

Clark County
Solid Waste Advisory Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 3, 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, Kim Harless, Mike Mulligan, Reuben Greer,

SWAC Members Excused:


SWAC Members Unexcused: Joe Zimmerman

Staff Present: Brian Schlottmann, Mollie Mangerich, Amber McKnight, Sarah Keirns, Tina Kendal, Pete DuBois, Jessica Fischberg

Others Present: Julie Gilbertson (CoV), Laura Busby (DoE), Mary Ann Hurley, Liz Erickson

Meeting began at 6:00 pm

I. Roll Call, Approval of Minutes – October 6, 2022 (*00:00:56)

- ☒ Reuben motions to approve
 - Mike Seconds
 - Not enough votes to approve
- Revisited this issue at the end of the meeting (*01:28:51)
 - ☒ Reuben motions to approve
 - Derek seconds
 -  Approved

II. Updates (*00:02:47)

- [Clark County Public Health – Solid Waste Program](#)
 - Sent out in advance
 - Brian Schlottmann will be stepping in as interim manager for the Solid Waste program
- Clark County Public Health – [Solid Waste Enforcement](#)
 - Sent out in advance
 - Melissa notes both CRC and West Van were immaculate since issues at their previous inspections
 - Mike notes that several people in the Salmon Creek area that were upset at the transition to Every Other Week (EOW) service, with no rate adjustment to reflect it
 - Many people trying to contact County Council directly
 - Simone echoes the comment for La Center and other small towns
 - Brian states County Council has heard complaints, and has reached out to him
 - Brian explains the reasoning behind change
 - Wages and cost of business have gone up, but recycling revenue has gone down
 - Keep current service with a 40% rate increase; or move to EOW, with no rate increase
 - ▶ Presented to Battle Ground, La Center, and Yacolt
 - ▷ La Center & Yacolt elected EOW service, to prevent rate increase
 - ▷ Battle Ground chose to keep weekly service, and has recently received 40% rate increase
 - Clients can request larger and or additional carts at no extra cost
 - Communication was sent out by Waste Connections to all service areas affected
 - ▶ More info can be found on Waste Connections' [Service Change FAQ](#) page

- [City of Vancouver](#)
 - Doing annual rate setting process
 - Will be before council next week
 - Residential/commercial/multi-family rates may vary
 - Typical customer may see a 6.6% increase
 - Neighborhood cleanup programs had been impacted by the pandemic, but have resumed
 - Serve more than 60 neighborhood associations
 - Curbside bulky waste is slated to continue in 2023
 - Wrapping up assessment of multi-family newly built buildings and county/city codes for waste collection
 - Hoping to share report at next Regular SWAC meeting
- [Waste Connections](#)
 - Have rolled out automated garbage carts to various parts of the county, in August
 - Fairly successful. Most clients happy with it
 - Re-routed large chunk of UGA in order to re-balance growth
 - Service dates changed for several areas
 - Still need to automate single family homes in unincorporated area
 - Will likely happen in spring 2023
 - Working on 2023 rates
 - Most tied with Consumer Price Index (CPI)
 - CPI went up significantly
 - Adding another scale at West Van to handle incoming traffic
 - Commodities are at record lows at the moment
 - Recycling exceeds the cost of garbage at the moment
 - Expect costs to be low through the rest of the year

III. SWMP Ch 2: Education and Outreach – Sarah Keirns (*00:28:19)

- Team has 6 positions to spread messaging on waste prevention, green living, proper disposal, etc.
 - Currently only 5 positions are filled
- Several projects coming up will be dealing with Food Waste and Organics Management
 - These will be discussed at a later time
- The system operates better when people know how to properly use it
 - Increased understanding of the system and proper disposal
 - Including upstream impacts of materials
- The messaging is similar within each program, but is tailored to each specific audience
- One way to refine methods and reach audiences is by listening
 - All workshops and events ask for feedback from the community to find out how they learned about it
 - Internally referred to as “How’d you Hear?”
- Peer to Peer learning offers a chance for networking
 - Composter Recycler “Train the Trainer” program is a good example
- [Composter Recycler](#) is a “Train the Trainer” volunteer program
 - Various topics including:
 - Composting techniques included in SWMP Chapter 4
 - Green Cleaning
 - Waste Prevention
 - Food Waste Prevention
 - After completing the workshop classes, attendants volunteer hours by representing our programs at community events,
 - Help others learn about topics they have been trained in
 - Twice annual Weekly workshops, open to general public
 - Attendees and registrants have been at record highs!

- Demonstration sites
- [Green Business](#) includes higher education, nonprofit, government organizations, and businesses
 - Certification program that covers various environmental areas through an assessment
 - Good for three years, then needs re-certification
 - Designed to encourage organizational change and continuous improvement
 - Requires a “Green Team” to provide ongoing, internal drive
 - Workshops & presentations
 - Morning Blend is a monthly peer-to-peer networking event
 - Waste reduction and recycling assistance and resources
 - Program has been largely dormant in 2022 due to staffing shortage
- [Green Neighbors](#) provides education and outreach for our residents
 - Sort of an environmental hob of resources
 - Recycling information
 - Blog feature promotes emerging topics
 - Community engagement programs include
 - Annual WasteBusters challenge
 - Pacific Park Demonstration Gardens
 - Toxics reduction in gardening education includes Natural Garden Tour, and Backyard Habitat Certification Program
- [Green Schools](#) provides resources and support for schools and their operational waste prevention
 - Provides education to students, K-12 in public, and private schools, including
 - Share tables
 - Sort tables – stations for students to properly sort lunch waste
 - Partnership with statewide certification program [EarthGen](#)
 - Clark County is one of the most successful counties for school certification
 - Over 70 schools certified
 - ▶ Many with multiple certification categories
 - Certification categories include
 - Waste & Recycling
 - Energy Healthy School Buildings
 - School Grounds & Gardens
 - Transportation
 - Water
- Also promote statewide programs for proper waste disposal
 - [E-Cycle Washington](#)
 - [Light Recycle](#)
 - [PaintCare](#)
 - Medication Take Back programs through [Med-Project](#) and [Inmar](#)
- Hoping to include Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in future outreach
 - Have been translating several materials and trainings into various languages
 - Moving forward with hiring consultant for Equity & Environmental Justice
- Goal to develop satellite battery collection program
 - Once in place, outreach team will promote heavily

Discussion

- Kim: What happened to [Recycled Arts Festival](#)
 - Will no longer be part of our programing, as it is beyond our ability at the moment
 - Is there the possibility of someone else hosting it?
 - Hope to continue creative reuse in programs, but no current answer for RAF hosting
- Derek: The presence of lithium ion batteries during collection, and at the MRF is a challenge for Waste Connections. They impact equipment and health and welfare of the employees, so anything to promote proper disposal is welcomed!

- Mike: Are any certified businesses heavy users of hazardous waste, and do they have any creative solutions that could be shared?
 - [WaferTech](#) has developed several programs and process improvements, to reduce waste over time: including product substitution, for less toxic materials
- Reuben: A lot of companies that are large quantity generators of hazardous waste are required to produce pollution prevention plans that track annual waste generation, reduction, methods, and strategies
 - Does this program work in tandem with that level of regulation?
 - Reduction is not a requirement to become certified. It's really about maintaining best practices, as the businesses already know they are required to follow certain standards
 - Small quantities are more difficult to work with, because they are not always aware of the regulations
- Kyle: What types of new state initiatives would tie into Green Business Certification?
 - HB1799 will affect businesses composting and preventing food waste
 - Things like single use utensils and the plastic bag ban modified requirements for retail
 - The requirements of the program are in line with emerging topics, state initiatives, take back programs, etc.
- Simone: How do the program requirements compare with other municipalities
 - There is a statewide green business certification program, called [EnviroStars](#), which provides sector specific recommendations and best practices. W look to informally align with that program
 - Portland Metro/Tri County area has various city/county green business certification programs that we review, follow, lead, and look for different ideas
 - Regulatory requirements may vary between states, but there are a lot of similarities in moving an organization towards operational changes and policy adjustments.

IV. SWMP Ch 2: CROP – Tina Kendall (*01:03:19)

- Purpose is to reduce contamination found in single family multifamily drop-box and commercial recycling programs
- On May 6, 2021, SWAC members recommended inclusion of a CROP template, to be amended into the 2015 SWMP, with the expectation that it would be updated, in the following SWMP, with specific information about our programs
- Current CROP includes 10 elements but must include
 - List of actions to reduce contamination in existing recycling programs
 - Key contaminants identified by jurisdiction of Ecology
 - Discussion of problem contaminants and their impact
 - Analysis of costs and other impacts on the recycling system from contamination
 - Implementation schedule and details on conducting outreach
- Background & existing conditions
 - Several ongoing activities to promote community engagement
 - Recent Social media campaigns include
 - Turn your Recycling Loose
 - 1.5mil impressions
 - 1,447 click through to website
 - To-Go Cups
 - 24,856 through Facebook & Instagram
 - 528 click through to website
- Key contaminants vs problematic contaminants
 - Number one for both lists was plastic bags and wraps
 - Aware of lithium ion batteries being a top problem in our area

- Recommendations include
 - Prioritization of single family, multifamily recycling programs
 - Develop SF and MF content about top contaminants
 - Conduct annual Residual Study analysis
 - Translate/trans create educational materials for SF/MF campaigns
 - SF/MF contamination reduction messages for textiles and other “tangler” items
 - Assess recycling depot signage for clarity and consistency
 - Review new markets for stability
 - Conduct waste characterization study
- Kyle: With recycling commodity market changing so rapidly, how do we determine when a new item is added to the accepted recyclable list? For example, King County allows paper cups in their stream, but we don’t. I would think we have access to similar markets.
 - Markets fluctuate on a consistent basis
 - Difficult to put something on the accepted materials list, to then have to remove it again
 - Julie: Some municipalities, like Vancouver, have a list of accepted materials in their collection contract
- Reuben: It is critical to get people educated on what they can and cannot recycle. May want to consider a mailer of what and why not. Is the educational campaign mostly focused on digital media?
 - We do put out ads in the Columbian newspaper, monthly
 - We are certainly open to new things/ideas
 - We did do a few TV spots that were seen by the general public
 - Fall mailer recycle guide goes out on an annual basis, including top contaminants
 - Hope to survey the public regarding the mailer
- Kyle: How do we keep plastic bags out of recycling? If you could solve this, you would be a true hero
 - Hopefully seeing less bags with the introduction of the plastic bag ban

V. Public Comment (*01:30:13)

- Laura from Ecology notes:
 - The next [State SWAC](#) is 11/09, from 9:30 – 11:15
 - HB1799 focus documentation is now available
 - [Business Collection Requirements](#)
 - [Compost Procurement Ordinances and Reporting](#)
 - Box library has [commodity market information](#) that is updated every two months

This meeting was adjourned at 7:32 pm

Next Special meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 1, 2022

Next Regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 2, 2023

** 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*