



SPU Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC)

December 6, 2017 Meeting Notes
 Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 Fifth Avenue
 Room 4901
 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm
Chair: Holly Griffith
Vice-Chair: Quinn Apuzzo
Secretary: Emily Newcomer

Committee Members	Present?	SPU Staff	Role
Quinn Apuzzo	P	Susan Fife-Ferris	Division Director, SPU Solid Waste Planning and Program Management
Anna Dyer	Y	Sego Jackson	Solid Waste LOB Policy Liaison
Holly Griffith	Y	Natasha Walker	CAC Program Coordinator
Jamie Lee	Y	Sheryl Shapiro	CAC Program Manager
Heather Levy	Y	David Hare	Planning and Strategic Advisor, Solid Waste Planning and Program Management
Emily Newcomer	Y		
Chris Toman	N		
Colin Groark	N		
James Subocz	Y	Guests	Affiliation
Alan Garvey	Y	Alessandra Pistoia	Guest, Ecova
Amelia Fujikawa	P	Alicia Healey	Guest
Adam Maurer	Y		

ACTION ITEMS:

- Explore a potential product stewardship / producer responsibility 101 in the future for SWAC members. It was also suggested that SWAC members may need a refresher on SPU’s Legislative Process.
- Explore the opportunity for SWAC members to participate in a learning opportunity / field trip to BC, Canada for a recycling conference. Sheryl and Sego will consider.
- Sheryl or Natasha to follow-up in an email about potential January meeting reschedule for NuCor Steel field trip.

1. Regular Business

SWAC Chair, Holly Griffith called the meeting to order at 5:36 PM

- Members and guests introduced themselves.
- November meetings notes were distributed shortly before the meeting; they will be reviewed and approved electronically.
- Sheryl indicated emergency exits and bathrooms, and provided a brief safety overview. She reminded attendees to sign-in.

2. Solid Waste LOB Updates

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

- **“Goals, Metrics, and More: Defining Success in Materials Management”:** SPU was thrilled with the turnout. A summary report is being developed. Presentations have been posted, and all materials will be posted eventually. Topics will be developed for future deep dives and seminars, and SPU will be looking to the evaluations for feedback on which topics to explore. King County is interested in co-sponsoring a continuing discussion, and the feedback from these conversations will inform SPU’s Solid Waste Management Plan Update.
- **China National Sword.** SPU is continuing to tell customers to proceed recycling as before, with an emphasis on reducing / eliminating contamination. Segó provided some background on the China National Sword, including China’s plans to reduce the number of small processors, retract import broker agreements, and require inspections of 100% of loads. One future concern is regarding processing facilities popping up in other countries, essentially shifting the problems elsewhere. There is also the potential for processing facilities to move to the U.S. Segó has been exploring the possibility of getting a Plastics Recovery Facility (PRF) in the U.S. King County has provided funding, inviting entities together for a half day meeting to explore this possibility. A selection of Plastics Recovery Facilities (PRFs) and secondary Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) have been invited to join. This is likely to take place in Q1 2018. Segó noted that Oregon is convening something similar, but about domestic processing of all material types.
 - **CAC Member:** The facility you were talking about locating in the Northwest? Would it be a PRF or a secondary sorting before it goes elsewhere?
 - **Staff Response:** The PRF that serves this area may not be located here. The company I was working with previously was looking at locating in Reno. That’s how big of an area a PRF draws from. A secondary MRF draws from several local primary MRFs. A PRF will also typically take a bale like plastics #3-7 and further sort those plastics down to the resins that can be used. The Washington State Recycling Association (WSRA) conference will be on our Northwest border with Canada this year, and will include a field trip to look at BC, Canada systems and Merlin Plastics. The WSRA will also have a contamination event. **Both events may be a potential SWAC learning opportunity.**
- **Collection RFP.** Evaluation process continues. SPU hopes to have vendors contacted by end of the year or early Q1, and contracts negotiated in Q1. Any questions should be directed to Lisa Hill.
- **SW Management Plan Amendment.** The RFP is on the street and questions/answers have been distributed. Proposals are due 3PM 12/14/17. SPU hopes to have a consultant on board by the middle-to-end of February.
- **North Transfer Station Recycling and Reuse Center.** SPU has signed a contract with Goodwill, who is in the process of getting the reuse area up and running by end of year or early Q1.
- **South Transfer Station Phase 2 (STS2).** SPU Drainage and Wastewater LOB have decided not to install a dewatering facility. SPU will be coming back to SWAC with more information on this project, and possibly site design.

- **Solid Waste LOB:** Susan's Division, Solid Waste Planning & Program Management, has expanded, and is currently underway with 2018 work planning and 2019-2020 budget development. Susan said she hopes to bring the work planning process to SWAC in Q1 to get feedback/input and inform that process.
- **Legislative Updates:** Segó provided an update the various producer responsibility / product stewardship initiatives that will likely go to the Senate this year. Sen. Reuven Carlyle, D-Seattle, has been selected to chair the Senate's Energy, Environment and Technology Committee. Potential initiatives include:
 - Paint stewardship legislation will be back. It has been blocked for several years but with the change in the makeup of the Senate, it has a good chance of passage. So will pharmaceutical product stewardship legislation. Whatcom and Clallam Counties passed their local pharmaceutical laws last week, so now 60% of Washington's population lives where local laws have been passed.
 - Legislation will address the existing electronics stewardship program.
 - Legislation will address perfluorinated chemicals in food packaging. Top priority with the Toxics Free Future (previously Washington Toxics Coalition...)
 - Compostable packaging rules may be introduced in legislation.
 - Litter tax money has been diverted from litter programs and this is likely to be addressed.
 - Ecology is in the process of revising the rules related to solid waste handling. We have heard there are some parties who don't like the direction that is going and might try to do an end run around the rules through legislation.
 - National Sword: Not a bill but there may be a working session on more processing and domestic use of recyclables in Washington.
- Segó suggested that there be a producer responsibility / product stewardship 101 provided to SWAC in the future, to share how those approaches might work.

3. SWAC 2018 Work planning

SWAC Chair Holly Griffith led the work planning effort. SWAC members present (and on the phone) broke into groups of three, and divided the work plan in three sections. They spent their time highlighting top work plan topics, and discussing any missing items.

- **Group 1: Heather, Jamie, James:**
 - **[Work plan section: *Commingled Recycling Report - Hauler RFP Updates*]**
 - Love Food, Stop Waste; Update on how its working, measurements of success
 - Transcreation
 - Multifamily
 - Contamination/National Sword. Assuming updates would include this as a topic
 - Bag and food packaging. With the straw ban and utensil ban, will want to have discussion on how that is rolled out
- **Group 2: Adam, Alan, Emily:**
 - **[Work plan section: *Solid Waste Comp Plan through Hazardous Waste/Medical Waste*]**
 - Scratched the Solid Waste Comprehensive Plan off list, because input from SWAC is mandatory
 - National Sword – regular updates (as opposed to one meeting on the topic)

- Plastics issues and opportunities
- Looking at extender producer responsibility – but reframing into Sego’s idea of a product stewardship 101
- More on Race and Social Justice, and more in-depth topics on sustainable materials management
- Measurements, numbers and goals. Sustainable materials management being a subset of that
- **Group 3: Holly, Anna, Amelia, Quinn:**
 - **[Work plan section: *Reaching different markets – C&D Disposal Bans*]**
 - Reaching different markets and annual residential customer communications: felt very similar, so that concept felt very important to us
 - Developing a SWOC for SWAC: Neat concept and thought it would be a neat task
 - Shifting SPU policy with new Mayor, but that might not be a presentation as a regular update. Keeping that on the radar. All-CAC meeting?? Opportunity to write a letter in response / to influence that opinion
 - Updates on Solid Waste RFP; Vaguely mandatory
 - Construction & Demolition materials management and diversion
 - Legislative Process 101: Bob Hennessey. Very interesting, all SWAC should get the chance to hear his presentation. It is important to know where the Mayor fits in, as it relates to SWAC.

Questions / Additional Feedback

- **CAC Member:** [Regarding what is missing from the work plan] What Oregon is doing these days, seems different than Seattle.
 - **Staff Response:** To provide some context on this concept: In product development, the environmental impacts often occur upstream. David argues that you can possibly get gains by addressing product issues upstream, rather than addressing the end of life of a product (i.e. recycling). There are different frameworks you can use to consider environmental impacts and strategies.
- **CAC Member:** What is the “South Park public review process”?
 - **Staff Response:** That’s the site where STS2 is going to be located. SPU is under a consent decree for cleanup of that site because it’s an old landfill. SPU is currently working with the Department of Ecology and other parties involved in that site to get the consent decree signed and approved.

4. “Goals, Metrics, and More: Defining Success in Materials Management” Symposium Debrief

Susan Fife-Ferris and David Hare provided an overview of the symposium. They applauded the event for using metrics to get attendees re-inspired by solid waste management and to have a forum for discussing carbon footprint impacts of solid waste management. David said that a lot of the topics covered at the symposium will be moving forward, and will eventually be incorporated into the Solid Waste Comprehensive Plan. Susan said that she hoped SPU could continue to be a thought and discussion leader on these topics regionally, going into the future. About half of SWAC members attended the symposium. They shared their feedback of the event:

- **CAC Member:** Thought it was fantastic. My question was about follow-up and next steps. Glad to hear there is momentum in the partnership with King County, and that the topics will move forward. This was the best regional discussion of that type that I’ve been a part of in a long time.

- **CAC Member:** Good industry representation.
- **CAC Member:** Loved David Allaway's approach; he was so blunt. The reality that if you look at a whole life cycle of a product, especially for people who have spent their career talking about recycling... that it might make more sense to throw a certain product away. Addressing that makes people uncomfortable, and I appreciated that.
 - **Staff Response:** I attended a recycling summit a couple months prior, where someone from the business side discussed this same concept, and the room was furious. David Allaway, describing it in the context of moving towards better sustainability, was a nice touch.
- **CAC Member:** It would be nice to have a tool like the electricity bills that provide each customer a metric, in comparison to their neighbors or to their usage over the previous year to help the customer understand how they are doing.
 - **Staff Response:** We could publicize certain aspects of the waste stream; we need to work on conveying it in a simple way to a large population so that they feel they have ownership in that success.
- **CAC Member:** What are the 1-3 things that will move things forward? This gets back to my question about the SWAC work plan. Do we need to focus on all this stuff? It's super informative and interesting, but if we're going to push the needle forward are there fewer things we could focus on?
 - **Staff Response:** You don't want to lose the gains you made. Need to continually provide education, outreach, etc. to not lose ground you've already gained. But beyond that, yes, you might want to hone in on 1-2 things.
- **CAC Member:** I had the feeling when it was over that the answer to everything was in that room.
- **CAC Member:** Saw an opportunity in future symposiums for more discussion and for more interaction between audience and presenters. Wouldn't be surprised if there was feedback received on that.
 - **Staff Response:** We had a lot of ground to cover, and were afraid of getting off topic. That's why we had limited time and discussion. We used the format of submitting questions in written form to facilitate that.
 - **CAC Member:** As an introduction, I agree there is a necessity to keep folks on track, but I do think in the next ones you'll want to get other voices. There is a lot of opportunity to tap those voices.
 - **Staff Response:** Doing that in a constructive way and to keep them on track is not easy. Would love SWAC ideas on how to do that.
- **CAC Member:** The graphic recorder was impressive. That will be available to see later?
 - **Heather:** That will be available to see. If you received the invitation, you should have received follow-up email with materials. **Heather to resend to SWAC members.**
- **CAC Member:** Thought it was phenomenal event. The best waste industry event I've been to – that kind of level of conversation. I'm fairly new to the solid waste world, and being able to talk about this industry within the context of the things that matter to me (the environment) was amazing, and I look forward to seeing where the conversation goes.

5. Around the Table & Community Insights

SWAC Members took a moment to share any current events/community insights.

CAC Program Updates

- **Doodle Poll for NuCor Tour:** January 8. Will be a reschedule for Wednesday January 3rd SWAC meeting. Still need to check with NuCor about January 8 or January 9. Will follow-up via email to confirm.
- SWAC Officer Elections: Will be at January meeting. We will be sending ballots in time for those leaving for Christmas to respond.
- Sheryl acknowledged that this is Jamie Lee's last meeting. Jamie has brought so much to SWAC, championing for equity and bringing information about the ID.
- Sheryl acknowledged the role of the SWAC officers in contributing to the success of SWAC.

Around the Table

- **CAC Member:** I've got a general solid waste question: What do we do with textbooks? Rip binding off and recycle pages? Do you know the Seattle policy?
 - **Staff Response:** I will have to look into that to see what is current.
 - **CAC Member:** Recology does accept hardcover textbooks. The hard binders can be a problem. They are collected separately, and we send them to a shredder. Haven't seen them successfully moved through Recology MRF equipment.
 - **SPU staff** said for Adam to talk to Quinn at Recology.
- **CAC Member:** I went to a store that had a sign that all silverware and straws go in recycling, and everything else was composting. That's inaccurate. Who do I call? How do I report that?
 - **Staff Response:** Pat Kaufman.
- **CAC Member:** This Saturday at the Capitol Hill Giddens School, Recology and SPU is hosting a community recycling collection event. They will be collecting bulbs, batteries, textiles, bikes, etc.
- **CAC Member:** For everyone who lives in Seattle, Christmas trees can be put out Dec 26-Jan 31 next to your compost/food and yard container. If they are stripped, they will be collected and composted.
- **CAC Member:** Grand Central Market in Shoreline by Sears: Check out their recycling. They have actual physical samples behind plexiglass, by the appropriate bins.
- **CAC Member:** What happens to waste bins that are falling apart?
 - **Staff Response:** They should be swapped out and recycled. Our contract with our haulers mandates they be recycled.

Adjourned 7:33PM