



SPU Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC)

May 4, 2022 Meeting Notes
Webex
5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

*Chair: Joel Dashnaw
Co-Chair: Brie Kuhn*

Committee Members	Present?	SPU Staff /Guest	Role
Danny Barksdale	No	Jemini Davis	SPU - Solid Waste Administrative Support
Joel Dashnaw	Yes	Liz Fikejs	SPU – Sr. Waste Prevention Program Manger
Rina Fa’amoe-Cross	Yes	Jeff Fowler	SPU – Solid Waste LOB Deputy Directo
Celine Fujikawa	No	Pat Kaufman	SPU – Commercial Recycling Manager
Brie Kuhn	Yes	Katie Lynd	SPU – SWAC Program Coordinator
Nico Onoda-McGuire	No	Quinn Apuzzo	Guest – Hired as new SWAC Program Coordinator
Alessandra Pistoia	No	Heather Trim	Guest – Zero Waste WA
Hannah Scholes	Yes	Diana Wadley	Guest – Department of Ecology
Adrian Tan	Yes		
Ming-Ming Tung Edelman	Yes		
Dirk Wassink	Yes		

1. Welcome & Introductions

- SWAC Chair, Joel Dashnaw, called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM
- Members and guests introduced themselves. Prompted by the SWAC chair, they each shared their name, affiliation, and their favorite spring activity in Seattle.
- Quinn Apuzzo was introduced as the new SWAC coordinator for SPU. Her start date is scheduled for May 11. Katie Lynd will still provide SWAC support as needed, through her Solid Waste liaison role in Community Affairs.
- April meeting minutes were approved by SWAC members in attendance

2. Comments on SWLOB Updates for SWAC

SWAC members were asked to review the updates in advance of the meeting. The Solid Waste Deputy Director was available to answer questions

- **A SWAC member asked,** “How has waste transportation changed with more staff being hired by SPU?”
- **A SPU member responded,** Our transfer stations recently had a shortage of truck drivers available, so we were unable to move as much waste as we have in the past. Those numbers have increased as we have been able to fill vacancies.

3. Food Rescue Program Update & Pilots

Liz Fikejs gave an overview on the Food Rescue Innovation Program.

- **A SWAC member** asked, “What are the strategies to ensure the QR code on reusable donation bins does not fade or become inaccessible after being washed repeatedly over time?”
- **A SPU member responded**, The bins don’t currently have QR codes, but if we were to expand beyond this pilot and include QR codes in the future, they could be heat stamped onto the bins.
- **A SWAC member asked**, “Is there a long-term plan to finance this program?”
- **A SPU member responded**, SPU is performing a cost-benefit analysis to assess potential savings for grocers to use these bins. The analysis might show that paying for bins and bin servicing could be less expensive and more effective than retailers’ current systems for managing food waste and food donation.
- **A SWAC member asked**, “What is the advantage of using this program instead of going through a resource recovery company such as Divert?”
- **A SPU member responded**, Divert bins are intended to collect food scraps not donatable food. Right now, we’re seeing that almost all food – donatable food or food scraps – are going to Divert. Grocers using services like Divert pay to receive a certain number of Divert bins. But if their food waste exceeds the capacity of the bins, the food goes into the garbage. By using the donation bins, we hope grocery staff will stop putting donatable food into Divert’s food scrap bins. And if they do this, hopefully less food will go to garbage.

4. Recruitment Update & Survey

SWAC members were asked to participate in upcoming recruitment for members.

- Current SWAC members who are eligible for term extensions will receive details from Katie
- If you have served for four years and would like to continue being on the SWAC, you have the option to reapply.
- SWAC members can support recruitment through the following:
 - SWAC Recruitment Application Review Committee
 - SWAC Recruitment Interview Committee
 - Supporting SWAC recruitment in another capacity

5. Commercial Recycling/Outreach & Reuse

Pat Kaufman provided an overview on SPU’s Commercial, Recycle, Compost and Reuse efforts.

- **A SWAC member asked**, “Is there a model similar to what Ridwell uses that SPU can benefit from for creating a washing station for the reusable boxes?”
- **A SPU member responded**, SPU may not have the resources to take this on ourselves. Ideally, we would want to find an organization to partner with that can assist with these efforts.

6. Letter of SWAC Involvement on 2022 Plan Update

SWAC members are required to show how they have been involved in the development of the 2022 Plan Update by July 1.

- SWAC participation was detailed in a letter in 2011. This can be an option for this year, but a letter is not required.

- SWAC can also utilize the *SWAC Involvement Log* which is a document that has been maintained by SPU
- SWAC Officers will find specific SWAC members to assist with presenting SWAC involvement in the Plan Update

7. Around the Table

- SWAC members are encouraged to share relevant updates via email since we did not have to time to share during the meeting

Adjourned 7:30 p.m.