



**SPU Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC)**

**January 6, 2016 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
Quinn Apuzzo	Y	Ken Snipes	Solid Waste Deputy Director
David Della	Y	Emily Rothenberg	Guest
Anna Dyer	N		
Ben Grace	Y		
Holly Griffith	Y		
Katie Kennedy	Y		
Jamie Lee	Y		
Heather Levy	Y		
Rodney Proctor	N		
Joseph Ringold	By telephone		
Chris Toman	Y		
Heidi Fischer, CAC Program Support	Y		
Sego Jackson, Policy Liaison	Y		
Sheryl Shapiro, Program Manager	Y		

**ACTION ITEMS FROM JANUARY SWAC MEETING:**

- ✓ SWAC Members should send Segos officer nominations by January 8<sup>th</sup>. Officers will be elected by secret ballot at the February SWAC meeting.
- ✓ Segos will work the SWAC Officers on the best procedure for SWAC letters that may need to be written more quickly than usual in light of fast moving legislation. He will send out some draft language to Heather and Chris for their feedback and edits.
- ✓ SWAC Members should send any additional suggestions for topics to be included in SWAC new Member introductory materials to Sheryl as soon as possible.
- ✓ Member terms (length of time as SWAC Members) will be reviewed at the February meeting to determine when openings for new SWAC Members may be available.

- ✓ Heather will make updates to the 2016 Work Plan after reviewing the notes from the January meeting. SWAC Officers will review the document before it is finalized.
- ✓ Sheryl will send Heather a list of SWAC Members' City Council districts. Heather will connect it to the outreach matrix developed last year.
- ✓ Heather asked Members to identify one or two groups that they are already engaged with, and think about whether they could talk about SWAC with those groups.
  - At the next SWAC meeting, Members will be asked to tentatively commit to doing outreach with two groups/events.

### Regular Business

- Meeting notes from December are not completed. They will be available for review prior to the February meeting.
- Sejo Jackson, SWAC's Solid Waste Policy Liaison, introduced Ken Snipes, the new Deputy Director for SPU's Solid Waste Line of Business (LOB).
  - As SWAC knows, SPU has recently reorganized around its three LOBs (Solid Waste, Drinking Water, and Drainage and Wastewater). Deputy Directors have been hired for each LOB, and now that Ken is here all of the positions have been filled.
- Ken shared some information about his background.
  - Ken has been with SPU for 12 years, and with the Solid Waste LOB for five years, working in planning and inspections. Prior to SPU, he was with the U.S. Air Force operating power plants.
  - His big goal for the Solid Waste LOB is to increase diversion (keeping more waste out of landfills and directing it into recycling and compost).
  - An idea we can relate to is how much energy is saved by increasing waste diversion. He gave some examples:
    - If you recycle one aluminum can, you save enough energy to watch the Super Bowl.
    - If you recycle one plastic bottle, you save enough energy to run a light bulb for three hours.
    - If you recycle one glass bottle, you save enough energy to operate a computer for 25 minutes.
    - The material from 20 recycled plastic bottles can be used to make one extra-large sized fleece jacket.
    - These examples help to illustrate the power of diversion by relating it to impacts.
- Sejo then asked Members to each give a more detailed introduction of themselves to help Ken get acquainted with the Committee.
  - Quinn works for Recology Cleanscapes doing outreach and education.
  - David works for Waste Management, managing municipal contracts in different cities around the region. He also spent over 20 years in politics, including as a member of the

Seattle City Council, numerous committees, and working for Mayor Norm Rice. He promotes sustainability in waste.

- Jamie works at the Seattle Chinatown International District Preservation and Development Authority (SCIDPDA), heading up their IDEA Space program. IDEA Space, a resource center for the neighborhood, heads up the community development efforts for the Chinatown ID. Waste and sanitation are some of the area's biggest concerns.
- Katie works for Cascadia Consulting, where she conducts research, participates in waste sampling field work, supports recycling market development, and writes solid waste management plans.
- Holly works for Ecova as a project associate. She recently graduated from the University of Washington.
- Joseph has been with the SWAC for two years. He attended the Evans School of Public Affairs at the University of Washington, and he works for Washington State as a data analyst. He is interested in equity in solid waste services.
- Heather came to SWAC two years ago as a lay person involved with nonprofit organizations. Her interest in solid waste led her to transition her career from management consulting to environmental consulting, and she now works with Cascadia.
- Chris studied environmental management at the Evans School of Public Affairs. He is interested in making waste diversion tangible for people. He works at the University of Washington in sustainability.
- Ben worked for the Chinatown-International District Business Improvement Area as the Program Director, where he worked with small, minority-owned businesses on a daily basis. Ben currently works for Hines in South Lake Union. He has been with the SWAC for one year.
- Sego noted that before starting at SPU, he was on the state SWAC for over 15 years. SPU's SWAC is very active and engaged, and SPU appreciates their useful advice.
- Ken noted that people often ask where solid waste services are headed in the future. Last year 20,000 people moved to Seattle, and this growth trend is expected to continue for the next few years. We need to plan for handling more garbage and recycling while reducing the environmental impacts of growth.

**Reminders re: 2016 Officer Elections, Sego Jackson, Policy Liaison**

- Sego reminded SWAC Members that officer elections will be held by secret ballot at next month's meeting.
  - ✓ **SWAC Members should send Sego officer nominations by January 8<sup>th</sup>.**
- The group made some nominations at the meeting:
  - Ben nominated Chris for Secretary.
  - Heather nominated Chris for Chair.
  - David nominated Ben for Vice Chair. (David will not be seeking a second term as Vice Chair.)
- Some earlier nominations were reported:

- Heather has been nominated for Chair.
- Chris has been nominated for Secretary.

#### **Update re: CAC Charter, Sheryl Shapiro, CAC Program Manager**

- Sheryl reported that the charter updates are moving forward.
  - We will be vetting the new charter with numerous levels of SPU management, and the entire process will likely be completed in May.
  - CAC Officers (and possibly a small group of interested Members) will probably see the draft document in the first week of February and have an opportunity to provide feedback. All CAC Members will see the document a bit later in the review process.
- The charter will include guidelines for Committee letters.
  - Sego reported that he would like to think through the best procedure for SWAC letters that may need to be written more quickly than usual in light of fast moving legislation.
    - ✓ **Sego will work the SWAC Officers on this. He will send out some draft language to Heather and Chris for their feedback and edits.**

#### **2016 Workplan Activity and Discussion**

- Heather thanked the Members who had provided comments on the workplan discussion document.
- Heather noted that Members should keep in mind, as SWAC finalizes the work plan, that last year we had 11 meetings (rather than 12).
- Members broke into three smaller discussion groups.
  - Group One discussed the following topics:
    - Line of Business (LOB) Strategy and Metrics
      - Solid Waste LOB Strategic Outlook
      - Quarterly tonnage updates
      - Annual recycling report
      - Getting to 60% tactics and progress
      - “Life after 60%”: Discuss implications of meeting or missing 60% goal and next steps
      - Solid Waste Plan 5year review
    - Transfer Stations
      - North Transfer Station completion
      - South Transfer Station Phase 2 & landfill cleanup
    - Procurement plan for new collection and disposal contracts
  - Group Two discussed the following topics:
    - Residential and commercial food waste management
      - Food waste prevention program, separation requirement, compost facilities, compost contamination work group, etc.
      - Service accessibility for customers with disabilities
    - Construction & Demolition (C&D) Debris

- C&D recycling at transfer stations
  - 2015 recycling rate and diversion rates for different materials
  - Status of landfill disposal bans on tearoff asphalt shingles, carpet and plastic film wrap
  - Status of facility certification
  - Policies put in place by King County
- Food Packaging Ordinance
- Local Hazardous Waste Management Program
  - What is SPU doing to mitigate some of the unintended negative consequences of recycling materials that contain chemicals that are harmful to our health and the environment. For example, BisphenolA entering our waterways through toilet paper containing recycled paper that includes store receipts that are coated in BisphenolA or workers being exposed to toxic flame retardants through mattress recycling.
- Group Three discussed the following topics:
  - Communications
    - Typical outreach & education materials
  - Illegal Dumping Program
  - Commercial Diversion Goals & Program
  - MultiFamily Diversion Goals & Program
    - Given the current rate of MF development in Seattle, what is SPU doing to help start new buildings off on the right foot? E.g. garbage room layout, outreach and education, signage
  - Waste Prevention Measurement
  - Product Stewardship Legislation, e.g. paint, medicine
  - Fats Oils and Grease
    - Some populations cook with a lot of oil and it ends up in our solid waste stream. It would be great to know more about the City's program and recommendations for property managers and households to dispose of large quantities of oil.
  - Benefits and Concerns regarding the state of recycling
    - How to respond to people who are skeptical of the recycling system or who have questions about what happens to the recycling after it leaves the curb. Many people have heard stories about recyclables being processed overseas in unsafe working conditions with dubious environmental outcomes. It would be great to have more specific information to be able to share with people about what really happens.
  - International Municipal Recycling Programs how are other Cities addressing these issues?
- Each group was tasked with answering the following questions for their section:

- What are the three most important items?
- How would you like to receive information/be engaged on those topics? (Have an expert come to address SWAC, take a field trip, read, or form a subcommittee)
- The groups took 15 minutes to discuss those questions for their sections. Then each group reported out.
  - Group One:
    - Most important items and how to be engaged:
      - LOB strategy and metrics
        - Want to get more information about measurement protocols used to produce reports, tonnage vs. volume, implications for diversion goals, and measures that other cities are using.
      - North Transfer Station – field trip
      - Annual Recycling Report
        - Want a presentation of the report’s themes at least a month in advance so SWAC can discuss and formulate a response.
  - Group Two:
    - Most important items:
      - Residential and commercial food waste management
      - Construction and demolition debris (C&D)
      - Food packaging ordinance
    - How to be engaged:
      - Field trips for C&D, since they have a separate processing system and we are not as familiar with it.
        - Also updates on bans and facility certification, sham recycling, and the construction development planning process.
      - Possibly a field trip related to the food packaging ordinance to Cedar Grove (Sego had suggested an interactive visit to Cedar Grove).
        - Specifically interested in how contamination is dealt with.
      - Ongoing updates throughout the year on residential and commercial food waste management.
  - Group Three:
    - Most important items:
      - Commercial and multifamily diversion goals and program
      - International municipal recycling programs
      - Product stewardship legislation
      - The group is also concerned with illegal dumping.
    - How to be engaged:
      - We love field trips but are very busy, so would prefer only 1-2 per year.
      - We enjoy speakers that engage us as participants.

- Perhaps have companies give us a presentation on their waste diversion programs (possibly Safeco Field on their increased diversion rates).
  - Possibly skype with international SWACs (Phillip on the King County SWAC might have a good contact for this)
  - We like the idea of readings, though some do better at this than others.
- The Committee reviewed the remaining items on the work plan discussion document together.
  - With regard to SWAC Admin and Governance, CAC Member agreements and letter writing protocols will be part of the new charter.
  - With regard to SWAC Education and Development, Sheryl asked SWAC Members for their input on topics to be included in SWAC new Member introductory materials.
    - Members made the following suggestions:
      - Information to help understand the data in reports
      - Glossary
      - Acronyms
      - How the SWAC interacts with the Seattle City Council
      - When SWAC might consider writing a letter, and when a letter isn't necessary
      - Brief history on solid waste collection in Washington State and in the Puget Sound Region
      - More context and preparation for commenting on reports
      - What SWAC does
      - SPU organizational chart with topics and departments
      - Overview of the Solid Waste LOB
      - Places and resources to access
      - Heather suggested that new Members not just be given the Recycling Report, but rather a brief summary.
      - ✓ SWAC Members should send any additional suggestions for topics to be included in SWAC new Member introductory materials to Sheryl as soon as possible.
  - With regard to Cross-CAC Collaboration, Sheryl explained that we are hoping to have three joint CAC meetings in 2016, plus one CAC orientation.
    - Topics connected to the Strategic Business Plan (SBP) in 2016 have yet to be determined.
    - CAC Members may be asked to weigh in on some rate design studies for water and drainage and wastewater.
    - Climate change analysis is still in the works (we are running many scenarios); when it's completed we will share that information at a joint CAC meeting.
  - One Member asked about recruitment and whether SWAC's membership is full.
    - Sheryl responded that she is in the process of reviewing everyone's terms.

✓ Member terms (length of time as SWAC Members) will be reported at the February meeting to determine when openings for new SWAC Members may be available.

- With regard to next steps on finalizing the work plan,
  - ✓ Heather will make updates to the 2016 Work Plan after reviewing the notes from the January meeting. SWAC Officers will review the document before it is finalized.

### 2016 Outreach Plan Discussion

- Heather noted that it was a good time to reflect on SWAC's approach to outreach, which evolved significantly this year.
- Sheryl noted that the charter will include some guidelines for CACs' outreach and public engagement. We are currently planning on asking Members to participate in outreach four times per year.
  - One Member expressed support for this idea.
  - Another Member reported that she appreciated Sheryl sharing upcoming outreach opportunities at SWAC meetings. Members could bring their calendars and decide right then whether to attend.
  - Another Member suggested that a combination of having the opportunities available at meetings and having a commitment of some number of events would be beneficial.
- Further discussion ensued.
  - People have good intentions with regard to SWAC outreach but are busy with other commitments as well.
  - Some Members attend other community meetings already; perhaps they can introduce some SWAC topics at those meetings.
  - One Member noted that SWAC's outreach plan is a huge step forward in engaging with the community. He added that the City Council will be more engaged with the Districts now, and SWAC should too.
    - Sheryl reported that she does currently track CAC Membership by district, and would like to track CAC outreach by district to see the impact. We can work on designing a place to input and track this information.
    - ✓ Sheryl will send Heather a list of SWAC Members' Districts. Heather will connect it to the outreach matrix developed last year.
    - ✓ Heather asked Members to identify one or two groups that they are already engaged with, and think about whether they could talk about SWAC with those groups.
- Sheryl will continue to bring a list of outreach opportunities to SWAC meetings.
- ✓ At the next SWAC meeting, Members will be asked to tentatively commit to doing outreach/engagement with two groups/events.



### **Around the Table**

- Sego reported that he had been to Yellowstone National Park over the holidays, where his hotel had some good examples of environmentally responsible stewardship, including reusing towels and wine glasses made from recycled bottles. Sego noted that Jim Hanna, who is currently the environmental impact director at Starbucks, used to be with Yellowstone's concessionaire, Xanterra, and can be credited with getting many of their environmental initiatives launched.
- Ken reported that SPU has extended free pick up of Christmas trees through the end of the month. They are composted unless they have tinsel or flocking on them (in which case they must go to the landfill).
- One Member noted that branches from wreaths must be separated from the wreath wire to be compostable.
- Jamie reported that the Tết Festival: Vietnamese Lunar New Year will be February 13-14 2016 at the Seattle Center.
- Sheryl reported that she is working on getting Orca cards for CAC Members (which will be loaded only for trips to and from CAC meetings). Members should let her know if they are interested in receiving one.

Meeting adjourned, 7:11pm.