



SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMISSION

Regular Meeting Minutes

Thursday August 3, 2023, 6:00-8:00 PM

In Person: Clark County Public Health

1601 E. Fourth Plain Blvd. Room 210, Vancouver, WA 98661

Virtually: Zoom Online Meeting

SWAC Members Present: Kyle Potter, Jason Presser, Derek Ranta, Joe Zimmerman, Reuben Greer

SWAC Members Excused: Gabe Fauvelle, Mike Mulligan, Tim Kraft, Kim Harless

SWAC Members Unexcused: Simone Auger,

Staff Present: Joelle Loescher, Amber McKnight, Jess Fischberg, Tina Kendall, Kimberly Walker-Norton, Melissa Sutton, Celina Montgomery,

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

Meeting began at 6:04 pm

I. Roll Call, Approval of Minutes – June 1, 2023 (*00:00:05)

- Unable to approve minutes due to lack of quorum

II. Updates (*00:00:33)

- [Solid Waste Program](#) – Clark County Public Health
 - Sent out in advance
 - Conducted work session with Council on July 26
 - Council is interested in learning more about different ownership structures
 - Likely to do another RFP for study on ownership
 - Doing outreach to all cities regarding SWMP to get feedback on interest
 - Regional System Study is complete
 - Can print copy if anyone is interested
 - Digital copy available on [website](#) as “[Appendix L](#)”
 - 21-23 LSWFA grant cycle complete
 - 23-25 LSWFA grant has begun
 - Agreement should be signed soon
 - Several RFPs in place
 - Lechner Landfill has been awarded to SCS Engineers
 - Triennial inspections of transfer stations will go before Council soon
 - CRC contract negotiations are ongoing
 - Extending collection contract, through amendment
 - Should be finalized in next week or two
- [Solid Waste Enforcement](#) – Clark County Public Health
 - Sent out in advance
 - 21-23 grant cycle has completed, and report has been submitted
 - 131 solid waste facilities inspected
 - 92 permitted; 38 exempt
 - 4 new facilities
 - 1 permitted; 3 conditionally exempt
 - Resolved 286 complaints
 - Received 279 complaints
 - 23-25 grant cycle has begun
 - Requested \$300,000 for biennium
 - Plan to add 0.25 FTE to assist SWE complaints
 - 2023 Q2 Overview
 - Inspected 13 facilities
 - 12 permitted; 1 exempt

- Received 34 complaints
 - Resolved 34
- WSDOT Salmon Creek Stockpile Pit seeking Solid Waste Handling Permit
 - Staff & ECY provided comments on draft operational plan in February
 - CCPH provided formal “next steps” to apply for permit
 - To date, no response has been received
- Keystone Contracting at Circle C Rock Pit seeking Solid Waste Exemption
 - Multi-agency inspection in August 2022 observed solid waste handling activities and multiple violations
 - April 2023 ECY re-inspection found illicit discharge
 - May 2023 – CCPH issued Notice of Violation
 - CCPH staff, management, and Health Officer communicating with CC Prosecuting Attorney for next steps
- [City of Vancouver](#)
 - Wrapped up annual Spring Coupon Program
 - Total cost \$79,588
 - Total cubic yards of yard debris: 6,244
 - Total tires 1,066
 - Total coupons redeemed 3,553
 - Started planning for Fall Coupon Season (Oct-Dec)
 - Included in CRWWD newsletter; WC Fall Mailer; Neighborhood Fliers; Outreach etc.
 - Fall leaves boxes for neighborhoods too
 - Anticipate an RFP for Yard debris receiving/processing services to go out soon (this month). Those vendor(s)/contracts support the above-mentioned coupon programs in addition to other yard debris generated from City solid waste programs and City operations.
 - [RecycleU](#) trainings In-Person this fall
 - At Vancouver Community Library on Sept. 7
 - At Cascade Park Community Library on Oct. 3
 - AmeriCorps member started pilot program of Litter Steward volunteers
 - Since October 2022, our AmeriCorps trained 46 new Litter Stewards
 - In total there are 113 trained and equipped Litter Stewards since the pilot program began in 2021
 - Conducted 13 City organized clean-up events since October 2022.
 - Litter Stewards picked up an estimated 2910 pounds, or nearly 1.5 tons, of litter/garbage from City property since October 2022
 - Will continue project next term
 - Conducted 13 events
- [Waste Connections](#)
 - WC equipment rodeo in Spokane
 - Celebrates some of the best equipment operators
 - Transfer stations running as normal
 - July garbage volumes were down ~3%
 - July recycling volumes down 7-8%, curbside
 - Also seeing less construction & demolition materials
 - Commodities are moving, but at lower prices
 - West Rock mill in Tacoma is closing
 - Good home growth
 - About halfway through automation rollout
 - ~70k homes in urban growth area
 - Still waiting on one truck to be delivered
 - Reuben – do you have any preliminary info on the source of the container fire?

- Not able to get to root cause, but more than likely a battery
- No damage to container.

III. Presentation: Hazardous Waste Collection Projects (*00:30:19)

- Summary of Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) events in Yacolt, Ridgefield, and La Center
 - Coordinated events for communities that do not have easy access to HHW facilities
 - Collected almost 27.8 tons of HHW
 - Total of 521 participants
 - Average of 133lbs per participant
 - Paint was the largest contributor at all three events
 - Postcards sent out in advance, in a 5-mile radius of collection site
 - Good outreach opportunity
 - Handed out RecycleRight cards with link to recent Solid Waste survey
- Q & A
 - Joe – how much did the postage for the postcards cost?
 - ~\$80 per event
 - Jason – was there a social media pulse?
 - Yes, but some people don't engage that way
 - Laura – is there capacity to include more participants?
 - Would be difficult to find locations that would accommodate more
 - School parking lots are the largest available, and traffic was still backed up
 - Would need to get bigger crews for hazardous waste handling company
 - Reuben – what were the hours?
 - 9am – 1pm at each site
 - Melissa – Emergency preparedness program does several large-scale community events, and may be able to give some advice for larger events
 - Reuben – how do these events compare to daily intake of HHW materials at the transfer stations
 - Have not compared data yet
 - *(Jess replied in 8/08/23 email)* I took the most recent annual total of HHW collected from the three facilities, and it averaged 20 tons a weekend. The events brought in a total of 30 tons. So the events collected approximately 1.5 weekends worth of HHW that the fixed facilities bring in.
- Introduction to Battery Take-Back program
 - Battery waste is increasing dramatically
 - Limited drop-off options
 - This year a state-wide law has passed, but will not start until July 2027
 - County will be conducting this program to fill the gap in the meantime
 - Setting up volunteer retail/community sites with capability to accept batteries
 - [Call2Recycle](#) provides boxes for battery drop-off locations
 - Kits being purchased by Columbia Resource Company
 - Goal is to make battery recycling more accessible, and prevent improper disposal
 - Some sites have already signed up
 - Targeting sites that already handle hazardous waste
 - Will do launch to public after a number of sites have signed up
- Q & A
 - Reuben – what will be the metric for success?
 - Once boxes are full, they will be mailed back to Call2Recycle, who will then send data back to us
 - Tina – is there a county code that restricts rechargeable batteries in the garbage?
 - Not at this time, but CRC has their own guidance
 - Melissa – there is no plan to add this to the County Code, as it would be almost impossible to enforce

- This may become a benefit to drop off locations, to bring in more customers
 - May consider a map on county website with participating businesses
- Joe – How does reorder process work?
 - Initially given two boxes, so there is always an empty, then an empty box is mailed to them anytime a full box is sent out.

IV. Discussion: Solid Waste Management Plan Update (*00:57:20)

- Initial Comments on June 1st draft due today;
 - There will be an additional opportunity to comment on the SWMP draft during the public comment period
 - SWAC will still be able to use Public Comment button on webpage
- Review Timeline and Next Steps
 - Graphic provided, and available on SWMP webpage
 - Aligns with new LSWFA grant timeline
 - Grant runs July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2025
 - Anticipate having SEPA completed Sept. 30
 - Should have to SWAC for review by November meeting
 - Have completed UTC cost questionnaire
 - Meeting with each city in August for outreach and Interlocal Agreements
 - Anticipate bringing Staff Report to council in Q2, seeking approval for ILAs
- Paper copies available for SWAC members attending in person
 - Contact Amber McKnight to arrange alternative pickup time
- PDF version available here: <https://clark.wa.gov/public-health/solid-waste-management-plan>
- County has awarded a contract to Maul Foster for formatting design work for the SWMP
 - Reworking current draft for more professional appearance
 - Will not be working on content; only format
 - Hiring photographer to include local photos in the Plan
- Q & A
 - Kyle: What is the UTC Cost Assessment looking at?
 - Questions regarding utility related components, to be answered by staff
 - Completed by JR Miller, and has been posted on the [website](#) as “[Appendix C](#)”

V. Other Business (*01:06:04)

- New Ramp Litter Clean Up grant from Ecology is available
 - No match, up to \$60k
 - Being administered through same program that administers other litter pick-up work
 - Applications now open

VI. Public Comment (*01:07:04)

- None

This meeting was adjourned at 7:11 pm

Next Regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 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*