

WHATCOM COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES
October 27, 2016

Members Present:

Barbara Brenner, Eric Johnston, Amber Jones, Martin Kuljis, Marjorie Leone, Troy Lautenbach, Casey Heinle, Mark Peterson, and Greg Young

Members Absent:

Ed Nikula

Staff Present:

Jeff Hegedus, Janice Deptuch, John Wolpers

Others Present:

Lisa Friend – Citizen, Rod, Pete Edwards – RDS, Scott Bissell – Republic Services, Ted Carlson – PW Director with City of Bellingham, Ivan Stoner – RDS, Pat Dunn, and Wally Kost - Emergency Management.

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Whatcom County Solid Waste Advisory Committee was called to order on Thursday, October 27, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. in Garden Level Meeting Room by Chair, Mark Peterson.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the July 28, 2016 SWAC meeting were approved as written. The motion for approval was made by Troy Lautenbach and 2nd by Amber Jones. Motion approved by all, except Mark Peterson and Barbara Brenner abstained.

Committee Membership

The Solid Waste Advisory Committee has the following members whose terms are ending:

- Marjorie Anne Leone, public interest group, 2nd term, not eligible to reapply. Her term will be up in January 2017, and then be advertised.
- Amber Jones, business/industry, 1st term, eligible to reapply, intends to remain on committee.
- Pete Edwards, Solid Waste Disposal Facility, 2nd term ended January 2016, not eligible to reapply, position currently being advertised.
- In January 2017 we will be electing Chair and Vice Chair.

Additionally, during the 2016 legislative session, Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 6605 passed the legislature and was signed by Governor Inslee. This bill contains new requirements for solid waste management plans regarding agricultural matters, change requirements for solid waste advisory committee (SWAC) membership, and affects the review of certain solid waste permits. You may recognize this as related to the apple maggot concerns.

The new bill amends chapter 70.95 RCW and directs Ecology to provide the Washington State Department of Agriculture (Agriculture) with a copy of each preliminary draft comprehensive solid waste management plan Ecology receives for review. Under the new law, Agriculture must review the preliminary draft plan within 45 days for compliance with chapter 17.24 RCW,

Insect Pests and Plant Diseases, and advise the local government and Ecology of the result of their review.

In addition, the bill amends RCW 70.95.165 and adds the requirement that agriculture interests be included on each SWAC. The SWAC should now include an agriculture interest as well as the traditional membership including citizens, public interest groups, business, the waste management industry, and local elected public officials.

The new law also amends RCW 70.95.180 and directs jurisdictional health departments to send a copy of a permit to Agriculture when the application is to establish or modify a solid waste handling facility that is located in an area that is not under a quarantine and when the facility will receive material for composting from an area under a quarantine. Agriculture shall review the application to determine whether it contains information demonstrating that the proposed facility presents a risk of spreading disease, plant pathogens, or pests to areas that are not under a quarantine.

Advertising for vacant positions will proceed in November, 2016.

We will need to amend the by-laws and WCC 2.78 for the new Agriculture position.

Point Roberts Solid Waste Survey Update

Staff is working with the Point Roberts Community Advisory Committee to assess the effectiveness of the current solid waste management system in Point Roberts regarding curbside collection services, commercial services, and transfer station operations. A Solid Waste Survey was developed to gather information, and 314 community members completed the survey. Survey closed on October 16, 2016. The responses are comprehensive and enlightening, and will be reviewed, analyzed, and presented to the Point Roberts Community Advisory Committee for consideration on December 13, 2016. The survey is not for public dispersal until the staff presents the results to the Point Roberts Community Advisory Committee.

Greg Young asked why survey was done? The community asked that same question as well Jeff said that when the Whatcom County Health Department took over the full Solid Waste Division, it was brought to our attention about the level of services in Point Roberts. It seemed very timely to put out a survey and get input from the community.

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

The final draft 2016 Comprehensive Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Plan update has been completed. The draft update of the existing 2008 plan, as required by RCW 70.95, describes the current solid and hazardous waste management system and makes recommendations for potential future implementation.

On October 11, 2016 staff presented the draft update of the plan at the Public Works, Health, and Safety Committee prior to a scheduled public hearing requesting review and approval. Discussion in committee ensued regarding questions about the current City of Bellingham solid

waste disposal contract bid and award process, and the agenda item was held in committee pending a motion to request information from the city regarding the contracting process.

The SWAC had lots of discussion regarding the contracting process. Eric Johnston stated that the City of Bellingham has yet to award the contract, and is still in the process. The city wants to do what's the best interest for the community. The city contract was never met to exclude anyone. Barbara Brenner shared her concerns about the contract. Motion was made to recommend that council move forward with approval of the 2016 Comprehensive Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Plan and consider the city disposal contract issue being separate from that process. The motion for approval was made by Barbara Brenner and 2nd by Marjorie Leone. Motion approved by all.

Preliminary Review of WCC 8.15, Solid Waste Disposal Sites

A recommendation in the final draft 2016 Comprehensive Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Plan update regards review and update of WCC 8.15, *Solid Waste Disposal Sites*. In anticipation of this recommendation, a preliminary initial review and discussion was scheduled.

The SWAC needs to review and discuss excise tax, ordinances, and flow control. SWAC had lots pf discussion about self-haulers and the excise tax. The SWAC group thought we needed to start reading the WCC 8.15 and trying to understand it, as well as the background on the flow control lawsuits. John and Jeff met with the county attorney regarding the Disposal Site Agreement.

Open Session, Announcements, Agenda Items

Announcements

Mark announced that Sustainable Connections was awarded a grant from USDA for organic in small cities, regarding organic composting matter.

Agenda Items:

1. Point Roberts Survey
2. Discussion on Flow Control
3. Common terminology
4. Organics in small cities

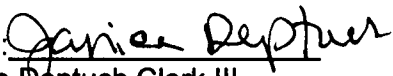
Adjournment


Meeting adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

Barbara Brenner 1st and 2nd by Casey Heinle, 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 October 27, 2016.*

Attest: 
Janice Deptuch Clerk III
Whatcom County Health Department
Committee


Mark Peterson, Chair
Whatcom County Solid Waste Advisory