



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

November 4, 2020 Meeting Notes  
Webex  
5:30 pm – 6:30 pm

*Co-Chair: Dirk Wassink  
Co-Chair: Nico Onoda-McGuire*

Committee Members	Present?	SPU Staff	Role
Kelsie Blanthorn	Yes	Sego Jackson	Solid Waste LOB Policy Liaison
Lizzie Szorad	No	Jemini Davis	Solid Waste Administrative Support
Adam Maurer	Yes	Susan Fife-Ferris	Solid Waste Planning & Program Management Division Director
Rachtha Dahn	No	Katie Lynd	Community Affairs Liaison
Alessandra Pistoia	Yes	Veronica Fincher	Residential Waste Prevention
Dirk Wassink	Yes	Joel Dashnaw	Guest
Nico Onoda-McGuire	Yes	Brie Kuhn	Guest
		Diana Wadley	Guest
		Heather Trim	Guest
		Hannah Scholes	Guest

**1. Regular Business**

- SWAC Co-Chair, Nico Onoda-McGuire called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.
- Members and guests introduced themselves. Prompted by the SWAC chair, they each shared their name and their Halloween costume or favorite food of the Fall.
- Notes for October were approved by members in attendance.

**2. Solid Waste LOB Updates**

SWLOB COVID Program Updates

- **SWLOB COVID Response:**
  - Nothing really new – but if you have any questions regarding what and how we are doing it, let me know.
- **Recycle BC Virtual Tour:**
  - Occurred on Tuesday, 10/27. Had ~300 attendees from around the country, with focus on how residential Packaging and Paper EPR is working in BC.
  - We also heard from WA’s State legislators.
- **Midway LF/ST/WSDOT:**
  - The excavation of waste along the east side of the Midway LF basically complete, with just a little bit of final work that needs to be done.
  - There are still items that need to be negotiated concerning the work in the ROW and the activities that involve ST.

- **SPU Incident Commander for the Election Response:**
  - Stood up to respond to potential demonstrations.
  - SPU's top priority has been to help protect staff, facilities and the public if protests do not remain peaceful.
- **SPU is actively engaged with promoting Extended Producer Responsibility:**
  - At the state level with legislation and at the national level through a number of groups we are involved with (e.g., US Plastics Pact; TRP Group; others).
- **Contamination Reduction & Outreach Program (CROP):**
  - A new requirement that SPU will need to prepare by 7/1 of next year and incorporate into our Plan Amendment. In the process of figuring out how we will pull this together internally.
- **40<sup>th</sup> Annual WSRA Conference & Trade Show:**
  - Many staff members within SPU attended the virtual conference for solid waste industry professionals/members from a wide variety of specialized fields to exchange information and learn from technical experts.
  - The conference took place from 11/2 – 11/3. Here is a link to the site: <https://wsra.net/>

### 3. SWAC Recruitment/Elections/Website Updates

- **Brief Update on Appointments**
  - There have been recommendations made to appoint two new SWAC members. Each for a one-year term.
  - The recommendations are awaiting approval from the SPU General Manager/CEO.
- **Feedback & input session moved to December**
  - Katie Lynd is currently working with the Environmental Justice and Service Equity Division within SPU to update the SWAC recruitment process.
  - A new application has been drafted and will be presented to the SWAC for their review and input.
  - Questions and ideas about the new recruitment can be sent to Katie.
- **Update on Officer Elections**
  - We hope to get ballots prepared for the SWAC by 11/13.
  - If selected as a SWAC officer, you will be expected to attend Officer Meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month, from 4 – 5 p.m.
  - All SWAC members are encouraged to consider the Secretary role.
- **Preview of New webpage**
  - The SWAC webpage on the city of Seattle site has been updated to include the names of each SWAC member, a headshot and bio
  - The webpage will also be linked to a meeting archives page which houses notes and agendas from all previous SWAC meetings dating back to 2015.
  - The new SWAC page can be found here: [Seattle.gov/utilities/SWAC](https://seattle.gov/utilities/SWAC)
  - Any comments or suggestions for edits about the site should be sent to Jemini Davis.

### 4. Waste-Free Community Grants Program Updates

Veronica Fincher led a presentation on SPU's Waste Free Grants that are offered throughout the city to fund community-initiated and led waste prevention projects

- The focus areas for these grants include innovation, equitable community engagement and community benefits.
- From 2018-2020, 59 applicants have requested a total of \$1, 151, 907. The total amount awarded to date is \$324, 500.
- Beginning in 2021, the grant cycle will be moved to a 2-year cycle instead of one-year with the maximum grant award amount increased to \$40,000.
- Due to COVID-19, there have been changes to individual grant projects. SPU is also exploring COVID-related changes to the 2021 grant cycle.
- Veronica would like to get SWAC feedback on the following questions:
  - How can we use the grant program to support community waste prevention efforts so they can continue to thrive during and after COVID?
  - How can we use the grant program to address community and City of Seattle priorities around COVID and RSJ?
- SWAC members are encouraged to give their answers in the post-meeting survey that will be distributed.

**5. Around the Table & Community Insights**

N/A

**Adjourned 6:35 p.m.**