

**THURSTON COUNTY**  
**SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting Minutes of April 3, 2019**  
**9605 Tilley Rd. S., Suite B, Olympia, WA**

<b>ROLL CALL:</b>		<b>Alternate (A)</b>
		<b>Excused (E)</b>
		<b>Not Present (NP)</b>
		<b>Present (P)</b>
<b>Members</b>	<b>Interest/Organization</b>	
Jim Cooper	City of Olympia	P
Gary Edwards	Thurston County Commissioners' Office	E
E.J. Zita ( <i>Joe Downing</i> )	Port of Olympia	P
Joan Cathey	City of Tumwater	P
Michael Steadman ( <i>Lenny Greenstein</i> )	City of Lacey	P
Dave Watterson	City of Tenino	NP
E.J. Curry	City of Yelm	NP
Greg Schoenbachler	District #1, Citizen Representative and Agricultural Representative	P
Burton Guttman	District #2, Citizen Representative	P
Renee Radcliff Sinclair (Vice Chair)	District #3, Citizen Representative	P
Delroy Cox ( <i>John Cox</i> )	Industry Representative – Refuse	P
Chad Sutter	Industry Representative – Recycling	P
Daniel Venable	Business Representative	NP

**Staff Present:** Jennifer Walker, Amanda Romero, Colleen Minion, Rob Pudner and Angela Celestine – Public Works; Ramiro Chavez – Thurston County Manager.

**Guests Present:** Peter Guttchen and Peter Lyon – Department of Ecology; Ron Jones – City of Olympia; John Cox and Jeff Harwood – LeMay/Waste Connections.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The April 3, 2019 Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) meeting was called to order by the Chair Michael Steadman at 10:00 am.

Thurston County Manager Ramiro Chavez addressed several points of discussion from the SWAC meeting minutes of March 6, 2019. Ramiro referred to the request from the committee for a monthly report from the director outlining previous month's activities of the Solid Waste Division. Ramiro reminded the committee that the SWAC is an advisory board and does not assign work to county employees. Renee stated she didn't think it was unrealistic to get a regular update about what's been happening around solid waste activities.

Ramiro also addressed comments received from the SWAC related to the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the long-term disposal contract. He explained the decision not to brief the SWAC about the RFP process was an administrative one he made, and from his perspective, a briefing with the SWAC would not be appropriate as there could be conflict of interest among some of the SWAC members. He further explained that all the discussion surrounding the RFP process was done at BoCC public meetings, providing transparency and protecting the integrity of the County. Michael commented that the letter sent to the BoCC was not on behalf of the SWAC as a whole. Renee commented that the intent was for the SWAC to be briefed on the process and timeline and the SWAC would ask certain members to step aside if a conflict of interest arose.

Chad Sutter clarified the report the SWAC requested from the director was intended to be a high-level overview. The report of activities would keep the SWAC informed. Joan Cathey commented that in prior years the SWAC was given regular reports on activities of the Solid Waste Division. Ramiro communicated that the role of staff is to support the SWAC. If there are specific requests for information, staff would be able to provide that information. He emphasized the Public Works Director and the County were committed to providing support to ensure a successful SWAC.

Delroy Cox voiced concerns over the results of the Capital Facility Plan (CFP) study that suggested the WARC was adequate for the next twenty years. Ramiro stated that although he had not read the report yet, he would be reviewing it for details of infrastructure improvements. Jeff Harwood and John Cox spoke to the increase of usage of the facility and concerns regarding safety of employees and the public.

Ramiro informed the SWAC that because Monica Gorman was serving as the interim Central Services Director, Gerald Tousley would be attending the meetings and would be the lead staff member for requests from the SWAC. Jennifer commented that moving forward, reasonable appropriate requests from the SWAC would be addressed.

## **2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES**

Delroy Cox made a motion to approve the agenda for the April 3, 2019 SWAC meeting and the minutes from the March 6, 2019 SWAC meeting; Renee Sinclair seconded the motion. The committee voted and unanimously approved.

## **3. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comments were made. During this time, Gerald shared information regarding the upcoming Washington State Department of Transportation's (WSDOT) Divergent Diamond Interchange construction project on Marvin Road. He explained its potential impacts on traffic around the Waste and Recovery Center (WARC) and that County staff will monitor the situation closely. Delroy reiterated his earlier safety concerns both for the public and those working at the facility. Jennifer commented that Public Works requested WSDOT provide traffic control. There will be reader boards, and Public Works staff is prepared to provide flaggers if necessary for traffic issues in and out of the WARC.

## **4. NEW BUSINESS**

Present 2019 workplans of Solid Waste and Outreach Staff (requested by SWAC)

Rob Pudner and Colleen Minion presented a broad overview of the 2019 residential and youth sector program workplans. Rob spoke about creating educational materials with consistent messaging that could easily be distributed. Renee commented that residents seem to misunderstand how to recycle properly especially keeping materials “Empty, Clean and Dry.” Peter Lyon mentioned that the Department of Ecology (DOE) was starting an “Empty, Clean and Dry” campaign. Peter Guttchen explained that as part of the new campaign, a variety of multi-media formats will be used, and customizable materials for different jurisdictions will be available. Jeff suggested the county get input from Emmett Brown, the Commercial Recycling Coordinator for Waste Connections, regarding multifamily residential recycling and contamination. Rob indicated that anti-contamination is included in all the county’s solid waste educational messaging. Burt Guttman inquired about the *Talking Trash* publication and how that might fit in. Rob stated the educators were considering changes to the format like, partnering with another division, more frequent publishing, and different methods of distribution.

Colleen reported the educational presentations for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students in schools outside the City of Olympia were aligned with the school curriculum and supported standard requirements. Colleen also shared information about the Reduce, Reuse, Recycle activity patches for scouting programs. She distributed copies of the publication *Trash Talk* and mentioned it is distributed to teachers as an opt-in program. Lastly, she shared a sample of this year’s give-away, a metal straw that goes with the county youth presentation about reducing plastic waste in the oceans.

#### Present 2018 Public Works Annual Report, Solid Waste Department (requested by staff)

Gerald referred to the Solid Waste Division’s chapter of the 2018 Public Works Annual Report, highlighting the division’s 2018 accomplishments.

### **5. OLD BUSINESS**

Joan inquired if the Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) was still on the schedule for SWAC’s review in May. Gerald stated that the SWMP was with the consultants for edits as requested by DOE.

Renee referred to the March 6, 2019 minutes and stated that while it’s understood that the SWAC cannot assign work to staff, having director reports would help the SWAC make informed decisions. Joe Downing inquired on how the topic of the director report was elevated to the BoCC. Jennifer commented that what she originally received were notes from a SWAC member, and she also referred to a letter sent to the BoCC regarding the RFP process. Jennifer stated that the County Manager wanted to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the SWAC, as well as open a dialog between the committee and the County. Jennifer expressed confidence that moving forward, the SWAC and the County could work together cooperatively, as ultimately the County and the SWAC share the same goals.

### **6. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**

In respect of time there was no discussion, and the April 3, 2019 SWAC meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

The next SWAC meeting is scheduled for May 1, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. located at 9605 Tilley Rd. S., Building C, Rainier Room, Olympia, WA 98512.

*Audio files of these meeting minutes are available upon request.*