



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

May 6, 2020 Meeting Notes  
Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 Fifth Avenue  
5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

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

Committee Members	Present?	SPU Staff	Role
Emily Newcomer	Yes	Sego Jackson	Solid Waste LOB Policy Liaison
Alan Garvey	Yes	Jemini Davis	Solid Waste Administrative Support
Adam Maurer	Yes	Susan Fife-Ferris	Solid Waste Planning & Program Management Division Director
Rachtha Dahn	Yes	Katie Lynd	Community Affairs Strategic Advisor - Solid Waste Liaison
Alessandra Pistoia	Yes	Socorro Medina	Community Recycling & Engagement Recycling Manager
Dirk Wassink	Yes	Stephanie Schwenger	Solid Waste Lead Planner
Nico Onoda-McGuire	Yes	<b>Guests</b>	
Kelsie Blanthorn	Yes	Katie Dillon	Guest
Kit Gardner	Yes	Heather	Guest
Lizzie Szorad	Yes		

**1. Regular Business**

- SWAC Co-Chair, Nico Onoda-McGuire called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM.
- Members and guests introduced themselves. Prompted by the SWAC chair, they each shared their name and new hobbies they have picked up during the “Stay-home” order.
- Two new SWAC Members were introduced: Lizzie Szorad – Works for Recology and lives in the Greenlake area
- Kit Gardner learned about SWAC several years ago in college. Works as a paralegal in Seattle
- Holly provided an update on her time spent on Sweden and the challenges they face with solid waste

**2. Solid Waste LOB Updates**

SWLOB COVID Program Updates

- The city of Seattle will follow the governor’s orders and staff that can work from home, will work from home.
- Transfer station is closed 3 days a week and only open for essential visits
- King Co. will check addresses and Seattle residents will no longer be able to use their transfer stations
- Hazardous Waste facilities in the North and South were both closed due to staffing issues. Looking into reopening temporarily
- Offering rate relief for select customers.

#### SWLOB Customer Messaging Updates

- We have asked customers to ensure their cart lids can close.
- Spring Clean programs have been suspended. These will not be reopened until we receive direction from the Mayor's Office
- Seattle's nuisance code has been suspended
- Plastic bag usage has gone up as many retail companies are not allowing customers to bring in their own bags from home
- **A SWAC member** asked, "Are there impacts of the closure of the West Seattle Bridge to collection?"
- **An SPU member** responded – Yes, it has affected routes that drivers use. But other impacts have not been documented yet due to primary focus being on Covid-19

Stephanie Schwenger was introduced as the newly hired Solid & Hazardous Waste Lead Planner

### 3. Legislative Updates

Sego provided status updates of some of the current bills.

- Seven bills passed the legislative, and seven did not. Several partial vetoes and full vetoes were submitted. Some bills that were vetoed have a fiscal impact not related to Covid-19.
- **A SWAC member** asked, "With the number of bills that were vetoed, how many do you anticipate cycling through again?"
- **An SPU member** shared there could be a special session that focuses on financial impact of Covid-19. It is tough to gage how many will be cycled through again.

### 4. COVID-19 Impacts: Industry, Professional, and Personal

Everyone shared how they have been impacted by COVID-19 throughout work and their personal lives

**BREAK 6:30-6:35**

### 5. SPU Waste Prevention & Recycling Rate Report

Update on status of the Report from SPU Staff

- Recycling report is normally submitted to the council by the end of June. Recycling rate for multifamily, and single household are very similar to last year.
- Still do not have data for commercial and C&D sectors

SWAC Discussion on Timeline & logistics of Letter writing

- We are in the process of drafting the actual report. We have asked about obtaining an extension due to COVID issues.
- If you would like to help draft the SWAC letter for Waste Prevention and Recycling Report, email Alessandra or Katie.
- Last year's letter has been sent out to the SWAC as an example.

## **6. Product Stewardship Reports**

Sego gave a presentation on the Overview of Newly Released EPR for Packaging Reports. View the presentation here: [EPR Reports May 2020](#)

- **A SWAC member** asked “Is there a succession for EPR models?”
- **An SPU member** said we have seen transitions and they can be very difficult.

## **7. Around the Table & Community Insights**

Please email Nico with things that you found significant during this meeting or improvements you would like to see moving forward.

**Adjourned 7:15 p.m.**