



SPU Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC)

March 4, 2015 Meeting Notes
Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 Fifth Avenue

Room 5965

5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Chair: Heather Levy

Vice-Chair: David Della

Committee Members & CAC Staff	Present?	SPU Staff & Guests	Role
Dan Corum	Y	Jeff Neuner	SPU Presenter
David Della	Y	Cami Beaumont	Guest
Ben Grace	Y	Quinn Schweitzer	Guest
Katie Kennedy	Y		
Heather Levy	Y		
Rodney Proctor	Y		
Joseph Ringold	Y		
Stephanie Schwenger	Y, by telephone		
Chris Toman	Y		
Heidi Fischer, CAC Program Support	Y		
Dick Lilly, Policy Liaison	Y		
Sheryl Shapiro, Program Manager	Y		

PLEASE NOTE ACTION ITEMS ARE V MARKED AND HIGHLIGHTED IN YELLOW

Regular Business

- Committee Members, staff, and guests introduced themselves.
- A minor change was suggested and made to the February meeting notes. The Members then voted to approve the notes, with no Members opposed and one Member abstaining.

Redevelopment of the South Transfer Station, Jeff Neuner, SPU

- Jeff referred to a handout entitled “STS Phase 2 Space Matrix,” which lists all of the proposed uses for the former South Transfer Station (STS), as well as the acreage needed for each.
- Numerous uses have been proposed.
 - We are considering the cost of stacking uses by building more significant foundations.
 - We will proceed with all proposed uses listed in the handout if the cost allows and there are no better options.
- The site is on a landfill, so we can’t build down. Foundations on landfills can be expensive.

- A materials recycling facility (MRF) is a first tier use under consideration.
- Several other SPU uses are second-tier possibilities, including a drainage and wastewater grit pit and a decant facility (to treat water from storm drains), administrative space for the Graffiti Rangers program, as well as emergency water storage.

- ❖ Question: Who proposed uses for this area?
- Answer: All of the proposals are from SPU.
- ❖ Question: Can some of the uses overlap to share space?
- Answer: Yes. For example, locker rooms will be shared, as well as some administrative space. We'll be considering this in more detail soon.

Jeff referred to his power point on the work plan for building on the landfill site.

- The red dashed line (on the power point slide) shows the landfill's boundaries, which go from State Route 509 (although some property separates the actual landfill from the road) to State Route 99.
- The action plan to repurpose the site is considered an interim plan, since the consent decree governing these actions won't be finalized before building begins.
- The landfill is fairly shallow (15 feet deep), and contacts ground water in some places.
- The plan is to demolish existing structures and pavement, cover system elements, maintain landfill gas (LFG) controls, and use the site to accommodate several SPU services and functions. In more detail, the plan is to:
 - **Cap to mitigate exposure, infiltration, and LFG migration**
 - Capping systems we are considering:
 - Warning/identifier layer and soil cover
 - Geomembrane and soil cover
 - Asphalt/concrete barriers
 - Geotextiles with spray on barriers
 - Buildings foundation/slabs
 - Landscape areas allowing venting
 - Landscaping is permitted with a barrier, and can be used to collect and destroy methane rather than venting it.
 - **Have a LFG control system to mitigate lateral (offsite) and vertical migration**
 - The easterly perimeter probes have not detected any methane since 1999.
 - There are three kinds of LFG control:
 - Active, using a blower vacuum control
 - Passive, using atmospheric venting
 - And a combination of the two, which would include a passive system sized for active vacuum flows, manifolded for zone control, and valved to easily allow passive-to-active conversion.
 - LFG is typically collected using wells or trenches.
 - Wells are generally employed with active collection systems, and are more effective in landfills with deeper refuse.

- Trenches are used for active and passive perimeter control and interior collection.
- LFG is typically treated with:
 - Direct venting
 - Dispersion
 - Bioberm (for odor control and degradation)
 - This approach offers the potential for carbon credits.
 - Granular activated carbon (GAC, for odor control)
 - Flare (used for gases that are greater than 20% methane, so is not a possibility for this site, which is 5-15% methane)
 - There are not enough BTUs to capture and use the methane. There have been attempts to convert landfill gas to energy, but the low cost of power in this area means that it isn't economical.
- **Integrate with SPPD, KIP and adjacent control systems**
 - Currently, the South Park Property Development (SPPD) uses a high flow active LFG control system.
 - This is a gridded well system which uses perimeter wells, shallow collector trenches, and has the buildings connected to a site system.
 - The Kenyon Industrial Park (KIP) has had an asphalt concrete pavement (ACP) cover since approximately 1968, and building monitors indicate no ill effects.
- **Separate occupied building control systems**
- **Mitigate preferential pathways (utilities)**
 - We plan to construct utilities in pre-excavated corridors to allow future maintenance without exposure.
 - There will be an identifier layer in trenches for cover system separation, trench plugs to mitigate migration, conduit seal-offs, and utility pipe flex-joints.
- We are proposing a grid system of perforated pipes.
 - The NE perimeter trench will have a geomembrane flap under a pedestrian path.
 - The west perimeter trench will have an asphalt cover, and inside the grid there will be additional shallow trenches.
 - There will be an active/passive valve box, and both open vents and barometric vents.
 - The buildings will have under-slab collection piping and membrane liners under the pile caps (liquid boot, PVC, HDPE).
 - This is at least a two year project, and major ground work will likely not begin until 2017.
- ❖ Question: Will there be a methane detection system?
 - Answer: Yes, a probe testing will be our first line of defense. There will be methane alarms in all occupied structures on the site, and the Washington Department of Ecology will likely require neighboring structures to have them as well. The Rainier Community Center has this kind of alert system, as does the Interbay Golf Course. Methane alarms are an economical investment.

- ❖ Question: Why must the current structure be torn down?
- Answer: The existing foundation was built in 1965 and is not engineered with sufficient earthquake resiliency.
- ❖ Question: How flammable is the methane that is released?
- Answer: Concentrations between 5 – 15% are explosive in the right circumstances.

Transfer Station Diversion Pilot, Jeff Neuner, SPU

- Jeff referred to a handout, “Construction and Demolition Pilot Highlights.”
 - He reported on the status of a pilot program to divert construction and demolition (C&D) debris from the landfill.
 - In 2014, SPU executed a limited contract with Allied Waste to accept C&D loads from self-haulers for sorting and recycling at their Black River facility.
 - Floor staff at the South Transfer Station set aside loads that were thought to have over 50% C&D material (based on visual inspection).
 - Thirty loads of this C&D debris were delivered to the Black River Facility in 40 foot long, open top trailers. The average weight was 13.8 tons.
 - Based on visual inspection, on average, 74% of the material was estimated to be recyclable.
 - However, we were unable to get detailed waste sorting data.
 - In 2015, the program changed a bit.
 - In addition to the big trailers, smaller loads were delivered in drop boxes that allowed for more sorting and weighing of the garbage fraction.
 - These loads were only 36% recyclable.
 - The loads that had the lowest recyclable percentages appear (based on photographs) to contain a lot of fine materials (small pieces of debris that are less than 2 inches long).
 - The program processed a lot of C&D tons, but the average value of a ton was \$115, and the actual rate of recycling was about 35%.
 - Therefore, this particular program may not be worth continuing.
 - In going forward and considering new programs for C&D recycling, we will be evaluating handling methods to reduce the fine material that isn’t recyclable. We hope to use the results of this pilot program to develop effective criteria for load selection.
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- ❖ Question: What other plans are you considering for C&D recovery?
 - Answer: We may consider a materials recovery facility (MRF) onsite at the South Transfer Station. There’s also only one certified processor of C&D debris in the area. There’s one in the works near Ikea, another in Maltby, and a couple more in south Seattle. As we get more processors, there will be more competition in the C&D debris processing and therefore better pricing.
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- ❖ Question: Can you set guidelines for what kinds of materials are mixed in with the debris in these self-hauled loads?
 - Answer: We can and we do, but they are difficult to enforce.

- ❖ Comment: We need to be mindful of avoiding a pressure point of regulations that results in illegal dumping.
- ❖ Question: Is there any picking of loads done to sort out clean wood and metal?
- Answer: We have tried that in other programs, and there may be an opportunity to explore it again in future programs.

Presenter Feedback Form, Sheryl Shapiro and SWAC Members

- Committee members took a few minutes to fill out the feedback forms about Jeff’s presentation.
- The Committee Members also honored and thanked Dick Lilly for his service as Policy Liaison (Dick is retiring, and this is his last SWAC meeting).

SWAC Outreach Plan, Ben Grace & Rodney Proctor

- Ben and Rodney suggested a two-pronged approach for outreach.
 - 1) SWAC members would each attend one community meeting per quarter to speak briefly about what SWAC does,
 - 2) and then take back information and questions to SPU for follow up.
 - Members could go to meetings in pairs or groups.
- There was some discussion about how much of SWAC’s outreach should focus on listening and bringing back information about community needs, and how much should be devoted to sharing messages about solid waste.
- SWAC Members could use a one pager, “SWAC 101” of solid waste messaging, with bulleted information and perhaps highlights from the Committee’s work plan.
 - ✓ Heather will draft this and bring to SWAC’s April meeting for input from the Committee
- SPU has a broader outreach plan and maintains connections with many communities and organizations.
 - Veronica Fincher and her team has done and will be doing more outreach to the ethnic businesses about the new compost requirement.
 - She has assembled target areas, and SWAC members may be able to participate in upcoming outreach to these communities, perhaps in a “ride along” capacity.
 - ✓ The Program Manager will check with Veronica.
- The Program Manager shared some links regarding outreach:
 - Seattle Residential Demographics:
 - <http://seattlecitygis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/StorytellingTextLegend/index.html?appid=92ef6933d46f4c9786c8e8f09515284f>
 - Get on the Map:
 - <http://www.seattle.gov/util/ForBusinesses/GreenYourBusiness/GetontheMap/>
 - She also showed the Committee some information from SPU’s internal Sharepoint site, which details the many organizations with which SPU has connected as part of our outreach plan.
- There was some discussion about how to narrow SWAC’s outreach plan from so many organizations.

- The Committee decided to list the groups with which each Member is currently connected and/or most interested in exploring.
 - Ben – South Lake Union Community Council and Chamber of Commerce, Chinatown, International District, Little Saigon, Columbia City Business Association, Westwood Rocks/West Seattle, Downtown District Council, Pioneer Square, and the Downtown Seattle Association.
 - Chris – Sustainable Communities All Over Puget Sound (SCALLOPS), Sustainable Seattle, organizations in Ballard and Capitol Hill, Whittier Heights Involved Neighbors, and multi-family units
 - Dan – Georgetown area organizations, and the Green Team – Zoo Volunteers for Sustainability (which is a good place to find potential new SWAC Members)
 - David – neighborhood chambers of commerce and/or neighborhood business alliances in Wallingford, Rainier, West Seattle, and Ballard
 - Heather – Washington Green Schools, Cool Moms (small non-profits), multi-family units
 - Joseph – interested in Capitol Hill area groups, organizations that include and/or represent communities with barriers to access, and in multi-family units
 - Ben suggested the Capitol Hill Chamber of Commerce, Capitol Hill Community Council, the Business Improvement Association (specifically, Michael Wells), Friends of Cal Anderson Park, and contacting Tim Durkan.
 - The Program Manager may also be able to use the Sharepoint site to help Joseph identify some organizations.
 - Katie – Beacon Hill and Columbia City neighborhood organizations, SEED, South Seattle Crime Prevention Council
 - Ben suggested the Beacon Hill Merchants Association, the North Beacon Hill Neighborhood Council, and the Columbia City Business Association (he noted that Rob Mohn might be a good contact).
 - Rodney – Seward Park and Mt. Baker neighborhood organizations, Tabor 100, Seattle Chamber of Commerce, Leadership Tomorrow, Rainier Scholars, TAF (Technology Access Foundation)
 - Stephanie – has just moved, and so will consider her new location and report soon.
 - Heather suggested Women of Waste, which may also be a good place to find future SWAC Members.

- Heather noted that there is significant interest in outreach to multi-family units.
 - Ben noted that Rainier Valley has a lot of multi-family units.
 - The Policy Liaison added that Marcia Rutan is one of the SPU staff that is focused on multi-family units.

- Several Members expressed plans for meeting attendance and/or making connections with organizations.
 - Heather, Stephanie, and Katie may attend Women of Waste.
 - Ben may attend some Chambers of Commerce with David. Rodney and Joseph are also interested in attending these.

- Rodney is interested in attending meetings for Chambers of Commerce, Zoo Green Team, SCALLOPS, and multi-family units.
- Rodney and Dan may attend SCALLOPS.
- ✓ Rodney will connect with Tabor 100 to see what might be useful.
- ✓ Rodney will also speak with Jan Levy at Leadership Tomorrow about their involvement with sustainability.
- ✓ Heather will put outreach on the agenda for the April meeting for further planning.
 - She noted that the group hopes to be ready to act after that.

Wrap Up

- The paint stewardship support letter was sent.
- Heather thanked Chris and Dick for putting together the March meeting agenda.

Meeting adjourned, 7:36pm