



**May 19, 2010**

**Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 Fifth Avenue**

**Room 4096**

**5 p.m.-7 p.m.**

*Chair: Signe Gilson*

*Vice Chair: David Ruggiero*

*Secretary: Laura Feinstein*

**In attendance:** Signe Gilson, Chair; Laura Feinstein; Mark Gibbs; Carl Pierce; David Ruggiero; Rita Smith; David Traylor

**Absent:** Todd Johnson; George Kukahiko

**Staff:** Vicky Beaumont; Linda Rogers, Jenny Bagby, Dick Lilly, Hans Van Dusen

**Guests:** Bill Lasby, Seattle King County Health; Taisa Welhasch, Dept of Ecology; Tom Watson, King County Solid Waste

5:08 pm Call to Order

## **Administration:**

### **Chair Report:**

- April 2010 minutes approved
- **Attendance:** Todd Johnson notified Staff Supporter he will be unable to attend this meeting
- **April action items:**
  - Letter re SPU's Solid Waste Rate Study and the SWAC's recommendations
  - Letter to rates staff requesting information on incentives, etc.
  - Letter to Councilmember O'Brien

## **Monthly Topics:**

### **3. Introduction:**

- Vicky Beaumont introduced Ms. Taisa Welhasch, Regional Planner for Department of Ecology
  - Ms. Welhasch will be involved with SPU's comprehensive plan update
  - She is from the NW Regional Office in Bellevue, WA

### **4. Mandatory Multi-Family Organics Subscription – Discussion and Advice**

Hans Van Dusen presented briefing of City Council's request of SPU for a "white paper" relating to "Should SPU consider some form of requirement that all apartments and condos provide some minimal level of food waste composting?"

- Requested policy feedback from the SWAC
- Information ties in with 2011-12 rates, but not directly related as:
  - 15,000 tons of food and compostable paper is included in the garbage
  - What would the requirement look like?
  - When might it go live?
  - Will need targeted outreach
  - Some minimal incentives available, such as Friends of Recycling; \$100 credit
  - Biggest challenges are owners/managers
  - Cost
  - On-site stewardship results in greatest success

- SWAC held lively debate on issues. Some areas of note:
  - discussed incentives vs. dis-incentives
  - Mandatory composting/disposal not best strategy
  - Better to encourage to recycle and direct food – better use of energy
  - Enforcement a major issue
  - Yield might be too small compared to city time and money that would go into it
  - Voluntary hasn't yet yielded much
- **Action** - SWAC will prepare feedback to present to Hans Van Dusen. Draft due May 26<sup>th</sup>.

## 5. Zero Waste Indicators - Briefing

- Vicky Beaumont and Jenny Bagby presented PowerPoint presentation given to SPUN council committee on May 11<sup>th</sup>.
  - Was developed from SPU's response to Council SLI 15-1-A-1.
  - Includes a description of SPU's zero waste (solid waste reduction) performance tracking methodologies, and how SPU separates economic effects from program effects
  - Also reviewed the status of Resolution 30990 action items
  - Discussed the statement of legislative intent
  - Reviewed Action Items Summary including items not done, but on track:
    - Analyze how will reach 60% and 70%
    - Expanded recycling at parks and large events
    - Build commercial food waste composting participation, study incentives
    - New transfer station design – assume customer disposal tonnage below 2007 levels
    - Implement promotion of alternative services to customers hauling their own solid waste
    - Support legislation to require manufacturers to take care of their products' disposal
  - Items with adjusted scope or schedule:
    - Upgrade North and South transfer stations
    - Expand enforcement of current ban on disposal of recyclables – limited enforcement capabilities
    - Explore ways to inter-jurisdiction cooperation on waste reduction and product stewardship
    - Analyze ban on disposal of food waste
    - Pilot weekly compost collection and bi-weekly garbage collection – possibly 2011
    - Study mandatory apartment/condo food waste composting collection
    - Construction and Demolition recycling strategies
    - Increase support for Northwest Product Stewardship Council (NWSPSC)
  - Items with problems – no dollars to support
    - Institute new community grant program
    - Market development for targeted difficult to recycle materials
    - Implement increased opportunity for commercial waste reduction and recycling education and audits
  - Reviewed how Seattle's Recycling Programs are measured

## 6. Tom Watson, KC Solid Waste – Discussion

- Shared ideas on waste prevention and what more can be done:
  - Opt out system for junk mail and phone books
  - Ban recycling arrows on non-recyclable plastics
  - Limit sales of single-use water bottles
  - Reduce demand and use of disposable products
  - More public education – need people dedicated to this
  - Use social media better in education to get message out

## 7. Rates Sub-Committee - Briefing

- Laura Feinstein reported on actions since last SWAC meeting:

- Had discussion with Deborah Caul – some studies don't have, and will not have
- Clean Alleys study is completed, just not yet released
  - **Action:** Vicky Beaumont will follow-up and provide document to the SWAC
- Overall rate increase for 2011-12 will be in single digits; will apply to everyone, except self-haul is not included
- Additional input not needed for items presented in January

#### **8. Changing the Name of the SWAC – Discussion**

SWAC received notice from Eric Johnson that, due to job requirements, he is resigning from the SWAC. As he was a driver of this discussion, SWAC will table until it becomes an issue.

#### **9. Tons Through April – Report**

Reviewed handout of actual vs. projected disposed tons through April 2010

#### **11. Wrap Up**

##### **Recommendations :**

- No new recommendations from this meeting – refer to April meeting

##### **Action Items:**

- SWAC develop feedback on Mandatory Multi-Family Organics Subscription, and send to Hans Van Dusen
- Vicky Beaumont provide Clear Alleys study

##### **Preliminary Agenda for Next Meeting – June 16, 2010**

- Approve meeting minutes for May, 2010
- Briefings for how it's going on: electronics (curbside and state program), curbside waste motor oil, new recyclable materials and markets for them; commercial composting
- Web page testing
- Annual recycling report
- Waste incineration

7:05 PM Meeting adjourned.