

WHATCOM COUNTY SOLID WASTE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

JULY 19, 2016 MEETING MINUTES

Committee Members Present

Jack Louws, Whatcom County Executive
Scott Korthuis, Mayor, City of Lynden
John Perry, Mayor, City of Everson
Jon Mutchler, Mayor, City of Ferndale
Harry Robinson, Mayor, City of Blaine
Bob Bromley, Mayor, City of Sumas
Brian Heinrich, Chief Administrative Officer, City of Bellingham

Committee Members Absent

Kelli Linville, Mayor, City of Bellingham
James Ackerman, Mayor, City of Nooksack
Ted Carlson, Public Works Director, City of Bellingham

Staff Present

Jeff Hegedus, Environmental Health Supervisor, Solid Waste Division
Janice Deptuch, Clerk III, Whatcom County Health Department
John Wolpers, Environmental Health Manager, Whatcom County Health Department
Patty Proctor, Accounting Supervisor, Whatcom County Health Department

AGENDA

Call to Order

The meeting of the Solid Waste Executive Committee was called to order by County Executive Jack Louws on Tuesday, July 19, 2016 at 1:30 p.m. at Lynden City Hall.

Introductions

We went around the room and everyone introduced themselves.

Approval of 2015 Meeting Minutes

The minutes for the September 2, 2015 SWEC meeting were approved as written. The motion for approval was made by Scott Korthuis and 2nd by John Perry. Motion approved by all.

Draft Amendment to SWEC By-Laws

A draft amendment to the SWEC bylaws is proposed to update procedures consistent with the intent and requirements of Chapter 42.30 RCW, *Open Public Meetings Act*.

We are asking committee to consider bringing Bylaws into compliance. At the Solid Waste Executive Committee (SWEC) meeting, 6 of the 8 committee members approved an amendment to the existing by-laws. Since the current by-laws require any amendment to the by-laws to be unanimous, we are requesting that Blaine and Nooksack vote by

Draft Amendment to SWEC By-Laws

email. The amendment requires that future SWEC votes be conducted either in person or by conference call during the meeting, and that any future amendments to the by-laws requires two-thirds rather than unanimous approval. Motion for approval to move to 2/3rd from unanimous was made by Jon Mutchler and 2nd by Scott Korthuis. Motion approved by all. Jack asked that Jeff get the email out to mayors of Blaine and Nooksack. An email response by David Wilbrecht, Manager, City of Blaine affirming vote to support the approval of the amendment to the existing by-laws presented at the July 19, 2016 meeting.

Solid Waste Operations Update

Solid Waste Division programs, operations, and business functions are now fully transferred from the Public Works Department to the Health Department. The Health Department now conducts solid waste planning activities, regulates over 35 permitted and exempt county solid waste handling facilities, operates the county Disposal of Toxics program, monitors and maintains closed county landfills, responds annually to approximately 300 illegal dumping complaints, implements waste reduction and recycling community outreach and education initiatives, responds to public waste management inquiries, manages the litter and Adopt-A-Road programs, and supports the Solid Waste Advisory Committee. Jack Louws asked "How the monitoring was going?" Jeff Hegedus said everything was going well.

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. It was a great community serve. John Perry asked if we are going to continue to do the tire amnesty and Jeff said "Yes".

The Health Department has met with the Pt. Roberts Community Advisory Committee, and is implementing a community involvement and engagement project that will initiate with a community 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.

In May, 2016 Sustainable Connections was awarded the bid to provide commercial waste audits and waste assessments, action plans, and performance evaluations for companies operating in the construction and food industries. With this program in place, waste reduction and recycling community education and outreach is now being implemented for the youth (Sustainable Schools program), adult (Master Composter/ Master Recycler program) and commercial (Toward Zero Waste program) target markets. Additionally, with Puget Sound Partnership funding and separate from Solid Waste Division operations, staff currently conduct 165 commercial hazardous waste technical assistance site visits per year, and implement the county EnviroStars program.

The Disposal of Toxics facility serviced 9,379 customers in 2015, and continues to see slight but steady increases in waste chemical volumes received and processed, which exceed 500,000 pounds per year. In an effort to increase efficiencies, a pilot program to automate waste inventory and tracking administrative functions with tablet computers is being implemented.

Final Draft 2016 Comprehensive Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Plan

The final draft 2016 Comprehensive Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Plan 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.

The plan has been worked on for two and a half years, starting with Public Works and then the Health Department took on the full Solid Waste Division. It was approved by the Solid Waste Advisory Committee, received two formal reviews by the Department of Ecology, and submitted through a formal SEPA public comment process. Additionally, a second advertised public review and comment opportunity, as recommended by Ecology guidelines, was implemented. Public review and comment was also solicited and received on-line throughout the planning process, and public comments and responses to comments were tracked and provided on-line.

The draft plan was presented to 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. Jon Mutchler asked "by making the minor changes did it change the document content at all?" Jeff Hegedus replied "No". Jeff Hegedus said next step is to motion to move forward to Public Hearing. A motion to move forward with the 2016 Comprehensive Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Plan was made by Jon Mutchler and 2nd by Scott Korthuis. Motion approved by all.

2017-2018 Solid Waste Budget

The annual budgets for the 2017 and 2018 biennium 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.

Patty Proctor, Business Office Supervisor, stated that she was very conservative when it comes to budgeting. In the next biennium Jeff Hegedus will be looking at other ways to bring in funds. Some discussion about some minor changes, but accept the proposed budget as is. There was some discussion on the pharmaceutical take back program. Bob Bromley asked "What the pharmacies do with the items they take back?" Jeff Hegedus said they mail them back. A motion was made to approve the 2017-2018 Solid Waste Budget by Jon Mutchler and 2nd by Brain Heinrich. Motion approved by all.

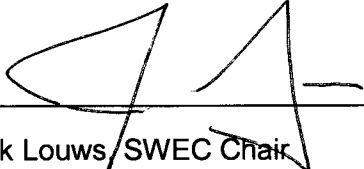
Open Session, Adjournment

No public in attendance.

Jack Louws commented on what a great job the Whatcom County Health Department has been doing with the Solid Waste Division.

Adjourn at 2:25 pm.

Approved:



Jack Louws, SWEC Chair

7-18-17

Date