

**WHATCOM COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY (SWAC) COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**April 25, 2019**

**Members Present:**

Eric Johnston, Kevin Moore, Lisa Friend, Troy Lautenbach, Barbara Brenner, Larry McCarter, and Robert Hendricks

**Members Absent:**

Mark Peterson and Greg Young.

**Staff Present:**

Jeff Hegedus, Janice Deptuch, Bill Angel, Jennifer Hayden, and John Wolpers

**Others Present:**

Rodd Pemble – SSC, Pat Dunn - SSC, Nicci Thomas - DOT, Sarah Campbell – SSC, Karen Burke – running for office, and Calvin Den Hartog - NVD

**Call to Order:**

The regular meeting of the Whatcom County SWAC was called to order on Thursday, April 25, 2019 at 5:31 p.m. in the Garden Level Meeting Room by vice chair, Lisa Friend.

**Roll Call, Determination of Quorum, Approval of Minutes**

The minutes for the January 24, 2019, SWAC meeting were approved as written. The motion for approval was made by Larry McCarter and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kevin Moore. Motion approved by everyone.

**Membership as per WCC 2.78, Solid Waste Advisory Committee**

Currently, there are two public interest group representatives, which exceed the current amended ordinance number of one representative, and three current vacancies. The Whatcom County Council office has requested that, if possible, there be a member shift to accommodate the new requirements. Robert Hendricks volunteered moving from the Public Interest Group to the Citizen Group. Current (12) membership is:

Mark Peterson	Public Interest Group
Roberts Hendricks	Public Interest Group
Lisa friend	Citizen
VACANT	Citizen
VACANT	Business/ Industry
VACANT	Agriculture
Kevin Moore	Waste Recycling Industry
Larry McCarter	Solid Waste Disposal Facility
Troy Lautenbach	Waste Collection Industry
Greg Young	Small Cities
Eric Johnston	City of Bellingham
Barbara Brenner	County Council

**City of Bellingham Resource Recovery**

Eric Johnston gave an excellent update regarding the City of Bellingham Resource Recovery.

The solids handling process equipment at the City of Bellingham Post Point Resource Recovery facility has reached the end of its useful life and needs to be replaced. Based on City policy for Climate Action and community feedback on various options, a digestion process with energy

recovery is the preferred solution. The project team has developed and evaluated the cost of construction and implementation of a different solids handling process. City Staff will provide a briefing on the project, including a high level summary of the cost of replacing the solids handling process (currently incineration) with a digestion based process.

Information on the City of Bellingham project can be found at the project website located at the address below.

<https://www.cob.org/gov/projects/Pages/Resource%20Recovery.aspx>

### **Solid Waste Excise Tax Conversation**

Currently, Whatcom County requires that solid waste collection companies (SSC, Nooksack Valley Disposal, and Cando Recycling and Disposal) collect and remit to the County, to fund solid waste programs, a solid waste excise tax of \$8.50 per ton solid waste collected. Cans cannot be weighed at the curb, a percent conversion has been used by each hauler to invoice customers to collect the estimated tax. Based on customer base and rate structure, each hauler uses a different tax percentage. SSC adds a local tax of 3.7% in the unincorporated areas, and 5.0% in Bellingham; Nooksack Valley Disposal uses 4.45%; Cando Recycling and Disposal uses 2.91%. WUTC approved tariffs include these percent conversions as a tariff requirement.

Quarterly, each hauler submits to the County a report, with accounting backup, that documents tons of solid wastes collected and disposed, and remits an amount equal to \$8.50 per ton. However, the amount collected is not audited, and it is not known if the current use of historic percentages provides an amount equal to the amount remitted.

Following discussion at the last SWAC meeting and input from the WUTC, staff will be recommending that WCC 8.13.030, Excise privilege tax *levied* be amended to implement a uniform tax, for all WUTC regulated solid waste collection companies (haulers), based on percent of invoice rather than a per ton basis, similar to the current 3.6% state solid waste tax. The excise privilege tax at county transfer stations and drop box facilities, where solid waste is weighed at the scale, would remain unchanged at the current \$8.50 per ton.

Staff is currently in the process of collecting data from haulers and the WUTC for the rate conversion calculations, and will have rate recommendations, based on percent of invoice rather than per ton basis, available at the next SWAC meeting.

There will be more information to come to the next SWAC meeting.

### **Disposal of Toxics Program Update**

Jeff gave an update on the Disposal of Toxics Program.

At the January 24, 2019 SWAC meeting information regarding the Disposal of Toxics Program was requested. They currently have two employees that are supervised by Nicci Thomas. They manage about half a million pounds per year of household moderate waste. It is funded with grants and the Solid Waste excise tax. Lisa Friend asks several questions about latex and oil based paints. Lisa mentioned maybe re-looking at the Paint Take Back Program.

Nicci Thomas, Stericycle Lead Environmental Specialist and on-site Disposal of Toxics Program manager, was available to discuss the program and answer any questions

**Open Session, Announcements, Agenda Items**

Possible agenda items for next meeting:

Relook at the paint stewardship

Plastics – shipping

Update from Eric on the City of Bellingham Resource Recovery Project

Jeff reminded the members that they need to get their commission training.

**Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made 1st by Eric Johnston and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Troy Lautenbach and, all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

**CERTIFICATION**

*I hereby certify this to be a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Whatcom County Solid Waste Advisory Committee meeting held April 25, 2019.*

Attest: Janice Deptuch  
Janice Deptuch, Clerk III  
Whatcom County Health Department

Lisa Friend  
Lisa Friend, Vice Chair  
Whatcom County Solid Waste  
Advisory Committee