

SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**** MEETING SUMMARY ****

October 3, 2019

Andy Comstock, Committee Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:32 A.M. and introductions were made. He asked for a motion to approve the July 17, 2019 meeting notes. There was a motion to adopt, the motion was seconded and the notes were approved.

Reappointment/Election of New Chair & Vice Chair - Laurie Davies, Contact: 360-407-6103; laurie.davies@ecy.wa.gov

Troy Lautenbach volunteered to continue as Chair if no one else was interested. Esther Beaumier was nominated for Vice Chair. The committee voted all in favor. Andy Comstock announced his retirement on November 14, and Laurie Davies presented him with a service award.

Budget/Legislative Update - Laurie Davies, Contact: 360-407-6103; laurie.davies@ecy.wa.gov

HB 1543 Agency Request for Sustainable Recycling

All bills were codified. The new leads are Kara Steward for the Recycling Development Center (Center) and Stacey Callaway for the Contamination Reduction and Outreach Plans (CROPs). Work is moving forward on planner guidance and technical assistance for local governments to do CROPs.

HB 1114 Food Waste

Mary Harrington is working with 3 other state agencies to write the plan, get input from interested parties, and provide recommendations to reduce waste by 50% by 2030. The law requires that the Department of Commerce (Commerce) must hire a contractor to do an independent evaluation of the state's food waste and wasted food management systems. Five subject matter expert workgroups have been identified. A plan must be developed by October 2020, and a report on proposed regulatory changes must be delivered to the legislature by December. The website will be live by October 4 and ready to accept public comment by December 3. Information will be posted for legislative and stakeholder groups. Contact Mary for more information and participation details.

Plastics Packaging

Ecology is required to evaluate and assess the amount of packaging sold in the state. A Request for Qualifications is out now, and a report is due in October. The lead position is out for recruitment and we hope to hire by November 1. The position is ongoing not just for the study, but to oversee plastics in the waste stream. Senator Rolfus is interested in an answer to deal with packaging. The Senator decided not to have a standing committee, but we will provide a list of interested parties to the contractor. Contact Laurie Davies or Alli Kingfisher until the lead is hired. Plastic products degradability 1596 goes into effect in July 2020, and authorizes the Attorney General to pursue false claims. An independent contract is required to survey stakeholders and give an opportunity to review information collected in a report being drafted.

Paint Stewardship

Megan Warfield is the lead. Work will be to set up and operate a program with locations statewide. Five meetings were held with local governments who might become collectors. The Solid Waste Management (SWM) program is working with the Hazardous Waste & Toxics Reduction (HWTR) program to develop regulatory guidance, including an interim enforcement policy. The rules may need changes to allow retail stores to collect leftover paint from the public without a solid waste permit and to allow regulated generators to participate in the program.

MTCA Technical Fix

A tax will be provided to Department of Transportation (DOT) and would be distributed evenly each biennium. \$50M in revenue goes straight to DOT and would put Ecology in a negative balance for a couple months. There is some concern, even though the revenue forecast would equal out. Revenue gets distributed equally to all partners up front and transfers would come after that.

Anti-Fouling Boat Paint

The bill would delay current prohibition containing 0.5% copper to 2026 and require ingredients to be disclosed.

Supplemental Budget Requests

The SWM program requested \$1.5M out of the Model Toxics Control Account (MTCA) request to deal with waste for homeless encampments. It would be distributed in mid-cycle through competitive Local Solid Waste & Financial Assistance (LSWFA) grants at a 25% match. It can cover all waste (human, regular garbage, needles, and other associated items found at encampments). It will also cover disposal, unlike other LSWFA grants. The City of Olympia can't move all encampments due to legal requirements. The City brought in portable toilets and we believe that will be eligible as an infrastructure expense.

Grants Information – Kelsey Dunne, Contact: 360-407-6129, kelsey.dunne@ecy.wa.gov

We received 30 Waste Reduction Recycling & Education (WRRED) applications July, and 11 were funded. Public and non-profit organizations were eligible to apply. Contamination Reduction and Outreach Plans (CROPs) were a priority during the selection process.

Recycling Development Center – Kara Steward, Contact: 360-407-7643, kara.steward@ecy.wa.gov

Kara Steward became the coordinator of the center three weeks ago. Director Bellon at Ecology and Director Brown at Commerce will approve the designation of the Advisory Board within the next week or two. Ecology will partner with Utilities & Transportation Commission (UTC) and Department of Commerce. An Interagency Agreement is being routed for Director Bellon's approval. Once the agreement is done, Commerce will provide technical assistance. A survey was done and recommendations were made. Many states provide money to local governments and non-profits, and several organizations provide money to local businesses. Ecology is not allowed to do this, but Commerce can. Let Kara know if there are suggestions for a Recycling Development Center logo. The next steps are to appoint 14 members to the board, establish bylaws, and conduct quarterly meetings. The board members will serve a two-year term. The roster will be posted online and SWAC members can sign up to be on an email list. The board meetings will be open and well-advertised. An online participation option will be offered. We hope to hold the first meeting before the end of the year in the Seattle area. The report to the legislature is due in even numbered years. The next report needs to be drafted in August. Information is posted here: [EZ View RDC Website](#). Please contact Kara with ideas, suggestions, and comments.

350 Implementation Status – Marni Solheim, Contact: (509) 329-3438, marni.solheim@ecy.wa.gov

Changes resulted in removal of permit exemptions to facilities that previously operated without a permit. Most commingled MRFs are required to have a permit now. The revised rule requires permit applications to be submitted by September 1, 2019. The exemption notice form was updated and sent in February. Some were returned, and a second mailing went out in August with a better response. There were questions about providing technical assistance. Staff have visited many facilities, but not all impacted facilities have been responsive to our reaching out to them. Staff met with the health districts to discuss rule changes. Existing

sites were identified, and sites that should have had permits under the old rule. Facilities not known to exist were also revealed. Staff continue to offer assistance to ensure permits can be obtained and help make changes to stay out of the permitting loop. There were 24 facilities needing permit oversight, and only a few submitted by the deadline. Some extensions were issued and are expected to come in the next two months. Two facilities made changes, and only one has been completely unresponsive. Outreach continues and new facilities continue to be identified. Increased attention has led to some challenges. The health districts are discovering illegal dumps at some facilities (especially piles facilities) and they have to prioritize the dumps. Most new notices of exemption we received responses to require follow up due to missing information and further assistance needed. There is regular turnover of health district staff with knowledge to enforce new rules. One enforcement action was taken, and we continue to assist recalcitrant facilities that may need future enforcement. Next steps are to notify facilities that they are not exempt and require permits. Staff are working on communication. There are 20 facilities including mixed C&D, most requiring permits. It is uncommon for mixed C&D not to have a permit. The revised rule does not apply to tribal status.

Recycling Steering Committee Update and Recycle Right Campaign Results - Alli Kingfisher Contact: (509) 329-3448, allison.kingfisher@ecy.wa.gov

Information is going out to local governments. The committee hasn't met in about a month and a half. The next meeting is on November 1. The recycling toolkit is live and can be downloaded here: [Recycle Right Toolkit](#). Several cities have taken advantage of it. The committee is still trying to work on what each jurisdiction is collecting and considers contaminants. We are trying to develop and adjust indicators for measuring contaminants, what they are/are not, and how to report them. We are trying to get consensus on what is difficult to recycle for CROPs. It is agreed that plastic bags are a contaminant and need to be removed. The media campaign next spring will work with a consultant on the next round of media outreach, and will focus heavily on plastic bags. A consortium of businesses and politicians have approached us to help endorse, celebrate, and move the initiative forward on Earth Day. We will let them use the Recycle Right toolkit. There will also be a celebration for the 50th anniversary of Ecology.

Roundtable

Domenic Calabro, EPA Region 10: America Recycles Day is on November 15. EPA HQ is embracing it this year more than in the past. A week of activities includes celebrating 10 businesses at Century Link field with social media and a press release. A recycling fair will be held at Whidbey and Kitsap Naval Bases on the 12th. They are looking for people to staff a booth. Let him know if you are interested: Calabro.domenic@epa.gov.

Julie Gilbertson, City of Vancouver: The City is working on a contract with a hauler to roll out this week. They are interested in hearing more on LSWFA homeless funding. A proposal was submitted to collect litter from homeless, and they are interested in standardizing litter bags. The Talking Trash program received an award. A Commerce RFP and grant was recently awarded, offered through their Housing Assistance Unit. The primary contacts are Kathy Kinard (Kathy.Kinard@commerce.wa.gov) and Megan Kendig (megan.kendig@commerce.wa.gov) with the Office of Family & Adult Homelessness at Commerce.

Kris Major, Spokane Regional Solid Waste System: Resource Synergy was awarded a grant to prevent food waste to leverage the lean path platform. Through the program, three large kitchens can be implemented. They are seeking participants in the program, which covers the first year cost of consulting and licensing fees to implement. They would like to speak with anyone that has large commercial kitchens. The City and County of Spokane are focusing on contamination, Recycle Right, and working with Ecology, haulers, and Spokane River Forum to leverage resources to reeducate residents in changing recycling markets. They are looking at glass in single stream, and not putting it in the garbage since it doesn't help with disposal. They are looking at

source separated glass programs. If successful, glass can be dropped off at transfer stations. One facility can grind and use glass for pipe bedding.

Steve Gilmore, Republic Services: A new Recycling Simplified program was created and rolled out for teachers. Feedback from educators is that they find it valuable. Steve sent an email with information. Let him know what you think.

Art Starry, Thurston County: The County is struggling to update the solid waste management plan. We hope to submit soon, but are not sure if all issues will be addressed. A RFP is being developed for operation of solid waste facilities. Work is starting and there will be a need to extend the contract for current operators, since work is running late. The new Solid Waste Manager has not been hired yet. Interviews were done a while ago, and it's not certain if offers were made. Art attended the Environmental Health Directors meeting with state agencies and partners in preparation of legislative session.

Stacey Callaway, Ecology: She started three weeks ago, and is focusing on working with Ecology planners. She will start working with local jurisdictions to decide what fits their needs for statewide CROPs.

Pat McLoughlin, King County: The County is excited that the comprehensive solid waste plan is being reviewed by Ecology. It is an important process and ultimately received strong endorsement from the cities. The County offered to be a resource for Thurston. Jeff Gaisford, Recycling and Environmental Services Manager, will return as a SWAC representative starting next month. A question was asked about whether King County is actively exploring waste to energy, or just listing it in the plan. In 2001, the plan stated that once capacity is reached at Cedar Hills Landfill, it will go to export. The new plan calls to begin studying long-term disposal. Beginning in early 2020, the process will be updated over the next 5 years. Waste to energy will be looked at, as well as other technologies and waste to export. Laurie Davies expects this to come up in the next legislative session. The Scandinavian system's premise is that all residuals go to a waste to energy circular close loop economy, and nothing goes into the ground. The County is happy to share more info if this is of interest. In 2017, a group was engaged on US projects and identified solutions that would make the most sense. The study is coming out this week. Energy costs are pretty low, and hydro power has a substantial benefit. The models required by regulators don't favor waste to energy. The current regulatory environment doesn't allow residual ash, and is required to go to a landfill.

Next Meeting

The SWAC meeting on November 13 was cancelled due to a conflict with the Washington State Association of Counties conference. The next meeting is scheduled on January 22.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Submitted by: Beth Gill