

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL AGENDA BILL

NO. 2017-387

CLEARANCES	Initial	Date	Date Received in Council Office	Agenda Date	Assigned to:
Originator:	JAH	11/20/2017	<p>RECEIVED</p> <p>NOV 28 2017</p> <p>WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL</p>	12/5/2017	PW Health and Safety
Division Head:	JJW	11/20/2017			
Dept. Head:	MD	11/21/17			
Prosecutor:					
Purchasing/Budget:					
Executive:	TMH	11/28/17			

TITLE OF DOCUMENT:
Update on Point Roberts Solid Waste Management System

ATTACHMENTS:
Project Proposed Timeline

SEPA review required?	() Yes	(X) NO	Should Clerk schedule a hearing?	() Yes	(X) NO
SEPA review completed?	() Yes	(X) NO	Requested Date:		

SUMMARY STATEMENT OR LEGAL NOTICE LANGUAGE: (If this item is an ordinance or requires a public hearing, you must provide the language for use in the required public notice. Be specific and cite RCW or WCC as appropriate. Be clear in explaining the intent of the action.)

Provide update on community feedback and proposed recommendations to improve solid waste management service delivery in Point Roberts.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

COUNCIL ACTION:

Related County Contract #:	Related File Numbers:	Ordinance or Resolution Number:
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Please Note: Once adopted and signed, ordinances and resolutions are available for viewing and printing on the County's website at: www.co.whatcom.wa.us/council.



MEMORANDUM

RECEIVED

TO: Jack Louws, County Executive
FROM: Regina A. Delahunt, Director
DATE: November 21, 2017

NOV 21 2017

JACK LOUWS
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

SUBJECT: Update on Point Roberts Solid Waste Management System

Please find attached a Public Works, Health and Safety Committee update on work currently in progress to develop the Point Roberts Solid Waste Management System.

Background and Purpose

Since May, 2016 solid waste program staff have been meeting with the Point Roberts Community Advisory Committee (PRCAC) and the community to review the solid waste management system, and ensure that waste management needs were being met. As a result of this work, the PRCAC has now requested that staff implement specific recommendations to improve solid waste services in Point Roberts.

Recommendations

At the October 10, 2017 PRCAC meeting, recommendations were made to eliminate the exemption option from mandatory residential curbside solid waste collection services for all developed parcels, and include a fee on the annual property tax statement to pay for these services. A description of these recommendations is attached, along with a project timeline.

Please call Jeff Hegedus at x6044 if there are any questions.

Encl.





Update on Point Roberts Solid Waste Management System

Background and Purpose

The approved 2016 Comprehensive Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Plan includes a recommendation to 'Conduct a community involvement and engagement process to identify potential adjustments to infrastructure and regulatory requirements to improve levels of service' in Point Roberts. In May 2016 solid waste program staff met with the Point Roberts Community Advisory Committee (PRCAC) and inquired as to how staff could best work with the community to conduct a review and ensure that waste management needs were being met.

Point Roberts is a unique locale, abundantly rich in natural beauty with a friendly, independent and diverse culture. It is also remote and not populous, with a high degree of seasonal residency, which presents challenges to the solid waste management system. Low economy of scale and increased transportation costs, combined with unique regulatory requirements, results in challenges to providing quality levels of service at acceptable costs, which in turn increases illegal dumping and threatens the stability and continuity of service provision.

At the recommendation of PRCAC, in June 2016 a community survey was conducted, and 314 local respondents provided extensive feedback regarding curbside collection services, transfer station operations, commercial service levels, recycling, illegal dumping, and other system elements. The robust feedback was used to inform subsequent PRCAC meetings and community discussions regarding infrastructure and regulatory mechanisms, with emphasis on 1) levels of service, 2) costs of service, 3) illegal dumping, 4) recycling services and 5) service provider viability. The meetings were well attended, with thoughtful discourse and good coverage by the local media.

Following a year of engaging and productive discussions with PRCAC and the community, the committee made formal motion requesting staff to pursue specific recommendations regarding curbside collection services.

Recommendations

At the October 10, 2017 PRCAC meeting recommendations were made to:

- Eliminate the exemption from mandatory residential curbside solid waste collection services for all developed residential parcels with an operating on-site sewage system
- Require a minimum residential curbside collection service level of every other week, with 32 gallon can, bundled with recycling, for these parcels
- Collect payment for the minimum service level as a fee on annual property tax bills
- The service provider will invoice directly for requested services above the minimum service level, such as for larger can size, more frequent collection, or carry out/ drive in services



Currently, every other week curbside collection, with 32 gallon can, bundled with recycling costs \$16.33 monthly as per the approved Washington Utilities and Transportation (WUTC) tariff. The approved tariff rates have not increased for eight years and, combined with a current average participation rate of only 300 curbside collection customers, were slated to necessarily increase significantly. With the exemption option available, it is predicted that the participation rate would thus decrease, further reducing economy of scale. Requiring the minimum curbside collection service level implemented at the 2,254 developed residential parcels would provide significantly improved economy of scale, support cost structures, enable higher service levels, and reduce illegal dumping.

To accommodate seasonal residents, who may visit on the weekend but not be available to set out and pick up cans and recyclables on the weekly scheduled service days, carry out and drive in services will be further developed. Currently, in the approved tariff, the service provider will go up to the house, deliver containers to the truck, empty the containers, and return the containers to the house. The currently approved tariff fee for the carry out service is \$1.00 per 25 feet of carry, round trip. Under the current tariff the minimum level of service fee, with carry out service of 25 feet, would be \$18.33. This fee would likely change pending review by the WUTC in a tariff renewal, but be essentially similar value.

PRCAC also requested a critical path analysis for implementation of these recommendations. This analysis is attached. If approved by council, which is the governing body of the disposal district, the requirements would be effective January 1, 2019.

In this continuing effort, staff will meet with PRCAC and the community to review transfer station operations and capital improvement requirements.

509 Girard Street
Bellingham, WA 98225-4005
360.778.6000 | FAX 360.778.6001
WhatcomCountyHealth
WhatcomCoHealth



Whatcom County
HEALTH
Department

1500 North State Street
Bellingham, WA 98225-4551
360.778.6100 | FAX 360.778.6101
www.whatcomcounty.us/health

Point Roberts Solid Waste System

