



SPU Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC)

February 7, 2018 Meeting Notes
 Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 Fifth Avenue
 Room 4901
 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm
Chair: Holly Griffith
Vice-Chair: Quinn Apuzzo
Secretary: Adam Maurer

Committee Members	Present?	SPU Staff	Role
Quinn Apuzzo	N	Susan Fife-Ferris	Division Director, SPU Solid Waste Planning and Program Management
Holly Griffith	Y	Sego Jackson	Solid Waste LOB Policy Liaison
Heather Levy	Y	Natasha Walker	CAC Program Coordinator
Emily Newcomer	Y	Sheryl Shapiro	CAC Program Manager
Chris Toman	Y		
Colin Groark	N	Guests	Affiliation
James Subocz	Y	Alessandra Pistoia	Guest
Alan Garvey	Y	Adam Kennedy	Guest
Amelia Fujikawa	P	Anna Dyer	SWAC Alum, Guest
Adam Maurer	N	Heather Trim	Guest, ZeroWaste Washington
		Kyla Wilson	Guest, ZeroWaste Washington
		Mendy Droke	Policy Liaison, Local Hazardous Waste Management Program

ACTION ITEMS:

- Link to the full **Washington State Organics Contamination Reduction Workgroup report:**
https://static1.squarespace.com/static/585c2db75016e175c9d685b7/t/5936deae1b631baae4303748/1496768177591/Washington+State+Organics+Contamination+Reduction+Workgroup_FI_NAL.pdf
- SWAC members were encouraged to attend **the Washington State Recycling Association 38th Annual Conference**, May 20-23, 2018 in Blaine, WA. Specifically, they were encouraged to tour Recycle BC's post collection system run by Green by Nature just across the border in Surrey BC. The tour begins with the Container Recovery Facility, looking at 10 optical sorters, and ends with the Merlin Plastics recycling facility. Details can be found here: <http://www.wsra.net/2018-schedule-and-sessions>

1. Regular Business

SWAC Chair, Holly Griffith called the meeting to order at 5:34 PM

- Members and guests introduced themselves.
- There were no notes from the January field trip to approve.
- Sheryl indicated emergency exits and bathrooms, and provided a brief safety overview. She reminded attendees to sign-in.

2. Solid Waste Legislative Updates

The meeting began with a video about local (namely, King and Snohomish County) secure drug takeback programs. The video was put together by the Secure Medicine Return Coalition and the Association of Washington Cities, and can be viewed here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Po4EblbPr8&feature=youtu.be>

Mendy Droke, Policy Liaison for Local Hazardous Waste Management Program (LHWMP), provided legislative updates. She reviewed the status of the following Bills:

- **HB1047 - Secure Medicine Return** (*product stewardship*)
 - A bill to create a statewide ordinance to ensure a safe system for the collection and disposal of unused, unwanted, and expired medicines. This is closely modeled on the Snohomish County Ordinance, which is modeled on the King County Ordinance. LHWMP is supportive of the legislation, while ensuring existing local programs that are already enacted are not harmed through preemption language. The bill has been tried at the State level a number of times without success.
- **HB1376 - Paint stewardship** (*product stewardship*)
 - LHWMP has been working on this bill for over five years, and a bill was agreed to by the paint industry, but the bill will not move forward this session. Support from paint manufacturers was withdrawn in late 2017. The paint industry wanted substantial changes to the bill they had already worked with us on and had agreed to. The paint industry says they will convene a stakeholder group in Spring 2018 to discuss the bill.
- **Take-it-back network (TIBN) for latex paint**
 - While the state bill is not going forward, a new Take-it-Back Network program for latex paint is being put in place.
 - King County has had TIBN programs for e-waste (electronics) and mercury lights.
 - It has not collected latex paint since 2008 because it's not toxic.
 - This new TIBN program for latex paint includes a number of collection sites for dropping off latex paint, for fee. The retailers participating in taking back paint set the fee.
 - A new paint recycling plant has located in the area as a result and this was one of the benefits that state legislation would have probably brought about as well.
- **HB 2658 and SB 6396 - Restricting the sale or distribution of food packaging containing Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, i.e. PFAS chemicals**
 - This bill prohibits manufacturers from selling or distributing food packaging that contains perfluorinated chemicals.
 - This bill also requires the Department of Ecology to do an assessment for safer alternatives.
- **HB 2793 and SB 6413 Restricting the sale or use of Class B Firefighting foam containing PFAS chemicals.**
 - Sponsored by a Senator who is also a firefighter in Jefferson County.
 - PFAS have been found in groundwater and water table following firefighting events. Further research will be conducted to evaluate the prevalence of use.
- **Mercury-Containing Light Stewardship Program financing**

- Mendy shared some of the challenges the Program is facing, including a faster than anticipated decline in CFL bulb sales due to decreasing price for LEDs. The program depends on the fees collected on CFLs. She said that the Department of Ecology is anticipating an increase to the assessment on those lights, and there will be an effort to convene a stakeholder group to explore solutions.
- **HB2411 – 50% reduction of wasted food in the State**
 - This bill would set a goal of reducing food waste generated annually by 50% by 2030, relative to 2017 levels. This is similar to the framework that is being considered by the Pacific Coast Collaborative (BC, WA, OR, CA and major cities, including Seattle) That approach has had SPU CEO/General Manager’s sign-off. The state bill however, died in Committee.
 - Staff shared that there may have been some confusion around the bill, and further clarity may be needed for support from agriculture interests.

Heather Trim with ZeroWaste Washington, a guest of the SWAC meeting, shared a few additional bills at play in the legislature:

- HB 2279 A “Right to Repair” bill, which would require manufacturers to provide owners and independent repair businesses with fair access to service information and affordable replacement parts.
- HB 1824 An update to the E-Waste bill, which was passed 10 years ago.
- HB 2914 A recycling bill in response to the Chinese restriction on recycling imports. This bill is being offered by Republican Norma Smith, Washington State Representative, 10th District. The bill would provide an assessment of Washington State and regional sorting and collection from an economic perspective. It also aims to develop a more regionally consistent public outreach strategy.

Sego Jackson then provided an “Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) / Product Stewardship 101” to acquaint those members unfamiliar with the term/strategy. [See PowerPoint Slide 1-2 for brief overview.](#)

3. Solid Waste LOB Updates

SPU Solid Waste Planning and Program Management Division Director, Susan Fife-Ferris provided a few Solid Waste Line of Business and legislative updates.

- **Collection RFP.** SPU is currently negotiating with vendors; likely will have an update by the April SWAC meeting.
- **SW Management Plan Amendment.** SPU is negotiating a contract with consultant now; we hope to have the contract in place by the end of February. There should be an update at the March SWAC meeting.
- **North Transfer Station Recycling and Reuse Center.** There is an open House from 10AM – 12PM on Saturday, Feb. 10. The open house will include a tour of the community education room and the reuse facility. SWAC members were encouraged to attend.

- **Solid Waste LOB 101:** Susan shared that she had been imagining the Solid Waste LOB 101 presentation focusing on the history of solid waste in Washington State. However, the interest list from SWAC member discussions on the topic indicated more curiosity in SPU-specific solid waste organizational 101. Susan would like to firm up that list, to inform the kind of presentation(s) we should put together.

4. Washington State Organics Contamination Reduction Workgroup (OCRW)

Heather Levy, SWAC member and consultant with Cascadia Consulting Group, provided a presentation on the Washington State Organics Contamination Reduction Workgroup report. Heather began with an overview of some of the issues driving the need for the workgroup (including the increased volume and variability of the contamination), the history of the inception of the workgroup, and the challenges that each workgroup tackled as well as how they knit together all the thinking and outputs from each of the workgroups into a cohesive report. Heather reviewed the goals, activities and findings/next steps from each workgroup with SWAC members.

Heather noted that the presentation was put together, in part, from a slide deck created for the US Composting Conference (USCC) in Atlanta which included nine panelists from various report subcommittees. Heather noted that the slide deck would be headed on a roadshow in 2018, and questions / feedback from SWAC will help to hone the content of presentation.

- **CAC Member:** [Regarding banana lifecycle, i.e. compostable stickers] The issue with compostable stickers is scan-ability, and we need to be able to track produce sold.
 - **CAC Member:** That brings up the issue of performance in emergency technologies, getting to scale, and decreasing prices. Price and scale are a challenge for those trying to develop upstream solutions.
- **CAC Member:** I like the banana analogy; the Japanese just created a banana with edible skin that tastes like lettuce. No waste!
- **CAC Member:** [Regarding the organics contamination tagging pilot results] What kind of additional resources and staffing did Waste Management need to implement the pilot?
 - **CAC Member:** For the pilot, tablet technology at the time didn't automatically prompt drivers. But that drove us to add technology to the tablets.
- **CAC Member:** Were there language barriers with the tags?
 - **CAC Member:** Yes, and if you look at reporting on repeatedly-tagged customers you'll see it is mostly people who are non-native English speakers
 - **CAC Member:** Customer Service with Waste Management does a lovely amount of outreach when that happens.
- CAC Members were encouraged to peek at the best management practices, developed as part of the "Upstream Systems" committee, which turned into two appendixes in report: one on proposed best management practices for packaging and another on problematic chemicals.

5. Around the Table & Community Insights

SWAC Members took a moment to share any current events/community insights and field trip

- CAC Members shared their experiences from the NuCor field trip in January.
 - **CAC Member:** "The field trip was rad. It blew my mind. It looked like a movie."
 - **CAC Member:** "[The electric arc furnace] was like watching a volcano erupt."

- **CAC Member:** “The building was shaking; the electrodes are dipped into molten steel. It was insane.”
- **CAC Member:** Recently returned from a trip to New Zealand and Australia. New Zealand recycling was terrible. Australia wasn’t as good as here.
- **CAC Member:** Chinatown is celebrating the Lunar New Years on Saturday, Feb. 11.
- **Staff:** Vietnamese New Year will also be celebrated this weekend at the Seattle Center
- **A CAC member shared** that they had been taking a Recycle 101 class online, through Oregon State University. They said it provided the history of solid waste, beginning in Athens, Greece.
- **A CAC member shared about a time** in the 1980s when they were using recycled LP records. However, little bits of paper would show up in grooves of records.
- **A staff member asked Committee members if they had been hearing anything about the Chinese ban on some recycling imports, also known as the “National Sword.”**
 - **CAC Member:** Lots of webinars on the topic.
 - **CAC Member:** Panic in Oregon; that they may be reducing what they accept.
 - **CAC Member:** I’ve heard a lot of people say, “Why even recycle; it’s all going to China, to the dump anyways.”
- **A staff member shared that they had held a meeting** about domestic processing of mixed plastics with MRFs and plastics recyclers, and that they anticipate next steps. Additional details will be shared at the March SWAC meeting.
 - **CAC Member:** Is there any leadership on that at the federal level?
 - **Staff response:** No, but we had State people and one person from the EPA at the meeting.
 - **CAC:** Is there private companies willing to step up and offer that?
 - **Staff response:** There are private sorters and recyclers that have capacity right now, but the economics don’t play out. It costs money to continue to sort things, such as #3-7 plastics. It is still cheaper to ship to SE Asia than to further sort and process here. We want to get that sorting done here, so we’re not shipping it elsewhere. We need to consider not just capacity, but costs that can determine where a material ends up.

Adjourned 7:35PM