

**WHATCOM COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY (SWAC) COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**October 25, 2018**

**Members Present:**

Eric Johnston, Ed Nikula, Kevin Moore, Lisa Friend, Troy Lautenbachand Robert Hendricks

**Members Absent:**

Amber Jones, Barbara Brenner, Larry McCarter Ed Nikula, Mark Peterson, and Greg Young,

**Staff Present:**

Jeff Hegedus, Janice Deptuch, and John Wolpers

**Others Present:**

Rodd Pemble - SSC, Pat Dunn - SSC, Natalie Dierex – Natures Path, Scott Bissell – Republic Services

**Call to Order:**

The regular meeting of the Whatcom County SWAC was called to order on Thursday, October 25 at 5:32 p.m. in the Garden Level Meeting Room by vice chair, Lisa Friend.

**Roll Call, Determination of Quorum, Approval of Minutes**

The minutes for the July 24, 2018 SWAC meeting were approved as written. The motion for approval was made by Troy Lautenbachand and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kevin Moore. Motion approved by everyone.

**Solid Waste Funding: 2018 Q1 and Q2 Results of Approved Amendment to WCC 8.13, Solid Waste Disposal District Regarding the Solid Waste Excise Privilege Tax**

As recommended by SWAC on April 27, 2107 and by the Solid Waste Executive Committee (SWEC) on July 17, 2017 it was proposed to County Council that the solid waste excise tax also be levied on solid waste transported by residential and commercial self-haulers, as per RCW 36.58.140, rather than only on solid waste transported by certificated and franchised haulers. Levying the excise tax, equitably, at the currently established rate of \$8.50 per ton was estimated to generate \$422,000 in additional annual revenue to backfill \$250,000 of annual reductions in state funding of solid waste services.

On September 12, 2017 the County Council, as the governing body of the disposal district, approved the proposed amendment. Revenue generation from the approved amendment to the excise tax is consistent with estimates, and generated Q1 revenue of \$119,000 and Q2 revenue of \$145,000. Reductions in state solid waste funding have successfully been backfilled, and solid waste program funding has been maintained.

Lisa asked if we saw reduction in fees and Jeff sad some.

## **Solid Waste Program Contact Renewal Update**

Currently, solid waste program contracting activity includes:

- Three year renewal of contract for services at the Disposal of Toxics facility, with 4% CPI adjustment, valued at \$360,000 annually, to collect and dispose of 500,000 pounds of waste chemicals from 10,000 customer transactions per year.
- RFQ is advertised for solid waste landfill monitoring and maintenance services, currently performed by Bennett Engineering, at Cedarville and Y Road Landfills, valued at \$65,000 annually.
- Renewal of contract for services with Sustainable Connections for the Towards Zero Waste program, for \$50,000 annually.
- Renewal of contract with ReSources for the Sustainable Schools program, for \$50,000 annually.
- Renewal of contract for services with WSU Extension for the master Composter/ Master Recycler program, for \$50,000 annually.

Additionally, at the annual Solid Waste Executive Meeting (Mayors, County Executive), approval was recommended for an additional 1.0 staff in the proposed budget.

Lisa asked if the SWAC could get a report from Disposal of Toxics, regarding the number and if they are going up or down.

Jeff will ask Beth to come to SWAC meeting and give a report.

John gave an explanation of the transfer of the Solid Waste Program from Public Works to the Health Department. Troy mentioned that Skagit County and Whatcom County are different. Whatcom County regulates and operates landfill facilities. Washington State passed House Bill 1047 in February, 2018 which requires that a statewide secure medicine return program be implemented and funded by pharmaceutical manufacturers. WA DOH is currently in the rulemaking stage of the program, and will be the overseeing agency. Implementation could begin as soon as May 2020, if there are no program delays along the way. The statewide program will supersede our local program once it goes into effect.

### **Secure Medicine Return Program Implementation**

Whatcom County's Secure Medicine Return Program will begin implementation by the end of November, 2018. At that time, medicine return kiosks will be installed at participating pharmacies and law enforcement agencies, and mail-back envelopes will be available at Fire Halls and libraries in outlying communities. Concurrently, initial collection events are being planned. We are working with Shew Design to create a promotional web site and social marketing campaign that will complement the messaging that MED-Project LLC will be distributing.

We are number 10 in the country implementing this program. The Disposal of Toxics will stop receiving secure medicine.

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Rite Aid and Wal Mart were using a service called Dispo RX, that disposes like garbage.. We have written them a letter asking them to stop.

### **Kendall/Columbia Valley Solid waste Compliance Enforcement**

On September 10, 2018 staff met with the East County Law Enforcement Task Force to discuss solid waste compliance enforcement capacities in the Kendall/ Columbia Valley Area. Jeff gave examples of the tools we have for enforcement. We receive hundreds of complaints every year. We can issue a \$125.00 per day enforcement fee and we also have recently introduced a voucher program. Troy offered help with the cleanup. Eric gave examples of the contracts they have for cleaning up homeless camps

### **Point Roberts Update: Implementation of Amendmets to WCC 8.11, Solid Waste Recycling and Collection District and WCC 8.10, Solid Waste and Residential Recycling Collection**

Following the June 5, 2018 Council approval of the amendments to ordinance, the service provider filed a rate case with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC) for tariff revision to implement the requirements. On October 10, 2018 WUTC Commissioners convened to consider WUTC staff recommendations regarding rates and service provision, which included a proposed rate for the new minimum level of service consisting of every other week collection of a 32 gallon can and three bin source separated recycling with the variable option for seasonal residents, at \$16.96 per month (WUTC staff memo attached). At the meeting, Commissioners determined that the public notification letter, as drafted by WUTC staff, was inadequate, and that an additional 30 day notification would be implemented. Commissioners will again convene on November 30 to consider staff recommendations. Meanwhile, based on the amendments to ordinance, the service provider has purchased and taken delivery of a recycling truck, compactor, and baler, and is purchasing recycling bins for customer distribution and a smaller truck to collect solid waste from smaller roadways that the larger vehicle cannot access. As a separate issue, as approved in the supplemental budget, quotes are being obtained to replace the 1961 single wide office at the leased Point Roberts transfer station.

On November 30, 2018, the Whatcom County Health Department will supply the Treasurer's office with a list of the affected properties that will pay the fee.

## **WCC 8.15, Solid Waste Disposal Sites**

The 2016 Whatcom County Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Plan recommends that a review and update of WCC 8.15, Solid Waste Disposal Sites be conducted. There is a lot of old language and a lot of history. Lisa Friend asked if we made changes does that go out for public hearing and Jeff replied "Yes". Jeff said we definitely need to make adjustments. Eric stated it is hard to write ordinances, it should be the WCHD staff and then to SWAC. It was recommended that we see what other counties or states are doing. More updates to come.

## **Open Session, Announcements, Agenda Items**

Lisa Friend mentioned that she will send out information on the paint steward event coming up on November 14, 2018

Natalie from Natures Path asked about the recycling impact Jeff and Kevin will contact her to answer question..

## **Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made 1st by Eric Johnston and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Troy Lautenbach and, all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

## **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 October 25, 2018.*

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Janice Deptuch, Clerk III  
Whatcom County Health Department

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lisa Friend, Vice Chair  
Whatcom County Solid Waste  
Advisory Committee