

Clark County
Solid Waste Advisory Commission
Special Meeting Minutes
Thursday, December 1, 2022
6:00 - 8:00pm
Hybrid Meeting on Zoom, and at
Clark County Center for Community Health

SWAC Members Present: Tim Kraft, Simone Auger, Derek Ranta, Joe Zimmerman, Reuben Greer, Mike Mulligan,

SWAC Members Excused: Kyle Potter, Kim Harless,

SWAC Members Unexcused: Jason Presser,

Staff Present: Brian Schlottmann, Mike Davis, Mollie Mangerich, Amber McKnight, Jessica Fischberg, Pete DuBois

Others Present: Julie Gilbertson (CoV), Laura Busby (DoE), Doug Drennen (JRMA),

Meeting began at 6:07 pm

I. Roll Call, Approval of Minutes – November 3, 2022 (*00:00:05)

- Date on previous minutes reads November 1 but should read November 3.
 - ! Amber will fix prior to posting.
- Mike motions to approve minutes with above amendment
 - Joe seconds
 - 🟢 Approved

II. SWMP Ch 4: Construction & Demolition (recap/conclusion) – Jessica Fischberg (*00:01:17)

- By weight, 24% (~1.3 million tons) of landfilled waste in Washington is construction materials and wood debris
 - Contributing factors include
 - Limited markets
 - Compliance issues
 - Recycling is not a priority
 - Barriers to self-haul
 - Toxics such as asbestos, PCBs, lead, treated woods, etc.
- Options include
 - Policy (high risk/high reward)
 - Prohibiting disposal of specific C&D materials as garbage
 - Bring larger C&D recyclers to Clark County
 - Direct C&D waste to designated recycling facilities
 - Research & Development (slower, more thought out, but may come to the same conclusion)
 - Research internal solutions (existing contracts and system)
 - Build solutions into future infrastructure development
 - Include in next SWMP update
- Tim – Are there already restrictions in place for public projects, such as buildings and roadways?
 - Only hazardous waste
- Mike – What can we do to broaden our awareness of the research portion?
 - Much will be internal discussions between County, City of Vancouver, and Waste Connections
 - Mike – King County recently signed an agreement with University of Washington for asphalt recycling
- Tim – Are there any other counties that we may be able to learn from? Is Ecology proposing any changes yet?

- Organics bill requirement of clean wood waste
- Reuben – how much information sharing can/has happened with other counties who have had this problem, or implemented policies? Any chance of learning from others?
 - King County is a driving force in the state for C&D recycling, at the moment, and is willing to share their information
- Tim – Do federally funded projects require any recycling of these materials?
 - There are some requirements, such as schools being built are subject to green standards, so federally funded projects might have similar requirements
 - Laura is happy to provide link to Box Library, which has a lot of background and information on C&D and a lot of other things from other counties
 - <https://app.box.com/s/r6jdrswnwbchuo9kme3qa4gdf2uawhfk>
 - King County may be so unique because they own the landfill in their area and have a public interest in assuring certain materials don't end up in the landfill, thereby potentially extending the life of the landfill
- Tim - What is the motivation to do the research on this now, instead of the policy?
 - Would like to have an impact on this material stream
 - Still a lot of work to be done with other materials as well
 - Would probably be at least three years
 - Research would be ready by the time of the next SWMP update
- Mike – is there any connection in Olympia that could help in researching these materials
 - Not at the moment – no talk of this waste stream
- Mike – Is there anything SWAC can do to assist in the research?
 - There may be some potential in that
 - Mike is willing to help with research if needed
 - If the group decides this is a bigger issue than it has been in the past, that would help guide a workplan and our program
 - Laura and Ecology can be of help in this matter as well.
- Brian – County would like to keep this moving. Will be beginning to plan next grant cycle, and this may fit in.
- Reuben – What percent of reduction would be the target, and do we have the existing capacity to handle that; and if not, how do we get it?
 - May compare to King County - ~40% of the materials that were landfilled seems to be fairly consistent
 - Derek – There is always opportunities to do smaller quantities within current infrastructure.
 - Perhaps designate some space on the current tipping floors
 - Logistics may be a challenge
 - Markets for the materials may be a challenge
- Jessica plans to include internal research and development in the SWMP chapter
 - Will include information about policy

III. SWMP Ch 3: Operations: Needs & Opportunities – JRMA (*00:44:32)

- Have previously shared an overview of the existing conditions of the county transfer stations
 - Tonight, will share a summary of needs and opportunities for the facilities
- CTR and West Van opened in 1992/1993. Since that time:
 - County population has doubled
 - Waste disposed has increased 167%, from 173,000 tpy to 419,000 tpy in 2021
 - There have been no major improvements to the facilities
- By 2040, county's population is expected to grow by 43%, from 503,000 to 720,000 citizens
 - Waste generated is expected to increase by 30%, from 401,000 to 520,000 tons per year
 - Growth Projections indicate most new population would wind up at CTR

- Each transfer station receives more traffic and waste than its intended design capacity
- Intent is to provide space for new services and future operations, if MRF at West Van is relocated

West Van Material Recovery Center

- Overview
 - Serves greater Vancouver area
 - Located on 21+ acres in Port of Vancouver
 - Receives ~30% of county waste
 - Averages 400-425 tons per day
 - Open for self-haul every day except Sunday
 - Offers recycle & HHW drop off
 - Serves as only MRF for processing comingled recyclables from residential and commercial customers
 - Averages 250 tons of recyclables per day
- Existing Conditions
 - Fair condition with some damage to internal columns
 - Support structures need updating
 - More space needed for organics in the future
 - New commercial scale installed to help traffic flow
 - New master plan will identify improvements and capital needed
- Immediate needs include
 - Reducing traffic congestion
 - Increase operational space to manage growth
 - Provide sufficient stalls for customers to unload
 - Space to receive mixed organics
 - Need second compactor for backup
 - Capability to efficiently top load materials
 - Upgrade/replace staff facilities
- Opportunities include
 - Improve recycling and HHW drop-offs
 - Demo outdated/obsolete structures to provide better circulation and improve operational efficiency
 - Repurpose ~45k square feet of existing building vacated by MRF operations
 - Expand transfer stations operations
 - Provide facilities for processing C&D waste
 - Provide facilities for managing organics debris and wood waste
 - Provide space for new services and facilities
 - Replace existing equipment with most advanced technologies
 - Potential to increase material processing from ~15 to ~30-40 tons per hour
 - New location will open up 45k square feet at West Van for new services
 - Central location may result in more efficient collection of materials
 - If MRF is not relocated, space could be expanded by removing some outbuildings and water tank

Washougal Transfer Station

- Overview
 - Serves Camas, Washougal, and eastern part of county
 - Located on 4.6 acres
 - Receives average of 125-135 tons per day
 - Only open to self-haul Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday
- Needs and opportunities include
 - Expand transfer station building – more stalls and increased space for operations

- Provide sufficient stalls for customers to unload
- Improve site circulation and enhance safe operations
- Minimize potential for off site queue onto public roads

Central Transfer Station

- Overview
 - Serves largest area within county
 - Located on 5+ acre site
 - Open 7 days a week
 - Receives 66% of county waste (between 100-1,100 tons per day)
 - Periodically receives 800+ vehicle trips per day
- Existing conditions
 - Well maintained and in good condition
 - Completed entrance/exit improvements
 - Additional improvements still needed to eliminate queuing onto 503
 - Facility needs to be expanded to efficiently operate under existing conditions and manage growth in service area
- Immediate needs include:
 - Increase scale capacity for both inbound and outbound transactions
 - Increase queue lanes capacity
 - Improve site circulation and enhance safe operations
- Long term options include:
 - Expand building at current site
 - Build new transfer station to serve the area

Discussion

- Mike – if 4th facility is built between Battle Ground & Ridgefield, is there a percentage of pressure from CTR that is projected to move to that site?
 - It would relieve some traffic, but would have to do some studies to find an answer
- Tim – Have any studies been done to determine where the clients are coming from?
 - Nothing scientific, only zip code studies, which seem to indicate Brush Prairie and Battle Ground
- Derek – One thing that can be done right away is to raise the minimum tip fee, which could alleviate a lot of the traffic issues
 - Could find no data to prove this theory, but common sense seems to agree
 - Need to get approval from County Council
 - Expect that to be part of a package to be presented next year
- ? Doug – Think about the facility needs as you plan the next chapters
- Tim – is there current work going on in terms of evaluating capital needs?
 - A conditional assessment was completed in the Phase 1 Report
 - Then developed concept plans and preliminary costs
 - Will be fleshing out the master plan in more detail in the next few months

IV. Public Comment (*01:26:55)

- None

V. Other Business (*01:27:17)

- Ecology received change from Attorney General regarding the Compost Ordinance, saying joint ordinances are no longer allowed under law
 - Strongly encouraging cities and counties to collaborate to match up
 - [Compost Procurement Focus Sheet \(wa.gov\)](#)
 - [Organics Management - Business Collection Requirements \(wa.gov\)](#)
 - [MRSC - New Law Requires Compost Procurement Ordinances by January 1](#)

- [MRSC](#) is an organization that is able to provide free assistance to government agencies
- US EPA announces funding through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (Bil). \$100 million will be available in grants for recycling infrastructure and recycling education and outreach projects.
 - [The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law: Transforming U.S. Recycling and Waste Management | US EPA](#)
- Recycling and Education grant money available
- MOA on garbage contract negotiations is underway
 - Hopefully signed by early next week

The following information was provided in separate emails

- Jessica recommends attending a webinar on Extended Producer Responsibility for Lithium Batteries, on February 28th
 - <https://nahmma.org/meet-reg1.php?id=127>
 - If you do not have an account with NAHMMA, you may register as a guest
- Markets for most commodities have declined dramatically in recent months. Ecology regularly updates PNW market data for plastics, fiber, metal, and glass and post the data in the BOX library at least every two months:
 - [Commodity Prices 10-7-2022.pdf | Powered by Box](#)
- BYOBag Campaign – Ecology has launched a media campaign to promote reusing carryout bags (especially targeted at the holidays). It has a simple message: Save money, reduce waste, bring your own bag! You can utilize the [Bag ban toolkit - Washington State Department of Ecology](#) materials and photos. Feel free to modify for your social and other media needs. (See the bag in my signature, below!)
- Paintcare has produced some YouTube videos that explain the program well. You can post and share these to promote the program in your area. (See the bag in my signature, below!)
 - [About PaintCare - YouTube](#)
 - [What happens to the leftover paint collected at PaintCare sites? - YouTube](#)

This meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm

Next Special meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 5, 2023

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*