?
  - We do have a diversity/equity project ongoing at the moment, through our grant from Ecology
  - Public Health, as a whole is working on an equity piece
    - Will bring on a consultant to facilitate conversations, specifically about racial equity
- Organics does not include wood waste and construction/demolition debris

#### IV. Regional System Study Update – Mike Davis (\*00:35:06)

- Continuing to move forward, but progress has been slow
  - Consultant is working on similar negotiations with Columbia Resource Company
    - This has slowed our ability to come through with some bigger ticket items
- Ownership chapter is about ready to come out
  - Will let new manager review prior to SWAC review
- Have received updated scope of work
  - Will get that approved in the next month or two
  - Will need peer review prior to release
- New regional agency is being discussed as part of the planning process
- Do not have an exact timeline of bringing the minimum fee presentation to County Council
  - Brian will be working on scheduling that piece
  - Likely will be unable to have the outreach education portion ready by July 1<sup>st</sup>

#### V. Contract Negotiation Overview – Mollie Mangerich (\*00:45:17)

- Had presented to various cities/towns with interlocal agreements with the county, regarding the current residential recycling contract
  - Met with Public Works directors, directors of administrative services, and other leaders within the cities, and gave them a broad overview of what was to be shared with them
- Will be going through information recently presented to the Town of Yacolt
  - Goals included introducing a summary of the negotiated updates to the contract, taking questions and feedback, and gaining support from Yacolt Town Council
  - Provided brief background of current contract
    - Began in 2009, and set to expire December 31, 2021
      - Currently operating under 6-month extension
      - Hope to have new contract in place July 1, 2022
  - Clark County procures services through Waste Connections, through a contract which the county manages and negotiates
    - Cities and towns have the options to either hold Interlocal Agreements (ILA) with the county and benefit from the contract; or enter into their own contract with a service provider.
  - Current county contract includes multiple aspects of service
    - Curbside collection
      - Various options for size and frequency of collection
    - Outreach and education
    - Customer service
      - Collaboration between Waste Connections, City of Vancouver, and Clark County, for consistent messaging
      - Online services
    - Formal list of recyclable materials
    - Expectations for service vehicles and equipment

- Free recycling collection from county facilities and parks
  - Contract updates include, at no additional cost to rate payers:
    - Every other week recyclables collection in urban services area
      - Route efficiency
      - Reduced impacts to road and air quality
      - Rolled out with automated garbage service
    - Free recycling services for all government facilities and parks
    - Solid Waste Outreach Plan
      - Improved coordination among outreach and education partners
    - Formalize Recycling Advocate positions and funding
      - Identify and reduce contaminants
      - Engage with residents
    - Electric truck pilot
  - Pros to Every Other Week (EOW) service include
    - No price increases
    - Can swap to larger carts at no extra cost
    - Fewer trucks on roads
    - Free recycling collection to government facilities and parks
  - Cons to Weekly Service include
    - Monthly price increase per household
    - New trucks required
    - Tight labor pool
    - Increase average wage rate for CDL drivers
- All communities that have been presented to have had a negative reaction to a switch to EOW service
  - There seemed to be a misunderstanding of reduced service, or believed they were paying for innovation (electric trucks)
  - La Center and Battle Ground are interested in seeking their own contracts
    - Will write an exit clause into the contract
  - County Council unanimously approved
- If contract is not locked in by June 30<sup>th</sup>, will move to a month-to-month contract, which may create a rate increase
- The garbage contract is a separate contract, and will include substantial capital improvement projects
  - Garbage collection services in unincorporated areas is overseen by the Utilities Transportation Commission (UTC), not the county
  - Garbage contract negotiations will be brought before SWAC at a later time
- Sourcing parts for old trucks, or procuring a new truck are both challenging, with long wait times

## VI. Future of SWAC Meetings – Amber McKnight (\*01:21:46)

- Due to COVID-19 pandemic, an emergency proclamation was issued on March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020, which limited in-person gatherings
  - SWAC meetings have been conducted virtually since that time
  - Proclamation is set to expire June 1<sup>st</sup>.
    - SWAC meetings would fall under the [Open Public Meetings Act](#) (OPMA) once again
      - There have been [updates](#) to the OPMA during that time
- New OPMA language would require public meetings to be held in a physical location where the public can attend
  - It is encouraged, but not required, that a remote option be provided
- The OPMA now specifically permits members of the governing body to attend meetings remotely

- While the meeting must be held in a physical location and must allow the public to attend in-person, any or all members can choose to attend the meeting remotely.
- ○ Beginning June 1<sup>st</sup> all public SWAC meetings will be held in a hybrid format
  - A conference room at the Public Health building will be made available
    - ! Will look into options for video feed of conference room
  - A link will be provided to attend the meeting remotely
  - Both options will be made available to SWAC members and the public
- 💡 Suggestion of an air cleaner/purifier for physical location

## VII. Other Business (\*01:27:49)

- Mike Mulligan has been looking into plastics recycling
  - [Associate Professor Hongfei Lin](#), from WASU, Pullman, has found a way to convert 90% waste plastics into jet fuel
    - Has extended an invitation to visit his lab and have a discussion of his process
  - Has been in contact with [Pellerin Milnor](#), in Kenner, Louisiana
    - Has developed technology to separate pulp, aluminum, and other byproducts from aseptic packaging
  - Would like to be able to have various industry personnel present at future meetings
- Alan attended a workshop put on by Sarah Keirns, on “Nothing Goes Away”
  - Spoke about proper recycling and cart tagging
  - Next workshop on May 11<sup>th</sup>, centering on Hazardous Waste
- Kim suggests Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programs for plastics
  - WA lawmakers took up potential legislation to look at EPR around household recycling
    - Did not pass
    - Perhaps this could be a future SWAC topic
- Ridgefield Clean-up event went well
  - ~175 residents dropped off hazardous waste
  - ~300 attended event in total
  - Does not have a report on numbers yet, but appeared to be in line with previous years
- Simone has been hearing issues of bin placement, and wonders if there is a possibility for messaging to the public regarding placement on pick-up days
  - Julie will share CoV messaging with the county
- Block foam markets have tanked, and collection has been paused
  - Lost a local processor, in Earth Friendly Recycling, as it was not feasible from a cost/benefit standpoint
  - Also trying to be thoughtful with upcoming state ban on plastic foam
  - Plastic film recycling is still available for public drop-off at all three transfer stations

## VIII. Public Comment

- None

This meeting was adjourned at 7:47 pm

Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022

*\* These times correlate to the time each agenda item is addressed in the recorded audio file of this meeting. Meetings are recorded for compliance with the Washington State Open Public Meetings Act, RCW 42.30*