

**Clark County**  
**Solid Waste Advisory Commission**  
**Special Meeting Minutes**  
Thursday, April 6, 2023  
6:00 - 8:00pm  
Virtual Meeting on Zoom

**SWAC Members Present:** Jason Presser, Joe Zimmerman, Simone Auger, Derek Ranta, Kim Harless, Mike Mulligan, Reuben Greer, Gabe Fauvelle

**SWAC Members Excused:** Kyle Potter


**SWAC Members Unexcused:** Tim Kraft

**Staff Present:** Joelle Loescher, Mike Davis, Mollie Mangerich, Amber McKnight, Dr. Alan Melnick, Sarah Keirns, Jessica Fischberg, Pete DuBois, Tina Kendall, Celina Montgomery

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

Meeting began at 6:02 pm



**I. Roll Call, Approval of Minutes – February 2, 2023 (\*00:00:22)**

- Motion to approve by Joe
  - Seconded by Mike
  -  Approved

**II. Roles & Responsibilities/Organizational Structure (\*00:01:17)**

- Chair: Jason Presser
- Vice Chair: Joe Zimmerman
- SWAC Members
  - Expectations
    - Keep comments to subject at hand
  - Roles & Responsibilities
    - Advise on issues presented
    - Not to dictate or set policies for County
      - County to provide administrative support
- New SWAC member, Gabe Fauvelle
  - Lived in Clark County most of his life
  - Has run hauling districts and MRFs for several large companies
    - Including Waste Connections and West Rock
  - Currently Director of Operations for CTI
    - Runs recycling and sales of plastic containers
    - Runs multiple plants on West Coast
  - Has a lot of specialized knowledge he wishes to use to help the county he grew up in
- Dr. Alan Melnick: Public Health Director/Health Officer
  - Has been around for quite some time
- Joelle Loescher, Interim Solid Waste Operations Program Manager
  - Has been working with Public Health and the Solid Waste program for about 5 years
- Sarah Keirns, Interim Solid Waste Environmental Outreach Program Manager
  - Working with Clark County Solid Waste since 2012
    - Lots of experience with Environmental Outreach programs
- Amber McKnight: Program Assistant

### III. SWAC Bylaws (\*00:05:32)


-  Need to be approved by June 1<sup>st</sup> meeting
- Have been sent out in advance
-  Please review and comment, and prepare for May discussion
- Final vote and approval at June meeting

### IV. Clark County Website/Public Comment (\*00:06:15)

- [Solid Waste Management Plan webpage](#) has been updated to include 2023 SWMP update drafts
- Public comment form provides ability to capture public comment on SWMP drafts


### V. SWMP Ch 2: Education & Outreach – Tina Kendall/Sarah Keirns (\*00:06:56)

- Previously presented November 3, 2022
- These outreach programs are used to reach the community about
  - Behavior change
  - Toxics reduction and green cleaning
  - Visits to schools and businesses
- Each outreach program includes
  - Individual websites
  - Monthly newsletters
  - Workshops
  - Events
  - Demonstrations
- Recommendations include:
  - Continue to offer information to the public
  - Continue to work toward behavior change in the community
  - Conduct outreach that focuses on newer programs, such as
    - Battery collection
    - Meds take back
  - Incorporate findings from Equity & Environmental Justice Plan
- CROP is to reduce recycling contamination in residential, drop box, and commercial recycling programs
  - A simple version of this CROP was amended into the 2015 SWMP
    - Some information will be the same
  - Have updated to include current state of recycling programs, ongoing strategies, needs & opportunities
  - Recommendations include
    - Publicize top contaminants to residents through various outlets
    - Process recycling from the City of Vancouver, Urban Growth Areas, multifamily and rural/Ridgefield routes to analyze contamination
    - Conduct waste characterization study of all materials collected
    - Determine target audience to prioritize amongst single-family, multifamily, commercial and drop boxes.
    - Assess recycling signage for clarity and consistency at transfer stations
    - Review new markets and determine if new items need to be added to the accepted list of recyclables.
    - Spread recycling messaging to populations where English may not be the first language.
    - Provide contamination outreach about items that can easily get caught in recycling machinery.
- Kim – What is the timeline for SWMP update review and approval?
  - Updated materials presented to SWAC for feedback and approval


- Draft of complete SWMP update due to Ecology by the end of June
- Will likely be speaking with County Council over the summer
- Draft materials now available on [SWMP webpage](#), along with Public Comment option
- Mike – What is the level of cooperation/integration of message through school system?
  - Green Schools program is very active in public and private schools in the county
    - Partners with [EarthGen](#), a statewide Green School certification program
      - Various certifications for various levels of engagement
    - Cafeteria support to divert food scraps from landfill, and teach recycling
    - Classroom presentations
      - Connecting with science curriculum
      - Worm bins offered to younger students
  - Partners with Waste Connections educators for school support
    - County staff and Waste Connections educators are constantly in classrooms to offer education, and support student growth
      - Leadership development
      - Take on environmental projects
      - Problem solving
- Motion to approve by Mike
  - Seconded by Joe
  -  Approved

#### VI. SWMP Ch 4: Organics Management – Pete DuBois (\*00:19:49)

- Previously presented September 22, 2022
- HB 1799, formalized as [Organics Management Law](#)
  - Reduce food and organics waste to land fill 75% by 2030
- Recommendations include
  - Conduct outreach campaigns to prevent food waste
  - Reduce food waste at schools through share tables, portion control, composting
  - Provide technical assistance, waste audits, incentives for businesses to prevent food waste, compost, increase food donations
  - Research commercial business food donation and waste diversion
  - Waste measurement and tracking, planning, and portioning at restaurants and foodservice businesses
  - Conduct outreach & education related to value of compost, curbside organics
    - Launch county-wide campaign with expansion of program
  - Expand food waste collection at multifamily properties
  - Seek grant opportunities to support bioconversion facilities
  - Provide technical assistance, funding & equipment to expand Congregation to Compost
    - Extend to schools and other community collection sites
  - Backyard composting education, funding, and equipment
  - Issue RFP to expand curbside organics program
  - Expand local food waste processing infrastructure
- Reuben – Regarding food service establishments, is there a focus where the education would be directed to, based on where it might be most effective?
  - Proactive outreach is directed toward locally owned food service establishments
  - Program has been on hold for past year due to staff shortage
- Laura has provided a couple of relevant links
  - [Business Organics Management focus sheet](#)
  - [RCW 69.80.031](#) - Good Samaritan Food Donation Act
- Derek – How will you measure the organic disposal amounts, to determine if above/below 8 yards?

- Currently unknown. Laura will look into that on the Ecology side of things
- Derek – what is the estimated percentage of organic waste in the waste stream?
  - Based on overall Clark County tons disposed in landfill
    - ~20k tons of vegetative food waste
    - ~20% is food waste only
- Joe – What is the baseline of the 75% reduction?
  - Based on 2015 disposal levels
- Motion to approve by Joe
  - Seconded by Mike
  -  Approved

## VII. SWMP Ch 5: Construction and Demolition – Jessica Fischberg (\*00:47:32)

- Waste stream is made up of bulky and/or hazardous materials
  - Lumber, drywall, siding
  - Asbestos, lead, PCV
- Not many options for material diversion
  - Not much infrastructure to recycle
  - Not many recycling markets
- Makes up a large portion of landfill waste
  - 2020-2021 WA state Waste Study found C&D made up ~24% of materials headed to landfill
    - Much of that was from the commercial industry
- Recommendations include
  - Research C&D waste management solutions
    - Infrastructure solutions
    - Reuse
    - Reduction incentives
    - Work to align with local climate actions/goals
    - Through 2028, to allow for enough time to take on such a large material stream
  - Publish new toolkit identifying recycling options for C&D waste that currently exist in the area
    - Difficult to find information all in one guide
    - Distribute to contractors
    - Make available online
- Kyle would like to see a more aggressive timeline, but understands the need to do this right, instead of just quickly
- Kim – Hope management & recommended action would be done alongside mandating C&D is done with recycling
  - Creating a mandate would also create recycling demand
    - Jessica – This is similar to what King County did
      - Will be interesting to see how they managed the contracts, and what data they are seeing
- Mike – Has the [Columbia River Economic Development Council](#) participated in trying to help us find targeted businesses like this?
  - Not at this time
  - We are not yet at the point of bringing in recyclers
- Kim – Would using a consultant be an option to accelerate the timeline?
  - Has not yet been discussed, but the option has been written into the chapter
- Motion to approve by Joe
  - Seconded by Gabe
  -  Approved

## VIII. Technical Memorandum – Mike Davis (\*00:57:07)

- Previously presented in February
- Transfer station system was built in 1992 for Columbia Resource Company
  - Agreement with Columbia Resource Company (CRC) was to build 3 transfer stations
    - Included option to purchase the facilities after amortization
    - Third transfer station, Washougal, built in 1996
      - City of Washougal has first option to purchase
- 2019 RSS to do full evaluation of the system, as well as ownership options
  - Take objective look at ownership and operations options
    - Private ownership and operation (current system)
    - Public ownership, private operation
    - Public ownership with limited public operation of scale houses
    - Public ownership and operation
  - Evaluation criteria included
    - Funding capital improvements
    - Span of control
    - Management experience
    - Ownership Risk
    - Contracting of services
    - Regulatory options
- Phase 1 report includes evaluation of ownership and operational options
  - Lists advantages and disadvantages of each
  - Presents analysis contrasting options to meeting challenges associated with managing solid waste system
  - 🗨 Please read phase 1 report and give any feedback
- Guiding principles for a multi-jurisdictional organization
  - Establish regional agency including all incorporated cities and County
  - Independent entity with separate powers and authority
  - Governing Board should be appointed, not duly elected
  - Board would have authority to set rates/fee with revenues managed by entity with ability to issue revenue bonds
  - Staff would be independent from County and participating cities
- Ownership structures available through the Revised Code of Washington (RCW)
  - Interlocal Cooperation Act (ICA) – [RCW 39.34](#)
  - Joint municipal utilities service (JMUS) – [RCW 39.106](#)
  - Metropolitan Municipal Corporation (MMC) – [RCW 35.58](#)
  - Disposal District – [RCW 36.58](#)
- JMUS provides Organization that addresses the guiding principles
  - Board members are elected officials appointed by jurisdictions
  - Operates as independent public utility /enterprise fund with revenues generated by rates
  - Facilities are publicly owned and organization can contract operations or hire staff to operate
  - Agency can issue revenue bonds backed by revenues of system
- Preliminary recommendations include
  - Proceed to establish JMUS
  - Draft business plan
  - Prepare Memorandum of Understanding
- Mike would like to see the financial estimates to go along with each of the four ownership options
  - May want to set up a sub-committee do dig into the figures

**IX. Other Business (\*01:33:09)**

- Battery bill recycling update
  - Just passed the house a few hours ago
  - Still a few steps to take
    - Senate to review changes made, and pass
    - Go through Governor's Office
- Mike would like to share a mid-term report on the Valorization of Post-Consumer Batteries, by the students in the Capstone project at WSU.
  - Available upon request
- Knife River is proposing a concrete plant north of the Costco on 88th
  - Currently on hold
  - Will likely have need for a dewatering facility

**X. Public Comment (\*01:37:40)**

- None

This meeting was adjourned at 7:41 pm

Next Regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 4, 2023

Next Special meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 1, 2023

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