



SPU Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC)

September 2, 2015 Meeting Notes
Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 Fifth Avenue

Room 4901

5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Chair: Heather Levy

Vice-Chair: David Della

Committee Members & CAC Staff	Present?	SPU Staff & Guests	Role
Dan Corum	N	Tim Croll	Solid Waste Planning and Program Manager
David Della	Y		
Anna Dyer	Y		
Ben Grace	Y		
Holly Griffith	Y		
Katie Kennedy	N		
Jamie Lee	Y		
Heather Levy	Y		
Rodney Proctor	N		
Joseph Ringold	Y		
Quinn Schweizer	By phone		
Stephanie Schwenger	N		
Chris Toman	Y		
Heidi Fischer, CAC Program Support	Y		
Sego Jackson, Policy Liaison	Y		
Sheryl Shapiro, Program Manager	Y		

ACTION ITEMS FROM SEPTEMBER SWAC MEETING:

Field Trips:

- ✓ SWAC Field Trip to the zoo will be September 29th.
 - (Remember that the next day, September 30th, is a Joint CAC Meeting.)
- ✓ Chris will contact Dan about activities in addition to the zoo's compost operations.
- ✓ Chris will send out information to SWAC on parking and a happy hour location after the zoo tour.

- ✓ Sheryl will send out information to SWAC on the CDWAC/WSAC October field trip to the Cedar River Watershed.

Outreach:

- ✓ Heather will consider sending the Saving Water information to her contacts at Washington Green Schools.
- ✓ SWAC Members should let Sheryl know if they send out the Saving Water information to their contacts so SPU can track the outreach efforts.
- ✓ Ben may attend the Columbia City Farmers Market on October 14th.
- ✓ Chris may attend the outreach event at the Husky Stadium on October 31st.
- ✓ Heather and Chris may attend the EPA Waste Sort Activity, depending on the date, which is TBD.
- ✓ Holly and Joseph may attend the Broadway Farmers Market on September 23rd.
- ✓ Katie may attend the Columbia City Farmers Market on October 14th.
- ✓ David will attend the Rainier Beach Halloween Boo Bash on October 31st.
- ✓ Joseph may attend Fiestas Patria in South Park on September 19th.
- ✓ Heather may attend the Tilth Harvest Fair on September 12.

Work Plan:

- ✓ With regard to #5, SWAC will revisit the compost requirement implementation in November (after October survey is completed).
- ✓ With regard to # 9, SWAC Members should let Sheryl know if they have particular areas of interest with regard to updating the Community Advisory Committees' charter.
 - Heather would like to see guidance included for nominating and electing officers.
 - Charter updates will be changed from June to TBD.
- ✓ With regard to #10, Heather will review earlier meeting notes to determine whether SWAC should consider further action on construction and demolition (C&D) recycling.
- ✓ With regard to #13, Heather and Sheryl will meet to discuss a more formalized outreach reporting process (a shared spreadsheet?).
 - Sheryl will email Heather with some dates.
- ✓ With regard to #15, Segó will check on the status of the asphalt shingle ban.
 - This topic will be tentatively scheduled for October.
- ✓ With regard to #18, SWAC will ask for an update on multi-family composting and recycling when Marcia's replacement is identified.
- ✓ With regard to #22, Segó will provide quarterly updates on tonnage at the October and January SWAC meetings.
- ✓ With regard to #27, SWAC Officers will discuss how to approach contamination research.
- ✓ SWAC will add #29 to the Workplan: Overview of commercial waste management programs, including the Clear Alley Program and diversion.
 - Segó will consider this and discuss it with SWAC officers in planning meetings.

Regular Business

- Committee members and staff introduced themselves.
- August meeting notes are approved.

Solid Waste Updates, Tim Croll

- **Compost Requirement**
 - Earlier surveys indicated that the public supports the compost requirement by 7 to 1.
 - SPU is continuing to conduct outreach on the new requirement. We are emphasizing the virtues of composting and the existence of the requirement rather than focusing on the potential future fine.
 - In September we are conducting “robo” calls. We are also leaving adhesive flyers (which are available in several languages) on all garbage cans to remind customers of the new requirement.
 - We will conduct another survey in October to measure customers’ awareness of the requirement and to ask for the public’s feedback about whether we should go forward with the fine.
 - Results of that survey coupled with measurements on waste tonnage will determine whether we go forward with implementing the fine in January.

- ❖ **Committee Member Question: Is SPU leaning toward not employing the fine on a residential level?**
 - **Answer: It’s one approach that we are considering.**

- ❖ **Committee Member Question: IS SPU thinking that the fine isn’t needed if only a small number of people are noncompliant with the ordinance?**
 - **Answer: Only 1% of SPU customers have received warning tags for noncompliance. However, this does not mean that the other 99% are fully compliant with the law. We are looking at the costs and benefits of implementing the fine as well as whether the public supports it. We are much more likely to go forward with the \$50 fine for multi-family property dumpsters, which would only be assessed after two written warnings.**

- ❖ **Committee Member Question: Is SPU considering not going forward with the \$1 residential fines because of the recent lawsuit?**
 - **Answer: This has nothing to do with the lawsuit.**

- **Apple Maggots**
 - Until recently, SPU sent 60% of its compost to PacifiClean, a processor in Grant County on the eastern side of the state.
 - Recently, the Department of Agriculture notified us that this is in conflict with apple maggot containment practices.
 - The rules prohibit the west side of the state from taking organics across the Pacific Crest unless it’s ground up prior to transport, or the processor has an enclosed building.
 - Since PacifiClean could not meet these requirements, we sent our compostable material to a composter in Snohomish County (Lenz).

- PacifiClean wanted to resume processing our compostable material, so we tried having a grinder at the South Transfer Station. We worked with the surrounding community and an industrial hygienist and things appeared to be working well.
 - However, an apple maggot moth was found near another eastside organics processor. As a result, all composting of material from Washington's west side on the state's east side has been halted.
 - The Department of Agriculture has hired scientists to conduct a risk assessment before these operations can resume.
 - They started work yesterday and will continue their assessment through the first of March.
 - It's very common in the horticultural trade to do these studies to assess pest risk.
 - One question they will consider is whether we can resume operations in the winter, since apple maggots are dormant then.
 - PacifiClean is waiting on the risk assessment results before building a new enclosed facility as well as a concrete pad that would allow them to continue processing organics from western Washington in Grant County.
 - SPU has a six year contract with PacifiClean.
 - For now, PacifiClean is paying Cedar Grove to compost SPU's material.
- ❖ Committee Member Comment: Apple maggots must be pretty bad.
- Response: Part of the concern is that eastern Washington apple producers must meet specific requirements to participate in the international market.
- ❖ Committee Member Question: Is there a risk of PacifiClean deciding not to process SPU's organics?
- Answer: SPU's has a six year contract with PacifiClean. Even though they are not making money now, there is still the incentive for them to invest in a new facility (if the risk assessment results do not report otherwise) and make the contract profitable.
- ❖ Committee Member Question: Are there similar problems with SPU's other organics processor?
- Answer: No. Lenz processes the remaining 40% of SPU's organics in Snohomish County.
- ❖ Committee Member Question: Are other eastern Washington composters still processing western Washington organic material?
- Answer: No. All composting of material from Washington's west side on the state's east side has been halted except for one small exception.
- ❖ Committee Member Question: Why did this suddenly become an issue when it was going on for some time without a problem?
- Answer: Someone drew attention to PacifiClean and the apple maggot issue. It could have been a concerned neighbor or community member, or an organics processing competitor.

- Extra Charges for Set Outs
 - When customers leave garbage for pick up that does not fit into the garbage can, or that is set out for collection outside of the can, extra charges apply.
 - SPU makes millions of dollars in revenue from these charges.
 - 4% of these extra charges are challenged by the customers.
 - If customers challenge these fees (explaining that the extra garbage they are being charged for did not happen), SPU's procedure is to remove them from the bill.
 - Recently we've received a number of letters from customers alleging that garbage collectors are taking advantage of them by assessing too many extra charges for set outs.
 - However, garbage collection contractors do not receive any part of those fees.
 - We received one complaint in particular alleging that a specific neighborhood has been targeted for extra charges for set outs.
 - In response to this complaint, we looked at some data. We compared the amount of set outs reported by individual drivers and found surprising variation. One driver was twice the rate than the mean, which may or may not still be an accurate assessment by the driver.
 - We already have a system in place to create an incentive for garbage collectors to report setouts.
 - SPU samples neighborhoods to find out how many set outs are there, and then compares that number with the number reported by the area's garbage collectors. The garbage collection contractor is advised if some set outs were not reported.
 - David Della, SWAC Member and Public Sector Manager for Waste Management (WM), explained that WM has monthly meetings with SPU inspectors and route managers coach drivers on how to assess set outs. It's an ongoing discussion, and both SPU and WM are being proactive in standardizing the practice.
 - Quinn Schweizer, SWAC Member and Waste Zero Manager at Recology CleanScapes, added that Recology CleanScapes looks at whether set outs have been reported on a weekly basis. When a set out has not been reported, the driver is advised.
 - However, we do not currently have a system in place to monitor over reporting of extra set outs.
 - We are considering some unofficial sampling to monitor over reporting of extra set outs. We may ask drivers to periodically take a picture of every set out.
- ❖ Committee Member Question: Did SPU have similar issues with inconsistency among drivers when giving warning tags for violating the compost requirement?

- Answer: Yes. Some drivers were doing a good job of identifying violations, and some were doing a great job and finding more violations. We've corrected this and now the drivers are applying the same standard.

- ❖ Committee Member Question: What qualifies as an extra set out?
- Answer: Any material that is 6 inches or more over the garbage can's lid, or that is set out outside of the can.

- ❖ Committee Member Question: Are these extra fees for set outs being assessed based on a customer's traditionally underserved status?
- Answer: In this case it does not appear so. The area in question is an affluent neighborhood.

- Old South Transfer Station
 - The new South Transfer station is located at 130 South Kenyon Street.
 - We are considering how to use the old South Transfer Station location.
 - We plan to create a recycling center where customers can drop off their recyclable materials for free, SPU's larger commercial customers can self-haul their recycling, and people can also drop off reusable items.
 - We also plan to have a few other facilities for other SPU uses, including a decanting station, where the vacor trucks that clean out catch basins transfer the solid waste to the landfill and the liquid waste into the sewer system for treatment.
 - We currently only have one decanting station in the north end of town, so adding one on the south end will make the catch basin cleaning process more efficient.
 - We'll leave room on the site for a materials recovery facility (MRF) sometime in the future.
 - We're currently in the planning phase. We're also doing outreach to the community surrounding the site.
 - We hope to begin the design process by the beginning of 2016.

- ❖ Committee Member Question: Will the decanting station have an odor?
- Answer: It will be in an enclosed building. The doors will be open only to let trucks in.

September Field Trips

- Chris has spoken with Dan Corum, SWAC Member and Compost & Recycling Coordinator at Woodland Park Zoo about a field trip to the zoo.
 - Dan gave Chris three possible dates in late September, and then SWAC Members filled out a Doodle poll to determine availability.
 - The zoo tour will be September 29th.

- Sheryl reminded SWAC that there is an all CAC meeting the following day, on September 30th.
 - The tour will take about an hour.
 - Members should be at the zoo at 3pm.
 - There was some discussion about including another site on September 29th field trip, such as the North Transfer Station, but the Committee decided to visit just the zoo.
 - Chris will contact Dan about additional behind the scenes activities during their zoo tour.
 - Some Members may walk around the zoo for a bit before and/or after the tour.
 - The group may also meet up for a nearby happy hour after the zoo tour.
 - Chris will look into it and suggest some possibilities.
- David Della, SWAC Vice-Chair and Public Sector Manager for Waste Management (WM), described a recent ongoing project. After weeks of picking up marine debris along the Alaskan and Canadian shoreline, a 300-foot-long barge arrived at its final destination, Seattle, on Thursday, August 6, 2015.
 - SWAC watched two videos on the project. They can be found at:
 - <https://vimeo.com/135617504> Password: barge
 - <http://www.kirotv.com/news/news/massive-barge-carrying-tsunami-debris-arrives-seat/nnFT3/>
 - A diverse group of governmental, nonprofit and commercial organizations collaborated to implement the complex month-long helicopter and barge operation. Funded in large part by a goodwill gift from the Government of Japan, the State of Alaska contracted with Gulf of Alaska Keeper (GoAK), an Alaskan non-profit organization, to coordinate the complex project.
 - Waste Management was among many partners involved in the large-scale cleanup effort to package and relocate the materials to Seattle for possible recycling.
 - A significant amount of the debris washing up on the coastlines was the result of the devastating 2011 earthquake and tsunami in Japan.
 - The cleanup removed more than 3,400 super sacks, or an estimated 1, 000,000 pounds of debris from the U.S. and Canadian coastline. That's enough debris to fill 36 rail cars.
 - WM employees unloaded the debris and stored the contained sacks on their dock. In a few weeks, local volunteer groups will sort the material for recycling.
 - The project will be looking for volunteers to sort materials.
 - David will have more information soon.
- Sheryl, the Program Manager, reported that the other Community Advisory Committees, WSAC (Water System Advisory committee) and CDWAC (Creeks, Drainage and Wastewater Advisory Committee), are planning an October 3rd or 10th field trip to the Cedar River Watershed to see the salmon and possibly take a float trip.
 - SWAC Members are welcome to join them.
 - Sheryl will send out more information.

Outreach

- Chris and Heather attended the Ballard Market with Tilth.
 - Their table was tucked away but they still had a lineup of people waiting to receive a free compost bucket.
 - In return for the free bucket, Tilth asked people to play their sorting game.
 - Many people wanted to sort their compost, recycling, and garbage correctly but came across confusing items, like food containers with waxy or plastic coating.
 - However, many people also demonstrated detailed sorting knowledge, like remembering that lids need to be 3 inches or more in order to be recycled.
 - Sego, the Policy Liaison, noted that current labeling of packaging leads to confusion about what is compostable and what is recyclable.
- Anna Dyer, SWAC Member and Recycling and Waste Reduction Analyst for Seattle Housing Authority (SHA), reported that SHA and Seattle Parks Department just did a big youth field trip.
 - They trained 20 young people about recycling and composting, and accompanied them door to door to visit SHA customers and give out free compost buckets.
 - It was lots of fun, and they plan to do it again this fall.
- Quinn reported that she attended a multi-family property outreach event with SPU's Marcia Rutan before she retired just recently.
 - The event was in Thornton Place, in the Northgate area.
 - About 115 people attended including both residents and staff.
 - People did the sorting game called 'Where Does it Go?'
 - The audience was very engaged and interested, and asked good questions.
- Sheryl then passed out the list of upcoming outreach events. SWAC Members expressed interest in attending various events:
 - Ben may attend the Columbia City Farmers Market on October 14th.
 - Chris may attend the outreach event at the Husky Stadium on October 31st.
 - Heather and Chris may attend the EPA Waste Sort Activity, depending on the date, which is TBD.
 - Holly and Joseph may attend the Broadway Farmers Market on September 23rd.
 - Katie may attend the Columbia City Farmers Market on October 14th.
 - David will attend the Rainier Beach Halloween Boo Bash on October 31st (as WM is an event sponsor).
 - Joseph may attend Fiestas Patria in South Park on September 19th.
 - Heather may attend the Tilth Harvest Fair on September 12.
- Sheryl also thanked Anna for recently sending SPU's saving water brochures to SHA's property managers.
 - They will be posting the flyers in the common areas of the multi-family properties
 - Assuming they all go up, it will be around 100 buildings.
 - There are about 10,000 people including children in these buildings; 4,893 units of housing.

- The brochures are available in 9 languages and are on-line at www.savingwater.org
- A WSAC Member also sent them to his contacts in the hotel industry.
- Sheryl explained that information like this is sent out broadly by SPU, but that additional connections are always appreciated.
 - Heather will consider sending the saving water information to her contacts at Washington Green Schools.
 - SWAC Members should let Sheryl know if they send out information to their contacts.

Mid-year Work Plan Review

- Since several SWAC Members are relatively new and did not participate in creating the work plan earlier this year, Heather gave some background about the plan.
 - The SWAC Charter directs SWAC to have an annual work plan.
 - Since Heather has been Chair, SWAC officers use the work plan when creating meeting agendas and inviting speakers to SWAC.
 - Some items on the plan occur every year, like the Recycling Plan.
 - Sometimes we add new programs or items of interest.
 - The Plan includes quarterly Joint CAC Meetings, and quarterly review of waste tonnage data.
 - A rough date is applied to each of the plan's topics.
 - The column marked "BA" stands for "Business Area," and the key for the abbreviations is:
 - Col - Collection
 - PD – Processing & Disposal
 - WP – Waste Prevention
 - FO – Facility Operations
 - HL – Historic Landfills
 - NF – New Facilities
 - CC – Clean City
 - HW – Hazardous Waste
 - LOB – Line of Business wide
 - The description column of the work plan notes SWAC's action on each topic (for example, staying up to date, writing a letter, giving feedback).
- Heather then began going over the items on the work plan.
 - With regard to Item #1, Rates Briefing, SWAC had a briefing in January.
 - With regard to Item #3, Product Stewardship Legislation for Paint, Seago reported that additional legislation is expected next year, but for now, the strategy is to get businesses involved in outreach.
 - With regard to Item #4, Officer Elections, SWAC elected officers in January.
 - With regard to Item #5, the Implementation of the Compost Requirement, the Committee has kept a close eye on the requirement and this is ongoing item. SWAC will

revisit this again in November after the October survey is completed. SWAC will also monitor diversion rates.

- With regard to Item #6, Request for Proposal for the new materials recovery facility (MRF) contract, SWAC has already discussed and there is nothing additional required.
- With regard to Item #7, WA State Department of Ecology, SWAC reviewed their new report, and decided not to seek a visit from Ecology in 2015.
- With regard to Item #8, Food Packaging Ordinance Improvements, SWAC has been receiving ongoing reports and are interested in seeing this move forward. The last update indicated more time will be required, so unless something changes, this topic is complete for 2015 and will be revisited in 2016.
- With regard to # 9, the SWAC Charter, SWAC Members should let Sheryl know if they have particular areas of interest with regard to updating the Community Advisory Committees' charter.
 - Heather would like to see guidance included for nominating and electing officers.
 - Charter updates will be changed from June to TBD.
- With regard to #10, C&D Recycling – Transfer Station Diversion Pilot, Heather will review earlier meeting notes to determine whether SWAC should consider further action on construction and demolition (C&D) recycling.
- With regard to Item #11, Race and Social Justice Training, the October 27th Joint CAC meeting will feature a presentation and discussion of the equity analysis of the City's Comprehensive Plan.
- With regard to Item #12, Textiles Recycling, SWAC has discussed this and this item is complete for 2015.
- With regard to Item #13, SWAC Outreach and Engagement, outreach is now ongoing and SWAC can call that a success.
 - Heather and Sheryl will meet to discuss a more formalized outreach reporting process (a shared spreadsheet?).
 - Sheryl will email Heather with some dates.
- With regard to Item #14, SPU Annual Recycling Report, SWAC reviewed the report and commented in a letter to the City Council. This item is complete for 2015.
- With regard to Item #15, Asphalt Shingle Ban, Sego will check on the status, and this topic will be tentatively scheduled for October.
- With regard to Item #16, the Midyear Work Plan Review, this item is now complete.
- (Item #17 was July, when SWAC did not have a meeting.)
- With regard to #18, Multi-Family Composting & Recycling, SWAC had a lot of interest in this topic as a way to increase diversion rates, and will ask for another update when Marcia's replacement is identified.
- With regard to Items #19 and 20, North and South Transfer Station Rebuilds, SWAC just got an update this evening on these topics and will consider them complete for 2015.
 - SWAC may take a field trip to the new North Transfer Station when it's completed next year.

- With regard to Item #21, Product Stewardship Legislation for Batteries, Segó does not anticipate legislation in this area in 2016.
- With regard to Item #22, Solid Waste Tonnage Update, these are quarterly and Segó will invite Vicky to the October and January SWAC meetings to give updates.
- With regard to Item #23, SPU Strategic Business Plan, Joint CAC Meetings have addressed this and will continue to do so through 2015.
- With regard to Item #24, Joint CAC Meetings, the next meetings are planned for September 30 and October 27th.
 - More meetings might be scheduled; SWAC Members should pencil in the 4th Wednesday of each month.
- With regard to Item #25, SWAC Recruitment, the Committee is currently full, but new members need to be cultivated, so recruitment is ongoing.
- With regard to Item #26, Guest Speakers, some members thought it would be helpful to have a Committee retreat or larger training.
 - Sheryl noted that we have done this in the past and are working on doing this again.
 - She would like to hear from SWAC Members about what would be valuable to include in an orientation.
- With regard to Item #27, SWAC Officers will discuss how to approach contamination research.
- With regard to Item #28, Field Trips, SWAC took one earlier this year and is planning another in September to the Woodland Park Zoo to see their composting operations.
 - There may be additional field trips in 2015.
- SWAC will add Item #29 to the work plan: Overview of commercial waste management programs, including the Clear Alley Program and diversion.
 - Segó will consider this and discuss it with SWAC officers in planning meetings.

Around the Table

- Chris reported that he has a new position as a program specialist at the University of Washington in the Sustainability Department.
- Sheryl reminded Members that the next Joint CAC Meeting is September 30th and will include an interactive presentation about SPU's website, an item from the Strategic Business Plan.

7:34pm, meeting adjourned.