

**Clark County**  
**Solid Waste Advisory Commission**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
Thursday, May 4, 2023  
6:00 - 8:00pm  
Hybrid Meeting on Zoom, and at  
Clark County Center for Community Health

**SWAC Members Present:** Jason Presser, Joe Zimmerman, Kyle Potter, Tim Kraft, Derek Ranta, Kim Harless, Mike Mulligan, Reuben Greer, Gabe Fauvelle

**SWAC Members Excused:**


**SWAC Members Unexcused:** Simone Auger

**Staff Present:** Joelle Loescher, Mike Davis, Kimberly Walker-Norton, Melissa Sutton, Amber McKnight, Sarah Keirns, Pete DuBois, Celina Montgomery, Camile Shelton, Tina Kendall,

**Others Present:** Julie Gilbertson (CoV), Laura Busby (DoE), Elizabeth Court, (DoE), Doug Drennen, Rich McConaghy, Peter Guttchen, Will Elder

Meeting began at 6:03 pm

**I. Roll Call, Approval of Minutes – April 6, 2023 (\*00:00:03)**

- Motion by Kyle
  - Second by Michael
  -  Approved

**II. Presentation: Department of Ecology – Elizabeth Court (\*00:00:33)**

- Organics Management Law, HB 1722, passed in 2022
  - Bill passed due to the contribution of methane gas released from landfills
    - 15% of methane emissions across the country is from landfills
      - Methane is 28x more potent than carbon dioxide, over 100 years
        - ▶ 84x more potent over 20 years
- 22.8% of WA landfill waste is organic
  - Organics is the largest contributor to solid waste in WA State
- Divert 75% of previously disposed organic materials from landfills by 2030
  - Rescue 20% of previously disposed edible food for human consumption by 2025
- Compost procurement ordinance must be adopted by January 1, 2023:
  - In counties with a population of 25,000 or more
  - Counties with population less than 25k, that directly provide, contract or require UTC-franchised hauler to provide residential curbside collection services in their county or jurisdiction
- Many jurisdictions have already adopted ordinances, with more every week
- Reporting requirements include
  - Compost purchases
    - Sources, volumes, and costs
  - Amount of organic material diverted from disposal
    - Curbside & drop-off
  - Reports due by Dec 31, 2024
    - Every 2 years, going forward
- Business requirements based on:
  - Availability of collection services
  - Local compost facilities ability to accept new materials
  - Amount of organic material and solid waste produced

- Exemptions may include
  - No haulers available
  - Facility does not have ability to accept or process additional organics
- Clark County is currently exempt from business collection requirements
  - Ecology will be doing annual assessments to determine exemption status
- Residential & non-residential collection requirements to begin January 1, 2027
  - Service must be offered, but is not mandatory to clients
  - Jurisdictions that implement a local SWMP must ensure organic materials collection service is available
    - Waivers may be available by determination
  - Only Camas & Vancouver currently fall under this requirement
    - Other cities are exempt, but are still in compliance
- How long will local agencies be able to claim exemptions?
  - If a jurisdiction meets a certain criteria, the law would apply
  - Needs to be capacity in the system to be able to handle the materials
  - In process of creating a formal waiver from collection requirement
    - Waiver to last 5 years
- Does the state have programs to help build capacity?
  - Funding opportunities are available to help support implementation
- Please send further questions to Joelle, Julie, or Amber





### III. Updates (\*00:27:13)

- [Clark County Public Health – Solid Waste Program](#)
  - Operations
    - Have applied for next LSWFA grant cycle
    - Hoping to have more clear conversations with SWAC regarding process of SWMP update
    - Still in contract Negotiations with CRC
    - In contact with various City Councils to talk about collections contracts
  - Outreach
    - Sent out in advance
    - Participated in National food waste prevention week
    - Green Schools launched new share tables
    - Composter Recycler wrapped up training with record number of attendees – 45
    - Green Business lead position has been filled by Celina Montgomery, who will be reaching out to county business community
- Clark County Public Health – [Solid Waste Enforcement](#)
  - Sent out in advance
  - Received \$36k additional funds for the remainder of this grant cycle
  - Have applied for next grant cycle
  - Hoping to add .25 FTE to enforcement program
  - 13 facility inspections
  - 27 complaints received
  - 27 complaints resolved
  - WDOT looking into solid waste handling permit in Salmon Creek area
    - Draft plan reviewed by ECY and SWE and returned to WDOT
      - Waiting to hear back
  - 3 Kings Environmental given conditional approval for solid waste exemption
    - Has not paid permit this year
  - Received complaint regarding Circle C (Rocks, not Landfill)
    - Several waste types, not approved, no conditional exemption
    - Crushing debris mixed materials to be used as road base on property

- Given notice of violation in August
  - Public Health received notice of non-compliance
  - Ecology inspected site and found stormwater runoff with higher PH than allowed
    - Issuing financial penalty
    - Will enforce illicit discharge
  - Code Enforcement to review site for illegal structures and fill and grade
    - Working with prosecuting attorney to issue a Stop Work order
  - Currently unable to issue permit as the site is not in compliance with [WAC 173-350](#)
- [City of Vancouver](#)
  - Implementing elements of compost procurement ordinance
  - Spring coupon program currently running (April-June)
  - Neighborhood cleanup and Chipper events are coming back
    - 2023 (Mar – Nov):
      - 24 Cleanup events (total) serving 59 neighborhood associations
      - 18 Chipper events (combined w/ or w/o cleanups), serving 40 neighborhood associations
    - Completed thus far (March & April)
      - 6 chipper events for 6 NAs
      - 5 cleanup events for 9 neighborhood associations
        - ▶ Trash: 41.66 tons, \$4,695.24 disposal cost
        - ▶ Yard Debris: 5.04 tons (excluding chipper), \$340.35 disposal cost
  - Bulky waste items
    - 904 pickups (work orders)
    - 75.33 tons collected (YTD, Jan – Apr)
    - \$8,786.69 disposal cost
- [Waste Connections](#)
  - Poor weather has stalled volumes across the board
  - Curbside recyclables are down 7-8%
  - Over 600 tons of non route materials coming in on certain days of the week
  - Fairly well staffed at the moment
    - Education outreach fully staffed
  - Contract negotiations are ongoing
  - Commodities are continuing to move well
    - Markets are good, but prices are at record lows
  - Working on automating the remainder of Clark County
    - Have had delays in truck delivery
    - Have rolled project back to July

#### IV. Ch 1: Information and Administration – Doug Drennen (\*00:52:31)

- Includes statement of purpose, goals and mission, outlines state guidelines, current administration roles & responsibilities, enforcement
- recommendations
  - Continue to maintain the RSWSSC through interlocal agreements
  - Work with Portland Metro to advance mutually beneficial proposals
  - Develop and implement ordinances to allow enforcement of existing regulations
  - Update ordinances to regulate on-site waste burial
  - Enforcement provisions for unsecured loads
  - Update ordinances directing waste to designated sites
  - Future facility ownership and admin to continue to be evaluated, while working with stakeholders to develop strategy
  - Work with RSWSSC and SWAC to determine public ownership consensus
  - City/county to act to decide on ownership

- Mike expresses concerns over changes in legislature and its effect on the waste stream
  - The SWMP is a living document, and will be amended and updated as needed, and as scheduled.
- Solid waste staff recommend the County and or City of Washougal exercise the available contractual options to purchase the facilities when the option of public ownership becomes available.
  - Joe would like to know what is included in ownership (land, buildings, machinery?)
    - Rolling stock remains with contractor
    - County would get full title to West Van and Central
    - Would negotiate with City of Washougal on handling option to purchase
      - Likely in 2029, after full amortization
  - Motion to vote to exercise the option of public ownership by Joe
    - Seconded by Gabe
  - Is there a projected need to acquire adjacent land to Washougal transfer station
    - That info would be included in the master planning documents, currently being worked on by JRMA, as part of the 20-year capital improvement program
      - Substantial expansion can be done at that site while still operating, providing capacity for the next 20-25 years
  - Group votes to approve option of public ownership
    -  Approved
- Solid waste staff recommends the option to publicly own and privately operate the regional transfer facilities under contract be further evaluated. The evaluation should focus on the advantages and disadvantages of public operation of the scale houses versus fully contracted services.
  - Tim motions to support county recommendation of public ownership and private operation
    -  With inclusion of language for additional study for possible public operation of scale houses
    - Seconded by Joe
    -  Approved
- Solid waste staff recommend further evaluation of JMUS model. The evaluation should include an extensive stakeholder outreach and input process prior to formation of a multi-jurisdictional organization.
  - Tim motions for the county to continue to look at the option of a regional solid waste agency
    - Seconded by Reuben
    -  Approved

**V. Ch 3: Garbage, Recycling, and Organics Infrastructure & Operations – Doug Drennen (\*01:29:11)**

- Material collection & diversion recommendations
  - Adopt universal collections in urban areas
  - Bundle pricing in urban areas
  - Pilot special collection events in communities
  - Bulky waste collection as part of garbage service
  - Work with Ecology to promote EPR bills
- Material transfer & recovery (processing) recommendations
  - Central Transfer Station
    - two inbound lanes, to a new scale house
    - extend concrete wall to edge of property line
    - improve site screening along north side of property
  - West Van
    - New commercial route truck entrance/exit

- New staff entrance to future new office
  - Temporary relocation of maintenance facility
  - Add exit for hauling to Tidewater
  - Add new water line
  - Remove existing water tank and maintenance facility
  - Regrade area near existing maintenance facility
  - New organics wing
  - Construct new office and parking
  - Build permanent maintenance facility
  - Build new HHW and recycling area
  - New public entrance and scale houses
  - Add new compactor and load out if MRF relocated off-site
- Washougal Transfer Station
  - Expand access lane to HHW
  - Add steel backsplash and chute along east side of load out building
    - Consider adding push wall
  - Expand with 30,000 additional square feet
  - Expand entrance road to increase capacity of scale complex
  - New office and parking, free up space for storage
- Landfill Disposal recommendations
  - Continue using existing disposal options at Finley Buttes and Wasco County
    - Consider alternative options when considering changes to the agreement
  - No new landfills in Clark County due to underlying aquifer
- No formal recommendations for Alternative Technologies
  - SWMP Appendix includes several different options
- Mike suggests we look at creating a broader base for more material types to maximize market return
- 💡 Reuben suggests a tour of each of the three transfer stations to gain first-hand knowledge of each site
  - Kyle motions to approve chapter 3 as presented
    - Seconded by Joe
    - 🟢 Approved

## VI. Ch 7: Funding and Finance – Doug Drennen (\*01:55:24)

- County is responsible for setting the rates for the operation of the facilities
- No tax revenue being used in the system
- Significant capital improvements being made
  - Intent to use funds as generated either by the rates or private money
- Recommendations include
  - County will continue to be designated lead agency for regional LSWFA planning implementation
  - Establish/implement ongoing process involving RSWSSC
  - Continue existing programs with funding currently in place, including grant funding
  - Pursue federal and state grants appropriate to plan goals & outcomes
  - Continue to evaluate funding options to ensure funding of required roles continues
  - Establish capital improvement fund for system and transfer station improvements, using revenue generated from rates
    - Already part of negotiations
  - Coordinate with current operator to use private financing as needed
  - If new regional organization is established to own and manage transfer station there is the possibility to issue revenue bonds as required
  - Motion to approve as presented by Kyle

- Seconded by Gabe
-  Approved

**VII. Other Business** (\*02:06:25)

- Mike would like to acknowledge the efforts of the students of WSU for their completed analysis of how to handle the recycling of lithium batteries
  - It was considered academically credible enough that all students involved got A's toward their degrees
  - The report was done with the needs of Clark County in mind

**VIII. Public Comment** (\*02:08:42)

- None

This meeting was adjourned at 8:12 pm

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

Next Regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 3, 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*