

Clark County
Solid Waste Advisory Commission
Special Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 1, 2023
6:00 - 8:00pm
Hybrid Meeting on Zoom, and at
Clark County Center for Community Health

SWAC Members Present: Jason Presser, Kyle Potter, Tim Kraft, Kim Harless, Mike Mulligan, Gabe Fauvelle

SWAC Members Excused: Reuben Greer

SWAC Members Unexcused: Simone Auger, Derek Ranta, Joe Zimmerman

Staff Present: Joelle Loescher, Amber McKnight, Sarah Keirns, Sami Springs, Tina Kendall, J. Kimberly Walker-Norton

Others Present: Julie Gilbertson (CoV), Laura Busby (DoE), Travis Dutton (WACSWM), Rich McConaghy

Meeting began at 6:03 pm

I. Roll Call, Approval of Minutes – May 4, 2023 (*00:00:011)

- ☒ Motion to approve by Kyle
 - Seconded by Mike
 - 🟢 Approved


II. Washington State Association of Counties Legislative Update – Travis Dutton (*00:02:33)

- [WSAC](#) acts as a central support for all 39 counties, for legislation, policy, etc.
 - Travis supports the policy director in natural resource topics, also works on
 - Solid waste, and supporting Solid Waste Managers affiliate group ([WACSWM](#))
 - Clean energy – wind turbines, solar energy, water usage
 - Wildfire
 - Broadband and behavioral health services (specific counties only)
 - One primary responsibility is lobbying and working on legislation regarding solid waste
- Last June WSAC met with WACSWM and set legislative priorities based on counties current issues, upcoming projects and issues, and needs. Largest priorities included:
 - Support Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)
 - Priority on waste reduction, diversion, and recycling
 - Restore solid waste collection tax to public works assistance account
 - Collected on cost to collect at the curb
 - Goes to state
 - ▶ Diverted to education fund, set to sunset this year
 - Had previously gone to statewide Public Works Assistance Account for low interest loans for capital improvement projects
 - ▶ Funds have been restored, and will be returned to Public Works account as of July 1, 2023
 - ▷ Program has been funded ~\$400 mil.
 - Modernizing solid waste program funding
 - Solid waste goal is to send less materials to the landfill
 - Garbage going to the landfill helps fund programs
 - ▶ Less landfill materials means less program funding
 - Largest grant is based on sales of toxic chemicals and oil
 - ▶ State is actively reducing the amount of toxic chemicals and oil used
 - Looking at future of funding


- Solid waste bills that came up this session included:
 - Waste Reduction And Packaging (WRAP Act (failed))
 - EPR for product packaging and printed paper
 - Establish requirements for recycled content in products sold in the state
 - Set performance goals requiring annual report outs
 - Establish bottle deposit in WA
 - Expect it to come back in another session
 - Battery EPR (passed)
 - Establishes EPR program for portable and medium format batteries
 - Requires Ecology to develop a plan for collection, transport, processing, and recycling of electric vehicle batteries
 - Should take any financial burden off of counties
 - Goes into effect July 1
 - Plastic Pollution (passed)
 - Targeting single use cosmetics provided in hotels
 - Requires water bottle refill in new construction where water fountains are available
 - Right to Repair (failed)
 - Requires manufactures of phones, laptops, tablets, etc. to provide repair shops with tools/knowledge to repair critical parts
 - Compostable Packaging (passed)
 - Study bill to look at packaging to protect compost from contamination
 - Lights EPR (failed)
 - Expand current mercury EPR to all light bulbs, and remove fee
 - Will likely come up again in the future
 - Appliances EPR (failed)
 - Containing highly impactful greenhouse gases
 - Expected to come up again
 - Wind Turbine Blades (passed)
 - Study to determine how to recycle, and how make new blades from recycled materials
- Budget included
 - \$24 mil to Local Solid Waste Financial Assistance (LSWFA) 2023-2025
 - Allocated to all counties for planning, outreach, and education
 - \$400-500k for packaging and paper EPR
 - To study actual packaging needs so next version of WRAP act will have a better approach
 - \$10 mil landfill methane management
 - Funding from [Climate Commitment Act](#) to help support existing bill requiring specific management of landfills and methane emissions
 - Coming out of Ecology's Clean Air program
 - \$2.5 mil to compost emissions study
 - To help citing and identify impacts of composting program
- Interim activities between now and January 2024
 - Bill summaries to help counties understand timelines and requirements
 - WACSWM June meeting in Tacoma
 - Will meet with bill sponsors
 - Legislator and partner engagement
 - Understanding needs and being more aware and prepared for next session
 - Rulemaking and studies
 - Participating in various studies, including some previously mentioned
 - Public works assistance account
 - Working to familiarize county solid waste programs with the account
 - Expected 2024 legislation

- Will be pushing for additional funding
 - Will need ~\$10B over the next 10 years in solid waste program capital costs that need to be met at a county level
- Laura can provide more information on Organics management for the business side of things if desired, possibly at another meeting

III. SWAC Bylaws and Sub-committees – Discussion (*00:40:52)

- Need to be added as an appendix to the SWMP
- Last time bylaws were updated was 2021
- They don't seem to be outdated
- This seems to be an informal enough group that we don't use them much
 - ☒ Motion to approve as is by Tim
 - Seconded by Gabe
 -  Approved

IV. Equity Plans – Sami Springs (*00:44:11)

- Using funds available from current LSWFA grant cycle
- Have contracted with [Portillo Consulting International](#) to assist in creating an equity plan
 - Have been meeting frequently
 - Well versed in DEI and working with government agencies
 - Deep dives into transfer stations, and programs and services offered by the County
- Have done a lot of data collection
 - Focus groups promoted on various social media, physical flyers
 - Held in person
 - Battle Ground Public Library
 - Bridgeview Resource Center
 - La Center High School
 - Hoping to have one more with Latino church group
 - Surveys created and released in collaboration with Public Health Communications Team
 - Goal was to have 125 responses
 - Have received more than 1600 responses
 - Available in various languages
 - Questions included topics such as:
 - Demographics
 - Disposal method of HHW
 - Interest about various services
 - Importance of waste management
 - Largest groups that responded were:
 - Single family homes
 - Female
 - White
 - Household income of over \$75k
 - English speaking/reading
 - Received good feedback from participants
 - Next step is to complete the plan by June 30th
 - Consultant has been working on plan simultaneously with surveys and focus groups
 - Will provide training for county solid waste team, applying info from survey results and focus groups
 - Plan will be ever-changing
 - Building additional funding in the LSWFA grant to continue this work
 -  Kim – Suggests connecting with CoV to keep county and city on the same page
 - Have been in touch with Julie Gilbertson, as well as [Fourth Plain Forward](#)

- [Partners in Diversity](#) has upcoming [NW Equity Summit](#) (Sept. 26)

V. SWMP Update – Discussion (*01:02:36)

- Still in Draft phase
- Need to review the appendices
 - Some are not yet complete, such as Equity Plan and RSS
- All pieces currently available can be viewed on SWMP webpage
 - <https://clark.wa.gov/public-health/solid-waste-management-plan>
 - Includes option for Public Comment
- Currently have an RFP out to seek a consultant to do formatting and design
 - Hope to have contract in place by July 1, 2023
- Unfortunately, will not be able to meet grant deliverables by June 30 deadline, due to multiple factors, including Covid
 - Will be working with Ecology to continue this work and get it completed.
 - County has applied for 2023-2025 LSWFA grant to fund
 - Goal is to have final Plan completed by June 30, 2025
 - Allowing time for presentations and signing interlocal agreements with all municipalities
- When the preliminary draft is submitted to Ecology, there should not be any substantial changes on the final document
 - Ecology will suggest edits and return for final edit/review
 - SWAC members are strongly encouraged to review the draft and provide input
 - All SWAC comments go into an appendix in the Plan

VI. Other Business (*01:19:46)

- Jason has some connections at Waste Connections, and is happy to set up meetings for information
 - Recently set up a meeting for Mike to discuss some of the projects he's been working on
 - Found it to be very educational
- Educating people on recycling is difficult as various jurisdictions recycle differently, as well as the market is constantly changing
- Kim notes the [2023 U.S. Product Stewardship Forum](#) (Sept. 11-14) may be of interest

VII. Public Comment (*01:26:38)

- None

This meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm

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*