

WHATCOM COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES
January 26, 2017

Members Present:

Barbara Brenner, Eric Johnston, Amber Jones, Martin Kuljis, Troy Lautenbach, Larry McCarter, Mark Peterson, and Greg Young

Members Absent:

Casey Heinle, Marjorie Leone, and Ed Nikula

Staff Present:

Jeff Hegedus, Janice Deptuch, John Wolpers

Others Present:

Lisa Friend – Citizen, Rodd Pemble - SSC, Pete Edwards – RDS, Scott Bissell – Republic Services, Ted Carlson – PW Director with City of Bellingham, Ivan Stoner – RDS, Pat Dunn, and Adrienne Chambers - Emergency Management.

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Whatcom County Solid Waste Advisory Committee was called to order on Thursday, January 26, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. in Garden Level Meeting Room by Chair, Mark Peterson.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the October 27, 2016 SWAC meeting were approved as written. The motion for approval was made by Troy Lautenbach and 2nd by Martin Kuljis. Motion approved by all.

Introductions of Visitors

Adrienne Chambers, Whatcom County Emergency Management
Joe Casalini, Republic Services
Scott Bissell, Republic Services
Rick Lagerway, Republic Services
Pat Dunn, SSC
Polly McNeal, SSC
Rodd Pemble, SSC
Ted Carlson, COB
Lisa Friend, Citizen

New Membership Introductions

The Solid Waste Advisory Committee would like to welcome aboard new committee member Larry McCarter, representing the Solid Waste Disposal Facility committee position, and continuing member Amber Jones, who represents the Business/Industry committee position and has elected to serve a second term. With regret Marjorie Ann Leone, who represents the Public Interest Group committee position, completes her second term on January 31, 2017 and will be departing.

Outreach for representation for the newly required Agriculture committee position is on-going, and the ordinance that enables the committee is being amended. Following the amendment, the bylaws will also require updating to reflect the new position.

Point Roberts Solid Waste Survey Results and Next Steps

Staff have been in Point Roberts since May 2016 working with the Point Roberts Community Advisory Committee (PRCAC) to assess the effectiveness of the current solid waste management system in Point Roberts regarding curbside collection services, commercial services, and transfer station operations. David Gellatly, owner of Cando Recycling and Disposal, joined SWAC and answered many questions and joined in on the discussion around survey results. The Solid Waste Advisory Committee had lots of discussion about the survey and lots of questions for David regarding transfer station and curbside service in Point Roberts. They received good data on the use of the transfer station. The reason it was brought to SWAC was to get input on how to move forward.

Staff will again be present at the March 14, 2017 PRCAC meeting to discuss next steps regarding community engagement, analysis, and discussion of potential solid waste management system considerations. David Gellatly from Cando Recycling and Disposal, who is now a member of PRCAC, will be in attendance, join in the discussion, and be available for any questions.

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

Good news, the Comprehensive Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Plan was unanimously approved by the County Council. The plan will get one more review by Diana Wadley with the Department of Ecology.

SWAC did discuss and unanimously approve a formal motion acknowledging that the comp plan waste reduction and recycling element was reviewed by the committee and that they concurred with content and recommendations as presented in the final draft document. Motion made by Barbara Brenner and 2nd by Greg Young.

Sustainable Connections Commercial Waste Reduction and Recycling Program Contract Update

In support of the county objective of achieving a 50% waste reduction and recycling rate, on June 1, 2016 the county entered into contract with Sustainable Connections to provide Commercial Waste Reduction and Recycling Community Education and Outreach services, including commercial waste audits, technical waste assessments, action plans, and performance evaluations. Mark Peterson gave an update covering the first half year of program work and outcome. The

New Toward Zero Waste (TZW) businesses were recruited including 20 Food Service, 10 Construction, 6 Event, and 16 additional businesses from various sectors. Sustainable Connections staff provided technical assistance, education, and assessment of Toward Zero Waste efforts.

Sustainable Connection staff were successful in recruiting six events to implement TZW procedures. One of the six events, Oktoberfest, was cancelled for safety reasons due to a significant windstorm predicted for the evening of the event.

For all six events, Sustainable Connections provided technical assistance, planning support, and assistance with volunteer recruitment. It is clear events hold a significant opportunity for diverting waste from landfills. Events also provide a forum to promote the Toward Zero Waste brand and provide education to attendees.

Sustainable Connections staff are working with the following to be Zero Waste: Farmer's Market, Bellingham July 4th, Jr Ski to Sea, and the Northwest Washington Fair (NWWF). They are also working with Ferndale Schools to provide resources and consulting.

Open Session, Announcements, Agenda Items

Announcements

Troy mentioned waste resources website.

Agenda Items:

1. Disaster Diversion – Where are we at?
2. Excise Tax and exemptions – Self Haulers
3. Commercial organic collection in East County

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

Greg Young 1st and 2nd by Eric Johnston, all in favor.

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 January 26, 2017.

Attest: _____
Janice Deptuch Clerk III
Whatcom County Health Department

Mark Peterson, Chair
Whatcom County Solid Waste
Advisory Committee