

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

| | | |
|--|---|-------------------------|
| ROLL CALL: | | Alternate (A) |
| | | Excused (E) |
| | | Not Present (NP) |
| | | Present (P) |
| Members/(Alternates) | Interest/Organization | |
| Jim Cooper (<i>Gary Franks</i>) | City of Olympia | A |
| Gary Edwards | Thurston County Commissioners' Office | P |
| 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 | A |
| Dave Watterson | City of Tenino | P |
| E.J. Curry | City of Yelm | P |
| Greg Schoenbachler | District #1, Citizen Representative and Agricultural Representative | NP |
| 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, Chris Helmer, Gerald Tousley, Amanda Romero, and Angela Celestine – Public Works; Art Starry, Chris Hawkins, Patrick Soderberg– Public Health and Social Services.

Guests Present: Peter Guttchen – Department of Ecology; Delroy Cox and Jeff Harwood – LeMay/Waste Connections; Steve Gilmore – Republic Services, Wendy Mifflin – HDR Engineering, Inc. (HDR), Joe Hyer-Citizen.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The July 3, 2019 Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) meeting was called to order at 10:00 am by the Acting Chair Chad Sutter.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES

Delroy Cox moved to approve the minutes from the June 5, 2019 SWAC meeting and the Agenda for the July 3, 2019 SWAC meeting; E.J. Curry seconded the motion. The committee voted and unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments. Jennifer Walker announced that Monica Gorman resigned as Solid Waste Manager effective the end of July. Gerald Tousley will continue to manage operations and the SWAC. Karen Weiss will continue as interim Solid Waste Manager for personnel issues.

3. NEW BUSINESS

Introduction of Chris Helmer, Capital Projects Manager

Chris Helmer, Public Works Capital Projects Manager, introduced himself to the SWAC and provided an overview of his background. He explained his primary focus is getting the Solid Waste Capital Facility Projects (CFP) moving forward.

Thurston County Facility Conditions Assessment and Infrastructure Management Plan presentation – Wendy Mifflin, Senior Solid Waste Planner for HDR Engineering, Inc.

Gerald began the presentation about the Thurston County Facility Conditions Assessment and Infrastructure Management Plan by giving an overview of the process that led to creating the document. He further explained the plan was incorporated into the County's 2019 - 2024 CFP adopted by the Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) in December 2019.

E.J. Zita discussed the costs and benefits of installing waste to energy technology at the facilities.

Wendy Mifflin provided information regarding the facility needs assessment and recommendations. Wendy addressed questions and comments, and she reviewed the criteria used to rank HDR's recommendations for the County's CFP. She referred to the Solid Waste Facility Condition Assessment and Infrastructure Management Plan, Table 6.1 Recommended Actions and Implementation Schedule as well as the County's CFP Table 6.5, Solid Waste Capital Projects 2019 - 2024. Jennifer and Gerald addressed questions about budget and funding sources for the projects.

Solid Waste Management Plan – original/revised drafts document comparison

Burt Guttman pointed out the thousands of people in Thurston County who are trying to recycle solid waste material or dispose of it still need our guidance, especially in light of changes to China's policies. He distributed copies of a recent article from *Sierra Magazine* about the situation.

Renee Radcliff Sinclair distributed copies of letters that were sent to the BoCC by the Cities of Olympia, Lacey, Tumwater and the Port of Olympia. She also distributed a draft resolution written on behalf of the SWAC. The letters and the draft resolution all outlined similar recommendations regarding communication between the County and the SWAC, the Request for Proposal (RFP) process for expiring solid waste contracts, and the Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) next steps. Jennifer addressed questions regarding the RFP process.

Gerald updated the SWAC on the status of the SWMP stating the County has been waiting for a response from the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC) regarding the

cost assessment. Jennifer explained the WUTC indicated a response would be coming soon. Peter Guttchen provided feedback from the Department of Ecology's (DOE) perspective.

Department of Ecology unofficial review of SWMP final draft letter

Gerald presented the letter from the DOE written in response to the recent SWMP draft submission. Wendy said the two items the DOE wanted addressed were the WUTC cost assessment and the long-range needs for solid waste handling. Wendy stated that the County submitted a letter to the WUTC requesting written notification if the cost assessment would be accepted. She also said the 20-year CFP would be incorporated into the SWMP to satisfy the question of long-range solid waste handling. Wendy suggested the SWAC move the plan forward, adding changes or updates as amendments.

4. OLD BUSINESS

Update of SWAC 2019 Work Plan; assign meeting topics for August, October, and December of 2019

The SWAC discussed topics for the August meeting agenda. Topics included a work session exploring renewable energy options, update on the global recycling markets, and education and outreach strategies.

5. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

After the committee discussed the recommendations outlined in the SWAC's draft resolution, Dave Watterson made a motion to forward it to the BoCC; Joan Cathey seconded the motion. The SWAC voted and unanimously approved.

The July 3, 2019 SWAC meeting adjourned at 11:32 a.m.

The next SWAC meeting is scheduled for August 14, 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.