

**WHATCOM COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**July 28, 2016**

**Members Present:**

Eric Johnston, Amber Jones, Martin Kuljis, Marjorie Leone, Troy Lautenbach, Ed Nikula, and

**Members Absent:**

Barbara Brenner, Calvin Den Hartog, Pete Edwards, Casey Heinle, Mark Peterson and Greg Young

**Staff Present:**

Jeff Hegedus, Janice Deptuch

**Others Present:**

John Wolpers – Whatcom County Health Department, EH Manager, Lisa Friend – Citizen, and Pat Dunn – Patrick Dunn & Associates.

**Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Whatcom County Solid Waste Advisory Committee was called to order on Thursday, July 28, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. in Garden Level Meeting Room by Vice Chair, Ed Nikula.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes for the April 28, 2016 SWAC meeting were approved as written. The motion for approval was made by Eric Johnston and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Amber Jones. Motion approved by all.

**Update on Final Draft 2016 Comprehensive Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Plan**

The draft plan was presented to the Solid Waste Executive Committee (SWEC) at the 2015 committee meeting, and changes to the plan resulting from subsequent review and comment have been minor. The final draft update proposes no structural changes to the existing solid waste system. Recommendations, presented as goals and actions, are provided in summary form in tables at the end of each applicable chapter, as indicated in the plan table of contents. Primary goals and actions include increasing waste reduction and recycling community education and outreach, evaluation of regulatory changes to increase efficiency and management, supporting emergency management efforts to develop a disaster debris management plan, engaging with specific communities such as Pt. Roberts to identify potential improvements to levels of service, and increasing management options for special wastes such as organics, construction debris and waste pharmaceuticals.

On July 19, 2016 SWEC unanimously approved moving the plan forward to County Council for review and approval. Following approval, the draft plan will be delivered to the Department of Ecology for review and approval.

Ed Nikula asked "if the County Council had it on their calendar yet", and Jeff Hegedus said "We anticipate having a public hearing by October." No other questions were asked.

**Update on Solid Waste Operations**

Staff recently conducted a free, two day Waste Tire Amnesty collection event for the Blaine, Birch Bay and Custer area, and cleaned out 10,200 waste tires from local back yards, farms and ravines. The event was well received, and leveraged a Department of Ecology program that covered all transportation and disposal costs. The Health Department has met twice with the Pt. Roberts Community Advisory Committee, and is implementing a community involvement and engagement project

that will initiate with a community solid waste survey to solicit information regarding current and preferred levels of service, costs of service, illegal dumping, regulatory approach and service provider issues. The information obtained will be used to identify potential improvements to solid waste services delivery. The committee asked a lot of questions. Troy asked "when the survey will be put out to the customers in Pt. Roberts. Jeff said the committee has the survey and is testing and reviewing and asked that we give them till the 2<sup>nd</sup> week in August for input. The Solid Waste Executive Committee (SWEC) approved budget for the development of a waste pharmaceutical take-back program during the 2017- 2018 biennium. SWAC had a presentation on April 28, 2016. Working with the Birch Bay Chamber of Commerce, SSC, correctional work crews and Adopt-A-Road volunteers, approximately four tons of litter and waste fireworks were cleaned up from the beach areas following the July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration. Volunteers gave out bags to pack in and out the garbage. A new WUTC Solid Waste/Recycling Enforcement Model was talked about by the SWAC. If you are a contractor, hauling solid waste, doing all the work, they can self-haul. Marjorie asked "who can't self-haul?" Troy said that the model was easy to read and understand. Troy gave an example. Some discussion on how well it will work in city limits.

#### **2017-2018 Solid Waste Budget**

The annual budget for the 2017 and 2018 biennium has been unanimously approved by SWEC to move to County Council for approval. The budgets essentially remain the same as 2016, with the following exceptions:

- The proposed budgets include a decrease in the indirect rate for the Health Department for 2017 and 2018 from the amount budgeted in 2016, by approximately \$40,000.
- In 2017 the Cedarville Landfill NPDES permit needs to be renewed. The estimated cost for permit fee, additional permit required sampling and lab analysis, and consultant fee is \$70,000. Permit related expenses occur once every five years, and will not be in the 2018 budget.
- There is \$40,000 in 2017 and 2018 to explore additional opportunities for removing hazardous materials from the waste stream, including the development of a waste pharmaceutical take back program.
- The proposed budgets include a recommendation to increase each of the three existing county waste reduction and recycling programs by \$15,000 annually, for a total of \$45,000, in order to expand services by a proportional increase of existing scopes of work. This increase would return expenditures for waste reduction and recycling programs to 2009 levels.

There was discussion about reserves and having reserves for disasters. Patty Proctor, Business Office Supervisor, is very conservative with her numbers. The budget goes to county council in November.

The committee also talked about Waste Pharmaceutical Product Stewardship Plan. Troy asked "why it was shut down by the SWAC?" Marjorie said it was because they didn't like the way the bill was written.

**Solid Waste Excise Tax**

As was requested by SWAC several meetings ago, we need to start talking about the excise tax and getting into the exemptions, not trying to make proposal today. The solid waste excise tax is levied at a rate of \$8.50 per ton solid waste generated from county curbside collection programs, and funds a variety of solid waste programs and services. Eric asked "no increase recommended by SWEC and Jeff stated "No recommendations were made by SWEC". Eric felt it should be built up over next two years and implemented in 2019-2020 budgets. John Wolpers said we need to start conversation and have something to take to SWEC. Ed gave a little history on the excise tax and the committee had discussions on the history.

**Open Session, Announcements, Agenda Items**

Announcements

Lisa announced that Department of Ecology are reviewing the solid waste plan..

Agenda Items:

1. Background and current status on legal action of excise tax
2. Rulemaking update on WAC 173-350 with Department of Ecology
3. Updated SWEC By-Laws
4. Check in with Wally about where they are at with the Whatcom County Disaster Debris Management Plan.


**Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Eric Johnston 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Amber Jones, all in favor.

**CERTIFICATION**

1. *I hereby certify this to be a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Whatcom County Solid Waste Advisory Committee meeting held July 28, 2016.*

Attest:   
 Janice Deptuch Clerk III  
 Whatcom County Health Department

  
 Mark Peterson, Chair  
 Whatcom County Solid Waste Advisory Committee