



SPU Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC)

January 7, 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	N	Sego Jackson	Solid Waste LOB Policy Liaison
Alan Garvey	N	Susan Fife-Ferris	Solid Waste Planning and Program Management Division Director
Adam Maurer	Y	Molly Brewer	Solid Waste intern
Rachtha Dahn	N	Sheryl Shapiro	CAC Program Manager
Alessandra Pistoia	Y		
Dirk Wassink	Y		
Nico Onoda-McGuire	Y	Guests	
Kelsie Blanthorn	Y	Lauren Ross	Guest

1. Regular Business

- SWAC Chair, Dirk Wassink called the meeting to order at 5:34 PM
- Members and guests introduced themselves. Prompted by the SWAC chair, they each shared “ Do you prefer rain or snow?”
- Members helped indicate emergency exits and exit procedures.
- Meeting notes from November were approved.

Announcements: Sheryl noted the brand-new screen in 4901 with possible visual Skype capabilities.

- January 22nd, 5:30pm all CAC meeting with 3 agenda items:
 - 1) *Community Asset mapping* – currently working with staff to digitize earlier work by the CACs and they will demonstrate new ways of collecting and displaying data using iPads.
 - 2) Kathleen Baca, Community Affairs Division Director, will share updates on the CAC Assessment.
 - 3) Break out by Committee to continue workplan discussion
- Sheryl was recognized for this likely being her last SWAC meeting.
- Sego had previously sent out *Story of Plastic* screening at the Seattle Aquarium invite to all members. He noted that film producers may be at the event and that Recology is sponsoring it.
- Sego brought up SWAC officers’ meeting discussion about concerns regarding staffing for the 2 open positions (CAC Program coordinator and upcoming Program Manager) that are unfilled. Kathleen Baca has assured that SWAC meetings will be covered and that at the CAC

meeting she will provide updates for future staffing. It was discussed that the option of having Katie Lynd staff SWAC fulfilling the functions provided by Natasha and Sheryl is not a permanent solution due to her having other priority full-time job responsibilities that are critical to the SW LOB.

2. Solid Waste Line of Business (SWLOB) Updates

Susan Fife-Ferris, Division Director for Solid Waste Planning and Program Management provided updates from the Solid Waste Line of Business.

- *Bag Out went live January 1, 2020*— Susan was interviewed by KIRO radio and NPR. Press release went out January 6th with King County.
- Sego is continuing to work with industry representatives to expand drop-off locations for plastic bags.
- The main message SPU is pushing is: *Please take empty, clean, and dry plastic bags and plastic wrap in bundles to retail drop off locations. One can go online at plasticfilmrecycling.org to find locations and we are actively trying to find new locations. If unable to find a location convenient to you, put plastic bags and plastic wrap in the garbage.*

A SWAC Member asked if anyone is updating online resources about where to send bags, because some of them appear to be listed as a drop-off location but are not currently accepting bags.

- **An SPU staff member** shared that the website is being updated on weekly basis.
- **An SPU staff member** shared that major grocery chains are being asked to get back on board with taking plastic bags. A new system is being developed to collect from independent stores and pilots will happen this spring. Merlin Plastics will be here next week to discuss pilots. The next phase after stabilizing and expanding major chain and independent store pilots is to work with ethnic owned stores to develop plastic bag drop-off locations.
- **An SPU staff member** shared that there have been examples of multifamily locations collecting plastic bags in mass and dumping at stores, which overwhelms the stores.
- **An SPU staff member** shared that the messaging SPU wants to push is to bring your own reusable bag and to promote waste prevention practices.
- **A SWAC Member** shared that there is plastic packaging present even when not using plastic bags from regular items purchased at the store and from ecommerce.
- **A SWAC Member** noted overflowing bag drop-off locations at stores and how this sends the wrong message
- **A SWAC Member** asked if we keep track of quantity of bags/film collected?
 - **An SPU Staff member** shared that we are trying to get survey money and measurements. Republic MRF reports do not include a specific category for plastic film.
- *2021-2022 Budget Development Underway*: SPU has always done a 2-year budget; however, only one year of the adopted budget was actually authorize, meaning that each year the budget process had to be conducted. This year SPU is proposing a 2-year budget that when adopted is fully authorized as final. Susan’s Division is deep diving into budget to ensure that we are aligning with the Solid Waste Plan Amendment recommendations. SPU is also doing a Strategic Business Plan update that is given to City Council every 3 years and is due mid-June. It serves to

stabilize a rate path across LOBs at SPU. SPU just had solid waste rates adopted, kicking in April 1, 2020.

- **A SWAC member** asked if SPU could bring a summary of the budget.
- **An SPU staff member** noted the budget won't get adopted until November 2020, even though SPU must turn in its materials by January 22. SPU can provide a summary, but it won't be public or complete until it is adopted by Council.
- *2020 Solid Waste Plan Amendment:* SPU is working through internal approval process of the proposed recommendations and new metrics, and why we have not made more progress towards the 70% recycling goal. SPU will seek public comment once this has occurred and SWAC input will be sought.
- *New City Council Committee structure changes:* Reduce number of Committees. Councilmember Peterson is now chair of the Transportation and Utilities Committee (includes all utilities and SDOT). Councilmember Herbold is on the Committee but there are 5 members instead of 3 now. Before the changes, you could make presentation to Committee chair and they can pass it along to whole Council. Now, there must be quorum present (3) to hear presentations.

Sego Jackson, Solid Waste LOB Policy Liaison provides legislative updates:

- State bag ban bill is back which we hope passes, though we have some concerns about preemption language that would preempt Seattle's existing ordinance.
- Bills to establish producer responsibility for sharps and for batteries
- Mistake in previous solar bill passed in 2017 needs to be fixed. PV modules in big solar projects that connected directly to the grid were accidentally left out of the product stewardship requirements.
- Single use plastic packaging bill was problematic last session and is facing issues this session
- Flushable wipes legislation would make changes to claims that can be made on labels
- Food packaging labeling bill addresses confusion about expiration/use by dates

3. Responsible Recycling/EPR Symposium Debrief

The December Symposium brought together the two Solid Waste Advisory Committees that serve King County and our SWAC to hear about progress on responsible recycling action items and the study regarding a producer responsibility system in Washington state.

- **A SWAC member** shared that McKenna was a great resource to hear from.
- **A SWAC member** shared all SWAC meeting was very well presented.
- **A SWAC member** shared that engaging with each-other and other members during the all SWAC meeting would have been useful.
- **A SWAC member** shared that they would like to hear about culture of each member and organization in the all SWAC meeting.
- **An SPU staff member** shared that plastic is out of curbside countywide so if Seattle has a struggle with this transition, other areas in county will have an even harder time. Thus, we can pilot programs that can be used countywide.
- **A SWAC member** asked how can we make all SWAC be useful for state legislation?

- **An SPU staff member** shared that MSWAC tells King County what it wants reports on. This came about so that suburban cities have a forum to have a say in solid waste decisions. MSWAC is made up of some elected officials and staff. So, each one of these cities must buy-in to go forward with legislation.
- **A SWAC Member** asks if one-on-one meetings are still occurring.
- **An SPU Staff member** responds that we have limited budget for one-on-ones and they are in the process of being scheduled, with first priority elected officials and processors.

BREAK 6:25-6:30

4. 2020 SWAC Work Plan: Group discussion by members facilitated by SWAC Officers

- **A SWAC Member** shared that Veronica gives great presentations seeking feedback.
- **A SWAC Member** shared that Republic MRF tour was valuable.
- **A SWAC Member** shared that updates about Responsible Recycling taskforce are valuable.
- **A SWAC Member** shared that updates from Socorro about multifamily messaging were valuable.

A SWAC member stated that the considerations for the workplan are:

What potential are there for the Committee to provide meaningful input? What level of knowledge does each SWAC member have about each topic on the handout? What level of interest does each SWAC member have about each topic?

Small Group:

As a group, SWAC members itemized the following topics:

Access, Collection and Diversion
Metrics, Measurements, Numbers and Goals
Transcreation Work (Spanish/Chinese)
RSJI Work
Annual Residential Customer Communications
Enforcement of SW Bans (bags, straws)
Packaging Stewardship policy model
Seattle Green Purchasing Ordinance
WA Dept. of Ecology study on plastics
WA Recycling Development Center
Responsible Recycling Task Force
Organics Processing
Battery/Sharp Stewardship (New item created)
Waste Prevention Strategic Planning
Food Waste Rescue including Mayor's Innovation Advisory Council
Clothing Waste prevention
C&D Recycling facility field trip

- **A SWAC member** shared concern that SWAC members won't have much influence over the strategic Business Plan since it is internally driven process.
- **An SPU staff member** shared that community organizations were engaged in the last Strategic Business Plan and that CAC members who wanted to be engaged were trained to facilitate such meetings with community organizations.
- **A SWAC member** asked if the staff members responsible for transcreation are also responsible for community outreach and what do the campaigns look like to reach women and ethnic minorities in relation to waste prevention and waste sorting.
- **An SPU staff member** shared that the Community Partnership Team (CPT) is using the RSJI toolkit in various ways and they can be invited to share their work. Noted that emphasis on raising inclusion of Women and Minority Business Enterprise (WMBE) is also active in SPU.
- **A SWAC member** asked about hearing more about Enforcement of SW bans.
- **An SPU staff member** shared that this is an area that SWAC can be involved in this year giving input on enforcement ideas.
- **A SWAC member** shared that it would be valuable to tour a waste prevention facility to further engage with waste prevention strategies. They mention that *Fix-It Fair* could be a valuable event to attend. Tool Libraries are also valuable to view.
- **An SPU staff member** shared an idea to create a Waste Prevention Council made up of repair shops and other independent groups working in waste prevention.

Motion was made to approve November notes; notes approved.

5. Around the Table & Community Insights

Not completed due to time.

Adjourned 7:32 p.m.