

Clark County
Solid Waste Advisory Commission
Special Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 6, 2022
6:00 - 8:00pm
Hybrid Meeting on Zoom, and at
Clark County Center for Community Health

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

SWAC Members Excused: Reuben Greer,


SWAC Members Unexcused:

Staff Present: George Sidles, Mollie Mangerich, Pete DuBois, Kimberly Walker-Norton, Amber McKnight,

Others Present: Doug Drennen, Sarah Keirns, Henry Canafax

Meeting began at 6:04 pm

I. Roll Call, Approval of Minutes – September 22, 2022 (*00:00:06)

- ☒ Allan motions to approve
 - Michael seconds
 -  Approved

II. Ch 4: Construction & Demolition (Continuation) – Jessica Fischberg (*00:01:34)

- Jessica unable to attend, unexpectedly
 - Will reschedule for another meeting

III. Ch 3: Operations & Existing Conditions – Doug Drennen, JRMA (*00:01:43)

Background

- Have been doing regional system study for the past two years
- Have done full assessments of both operational and physical conditions of the facilities
- Have updated data to consider latest information
- 20-year agreement with Columbia Resource Company (CRC) signed in 1990
 - Purpose is to provide service to transport and dispose of waste as well as own and operate transfer stations
- New contract signed in 2006, with 10-year term, and two extensions
 - Included new East County Transfer station, which opened in 2009
 - Install and upgrade equipment at West Van
 - First extension enacted from 2016-2021
 - Make certain improvements to CTR, including entrance
 - County notified CRC of intent to extend contract beyond 2026
 - Began negotiations and developed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
 - Extended for another year at City of Vancouver's (CoV) request to provide more time to facilitate long-term contract
 - Second 5-year extension to 12/31/2027
 - County has option to purchase each transfer station for \$1.00, with notification to CRC by 01/2028
 - City of Washougal has option to purchase Washougal Transfer station, with payment of remaining amortized value
 - Full depreciation expected in 2029
- County currently in negotiations for new operating contract
 - There has not been an RFP since 1990

Overview

- Since the first transfer stations opened in 1992, county's population has increased by 105%
 - From 1993-2021 county's disposal of waste has increased from 173k to +400k with no significant improvements to transfer stations
 - 2020 census described Clark County as the fastest growing county in the state
 - ◻ Most growth is expected in North County
- West Vancouver Materials Recovery Center
 - Serves greater Vancouver area
 - 21+ acres in Port of Vancouver
 - Back area is limited in use
 - Waste taken to Finley Buttes
 - Yard debris is taken to Dirt Huggers
 - Receives ~30% of all waste generated in county
 - Averages 400-425 tons of waste daily
 - Open to self-haul 6 days a week
 - HHW on weekends
 - Not enough space to continue to handle public traffic
 - Currently looking to relocate MRF
 - Over a 6-year period
 - Waste received increased 14%
 - Number of trips has increased by 53%
 - Commercial trips averages about 100 trips per day
 - Cash haul trips increased 65%
 - Serves as primary facility to process comingled recyclable materials in the county
 - CRC expanded processing line with additional materials in 2008
 - Equipment is outdated
 - Summary of existing conditions
 - In fair condition with some damage to some internal columns
 - Other support structures are in fair to good condition, but need updating
 - More space is needed to handle organics in the future
 - Traffic frequently backs up
 - More stalls are needed for unloading
 - ◻ New commercial scale should help
 - If MRF is relocated, 45k square feet of existing structure can be repurposed
 - Currently a new master plan is being prepared
 - ◻ Will identify improvements and capital needed
- Washougal Transfer station
 - ~4 acres in Port of Washougal
 - Waste taken to Wasco landfill
 - Serves Camas, Washougal, and east Vancouver
 - Serves public three days per week
 - Receives ~ 125-135 tons per day
 - Increased from 110 in 2016
 - Waste is transported to Wasco County
 - Over a 6-year period,
 - Waste received has increased from 31k to 38k (23%)
 - Trips have increased 77%
 - Commercial averages 25-30 trips per day
 - Cash/haul average 190 trips per day
 - Summary of current conditions
 - Fair to good
 - Facility not large enough to store materials at times

- Not enough stalls available for vehicles to unload
 - Will need to expand to handle more traffic and current waste, and manage future growth
 - Phase 2 RSS will prepare a plan for expansion
 - Receives 5-10% of all waste generated in county
 - There is a proposal to extend operating hours at both Washougal and West Van
- Central Transfer Station
 - Slightly over 5 acres in Brush Prairie
 - Serves largest area of county
 - Open to public 7 days a week
 - Only facility open on Sundays
 - Receives between 800-1,100 tons of waste per day (66% of county's waste)
 - Can receive more than 800 trips per day
 - Over a 6-year period
 - Waste has increased from 214k to 251k (17%)
 - Number of trips has increased 24%
 - Traffic has been an issue for years
 - New turn lane has improved traffic somewhat, but still have concerns of cross traffic
 - More work to be done
 - Right-turn out, only
 - Not enough stalls
 - Current conditions
 - No major improvements since 1992
 - Well maintained and in good condition
 - Facility needs to be expanded to operate more efficiently, and manage growth
- All facilities
 - Population has doubled since West Van and CTR opened in 1992
 - Waste disposal has increased 167%
 - Main structures seem to be in good conditions
 - No major improvements or expansions since built
 - Each facility is receiving more waste than was intended
 - Will be completing a CIP for these facilities, as part of the Regional Systems Study

Discussions

- What kind of expansion can be expected for CTR?
 - 3-4 options have been developed, including
 - Facility could be expanded with a zoning change
 - New location
 - When will the decision be made?
 - Negotiations include a capital improvement plan (CIP)
 - Hope to be able to close negotiations and share the information
- If more curbside service is provided, would that reduce the pressure on the facilities?
 - Each service is contracted separately
 - Limiting factor in collection services is the transfer element
 - All require consolidation before moving to another destination
- Can Dirt Huggers continue to keep up with our supply?
 - They have the space, just need additional financing to build proper structures
- CIP has a preliminary schedule
 - Somethings can be moved around a bit
 - There will be an opportunity to prioritize
- CRC has been able to adapt and operate the facilities, though not without stress
- Is there an aspect of the long-term plan that is targeting market opportunities for a higher return?
 - Always trying to do better, but cannot talk about it much at this point (due to negotiations)

- Recycling markets were significantly disrupted in 2016, with the onset of China Sword
 - Paper and fiber markets in the US are getting better
 - Market prices fluctuate on a regular basis
- Are there any other facilities you might be able to recommend as a model transfer station facility?
 - City of Tacoma has rebuilt their facility, and has neighborhoods nearby
 - Seattle south is in an industrial area, but has residential areas nearby
 - Seattle North is right in a high-end residential area
 - 💡 Kim suggests a tour of both North and South Seattle transfer stations, to see potential possibilities
- Are we looking at building capacity for the possibility of disaster damaging, or closing one of the facilities?
 - Resiliency and transparency are central to the negotiations

IV. Public Comment/Other Business (*01:27:22)

- This is Allan Jeska's last meeting, as he is stepping down from his role in SWAC

This meeting was adjourned at 7:33 pm

Next Regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 3, 2022

Next Special meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 1, 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*