



SPU Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC)

June 5, 2019 Meeting Notes
Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 Fifth Avenue
5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

*Chair: Dirk Wassink
Vice-Chair: Alessandra Pistoia*

Committee Members	Present?	SPU Staff	Role
Quinn Apuzzo	Y	Natasha Walker	CAC Program Coordinator
Holly Griffith	Y	Sheryl Shapiro	CAC Program Manager
Emily Newcomer	N	Sego Jackson	Solid Waste LOB Policy Liaison
James Subocz	N	Susan Fife-Ferris	Division Director, SPU Solid Waste Planning and Program Management
Alan Garvey	Y	Dave Hare	Planning Strategic Advisor, Solid Waste Planning and Program Management
Amelia Fujikawa	N	Katie Lynd	Strategic Communications Advisor for Solid Waste LOB
Adam Maurer	Y	Sam Keller	Environmental Justice and Service Equity Division
Rachtha Dahn	N	Guests	
Alessandra Pistoia	Y	Vicky Beaumont	King County Hazardous Waste Management Program
Dirk Wassink	Y	Jessica Branom-Zwick	Cascadia Consulting Group
Nico Onoda-McGuire	Y		
Kelsie Blanthorn	Y		

1. Regular Business

- SWAC Chair, Dirk Wassink called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM
- Members and guests introduced themselves.
- Sheryl indicated emergency exits and exit procedures.
- Meeting notes from May were approved
- Solid Waste LOB Updates:
 - **Sound Transit Board of Directors selected sites to study in a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the new Operations and Maintenance Facility (OMF) South.** There are three sites being considered. Susan said she expects to have the preferred location selected by summer 2020. More information can be found here: <https://www.soundtransit.org/system-expansion/operations-maintenance-facility-south>
 - SPU used to long-haul its garbage to the Midway and Kent-Highlands Landfills, in the City of Kent, both of which are superfund sites that the SPU will be required to manage for the foreseeable future. SPU is always looking for opportunities to use these sites to their highest and best use even in “retirement.”
 - A number of projects are currently being considered that will impact the Midway Landfill. One of those is the expansion of I-5, adding two southbound lanes. The land needed for this expansion is owned by the State, but Seattle used it for the disposal of garbage under an agreement with the State that

requires Seattle to pay for the excavation and removal of that material at the time in the future when the state needed the land. SPU will be excavating a significant amount of material to haul to Oregon. The other projects involve the extension of Sound Transit's light rail and the development of the OMF. Both of these projects may impact Midway Landfill, and the hope is that SPU can find synergy between the projects to ultimately save money.

- **A SWAC Member** asked if there is a possibility to source separate some of the materials being excavated for recycling. Staff responded that in this situation, their understanding is that much of the material was burned, which was common during that period. Additionally, mining is very expensive and time-consuming and most likely not practical.
- **South Transfer Station Stage 2 (STS2).** This facility will include crew quarters, a reuse and recycling facility, and parking for organics trucks, to be built at the location of the old south transfer facilities. This is where the existing South Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off facility is located. The location was a landfill and is under a consent decree with Ecology for SPU to cap and maintain. The facility is at 90% design, and SPU expects to go out with a Request for Proposal process for construction by the end of the year, with hopes of breaking ground in 2020. We expect to have a presentation ready for SWAC on this at the end of 2019.
- **Food Rescue Innovation Lab (Part II)** took place on Thursday, 6/6/19. The workshop looked at structural barriers for connecting edible food from institutional facilities to those businesses/organizations who can distribute or use that food.
 - **A SWAC Member** asked if hospitals and schools involved. Staff responded yes, very much so. Both universities and hospitals have been involved since the first Innovation Lab. Additionally, SPU is working with Mary's Place who is well connected with hospitals and schools. SPU's goal is to convene and then step-back to allow the work to take place organically.
- **Director's Rule for single-use exemptions.** The comment period closed on Monday; SPU received one comment, which was from the Seattle Restaurant Alliance, in support for the Director's Rule.
- **SDOT** is prohibiting trucks from going in curb lanes or crossing over curb lanes, which impacts garbage truck transportation in alleyways. More discussion to come on this.
- A meeting was convened to discuss an industry-led effort in Seattle to expand and strengthen the existing retail take-back system for plastic film and bags, ensuring there are markets for the materials, and getting brand-owner sponsorship. Industry partners/participants include the American Chemistry Council and its WRAP Recycling Action Program, Sustainable Packaging Coalition, The Recycling Partnership, and the Association of Plastic Recyclers. King County and Seattle are working with the industry partners to develop a project plan and roll out.
- **The University of Washington Evans School consulting team finished researched on current compliance rates around straws and utensils.** They are doing a deeper dive on Bubble Tea straws. They are also going to look at the exemption for bendable straws for

physical or medical reasons, aiming to gather a baseline on restaurants who are providing them and their feelings about the policy. That report can be viewed here: http://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/SPU/Documents/Plastic_Straw_Uten_sil_Consumption_2019.pdf

- We will be sending a link to a historic video from King County regarding landfills.

2. SWAC Summer Activity Opportunities (Field trip Survey, etc.)

- **Summer Field Trip:** July and September were the preferred months for a SWAC Field Trip. SWAC officers will aim for July. Preferred timing was Mon-Thur, after work hours. The preferred tour was for a construction & demolition recycling facility, followed by touring Republic's Material Recycling Facility (MRF). Dirk has a call-in to DTG in South Seattle. Dirk took a straw poll to confirm SWAC members approved of this.
- **November joint meeting with King County SWAC:** Most SWAC members were available for the Friday, Nov 15. **Natasha to send out Calendar hold for this date.**
- Sheryl shared about two upcoming field trips
 - The Water System Advisory Committee (WSAC) is hosting a **tour of SPU's Water Quality Lab on Wednesday, July 10, 3-5PM**. This is a unique opportunity to explore the largest state-accredited water utility laboratory. The field trip includes an overview of water treatment, a tour of the microbiology and chemistry labs, and an interactive demonstration of water tasting performed there. The lab is located in SODO (800 S Stacy St), a couple blocks from the SODO light rail stop. **If you'd like to join, please RSVP by Wednesday, June 12.**
 - The Creeks, Drainage & Wastewater Advisory Committee (CDWAC) is hosting a **tour of West Point Treatment Plant on Wednesday, August 21, 4-6PM**. Located next to Discovery Park in Seattle, West Point is part of King County's regional wastewater treatment system. West Point treats wastewater from homes and businesses in Seattle, Shoreline, north Lake Washington, north King County and parts of south Snohomish County. West Point treats about 100 million gallons of wastewater daily, and up to 440 million gallons of stormwater and wastewater during heavy rains. **If you'd like to join, please RSVP by Wednesday, June 12.**
- Staff asked about the Cedar River Watershed Tours noting they are excellent and a way to get into the Cedar River Watershed; **Sheryl will send information.**

3. Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan Amendment (CSWMPA) Stakeholder Information Sessions Plan

Sam Keller with SPU's Environmental Justice and Service Equity (EJSE) Division opened the presentation. Keller began with an overview of EJSE, which serves as the race and social justice arm for SPU. She shared about EJSE's Community Connections program, which seeks to create "deep and sustainable partnerships that aim to improve the quality of life for people of color, immigrant, and low-income communities through transformative approaches and experiences." Keller then dove into the work being done on the CSWMPA in partnership with the Community Connections program, sharing some of the key takeaways from their conversations with Community Connections partner organizations.

Jessica Branom-Zwick, Cascadia Consulting Group joined to present on the stakeholder engagement being conducted with those in the Solid Waste Industry. She shared the list of specific stakeholders that were interviewed, and the themes from the feedback received. Lastly, Branom-Zwick shared the program alternatives being considered. **The draft recommendations will be presented at the August SWAC meeting.**

Dave Hare, Planning Strategic Advisor, SPU Solid Waste Planning and Program Management acknowledged the work of Keller and EJSE, and the impact of that work. Hare addressed that at the last SWAC meeting, SWAC members wanted to see public comments on the draft report *before* they submit their SWAC letter. A discussion ensued clarifying this request, given the limited time SWAC would have to write a letter after the public comment period closes. Staff will need to work with the consultant team to see if there is a way to allow SWAC to review public comments before writing their letter, and would need to confirm that it would not impact the project timeline. SWAC can submit comments:

- As an individual
- On behalf of their organization (work)
- As a collective Solid Waste Advisory Committee (following SWAC Member Agreement guidelines)

4. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Annual Waste Prevention & Recycling Rate Report

The report is considered confidential until submitted to Council, so SWAC met in Executive Session to receive a briefing and discuss the SWAC letter about the report to Council. Dave Hare provided an update on the status of the 2018 Annual Recycling Rate Report. SWAC members asked questions and then discussed their letter. Due to presentations, questions and staff responses taking more time than anticipated, there was only 9 minutes left for SWAC to discuss details of the letter. SWAC agreed to stay past 7:30 pm, the typical meeting adjournment, to have time to discuss the actual letter details.

Because of the late hour and limited time for detailed input, SWAC members were asked to provide editorial comments on the letter following the meeting. SWAC Vice-Chair, Pistoia, will work on the letter and send the letter link. The SWAC letter needs to be submitted by June 12.

As the presentation and discussion was during Executive Session, detailed notes from this agenda item are not published.

5. Around the Table & Community Insights

We ran out of time for this agenda item.

- Sheryl thanked Holly Griffith for her 4 years of service. Today is her last meeting.
- James Subocz is unable to finish his term due to scheduling conflicts.

Adjourned 7:43PM