



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

January 10, 2019 Meeting Notes  
Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 Fifth Avenue  
Room 4901  
5:30 pm – 7:30 pm  
*Chair: Dirk Wassink*  
*Secretary: Alessandra Pistoia*

Committee Members	Present?	SPU Staff	Role
Quinn Apuzzo	On leave	Natasha Walker	CAC Program Coordinator
Holly Griffith	Y	Susan Fife-Ferris	Division Director, SPU Solid Waste Planning and Program Management
Emily Newcomer	Y	Sego Jackson	Solid Waste LOB Policy Liaison
James Subocz	Y	Sabrina Register	SPU Public Information Officer
Alan Garvey	Y	Katie Lynd	Strategic Communications Advisor for Solid Waste LOB
Amelia Fujikawa	N	<b>Guests</b>	
Adam Maurer	Y	Nico Onoda-McGuire	Guest
Rachtha Dahn	N	Lindsey Engh	Guest
Alessandra Pistoia	Y	Heather Trim	Guest
Dirk Wassink	Y	Joel Dashnaw	Guest

**1. Regular Business**

SWAC Chair, Dirk Wassink called the meeting to order at 5:40 PM

- Members and guests introduced themselves.
- Meeting notes from December were sent electronically, and approved during the meeting.
- Sheryl indicated emergency exits and exit procedures.

**2. Solid Waste LOB Updates**

Susan Fife-Ferris, Division Director, Solid Waste Planning and Program Management & SWAC/Solid Waste LOB Liaison, Sego Jackson, provided a few Solid Waste Line of Business and legislative updates.

- **Responsible Recycling Task Force (RRTF):** The RRTF group has been meeting regularly to target impacts from the China Blue Skies Initiative. Recommendations have been developed; the final report with recommendations will be available by the end of January, at which time staff will share it with SWAC (presentations are likely at the February and/or March SWAC Meetings)
- **SW LOB 2019 Spending Plans:** Spending plans for 2019 are currently being developed.
- **SW LOB Vision Planning:** A consultant is leading SW LOB management team in a visioning exercise. Staff hope to bring results from that exercise back to SWAC at some point.
- **#SeattleSqueeze impacts on Waste Collection:** The SW LOB is planning for impacts on solid waste services and staff. SPU is looking for ways to keep efficient collection services going. Staff will also be adjusting hours and work schedules. A few examples shared include:
  - Transfer of materials from North to South transfer stations. The current plan is to shift hours (open earlier and later), which will require working with neighbors.
  - Impact of collection of materials in construction areas.
  - Impact of collection trucks in surrounding areas that previously used the viaduct.

- **SW Comprehensive Plan Amendment:** Community engagement is expected to start in Q1. Staff are hoping to have more specific dates at the February SWAC meeting
- **South Transfer Station Stage 2 (STS2).** This facility will include crew quarters, a reuse facility, parking for organics trucks, etc. to be built at the location of the old south transfer facilities. This is where the existing household hazardous waste facility is located. We hope to have 60% design by the end of the month and hoping to break ground in 2020. **Staff will invite SPU's Jeff Neuner and Ben Whitley to present at a future date.**
- **Legislation Updates:** Sego Jackson provided a legislative review, providing a quick overview of relevant Solid Waste bills in process for the upcoming Legislative Session, which begins Monday January 14. This includes legislative hearings, votes, and debates. Sego said to anticipate lots of bills on single-use plastics, including plastic straws and a more single-use plastic bill covering many more items, that starts with "on request only" for straws, utensils and condiment packets and then with phase-in dates for banning different products. Also, product stewardship legislation, a paint stewardship bill, and reusable bag legislation. He thanked SWAC member Adam Maurer for forwarding an article that reported the CEO of Recology recently making a very significant statement in an editorial in a California paper asking the American Chemistry Council to step up to provide effective end of life management options for plastic packaging world-wide, and stating his willingness to contribute \$1 million dollars to an initiative campaign in California to bring about a "EU" approach there. Sego stated that this is likely indicative of various positions that will be taken by solid waste companies and the packaging industry on Washington's upcoming product stewardship legislation for plastic packaging. And that will be in stark contrast to a bill that we have heard will restrict local government's ability to determine what is in curbside to a reduced list of materials, including far fewer plastics. That bill is championed by the Washington Recycling and Refuse Association. The stewardship approach looks to the future and how we can move forward, the other withdraws from recycling many materials that are now in common use. The Recology statement can be read at: <https://resource-recycling.com/recycling/2019/01/08/recology-ceo-its-time-to-tackle-plastics-crisis/>

### 3. Solid Waste Line of Business Orientation Part II

This is the second presentation in a two-part series. The first part, presented in March 2018, provided an overview and history of solid waste management in Washington State and Seattle. For part two, Solid Waste Planning and Program Management Division Director, Susan Fife-Ferris, returned to provide a more in-depth look at the organization of SPU and how the Solid Waste Line of Business fits within, and interplays with, other SPU branches and divisions. Susan began with an overview of SPU, then focused on how the Solid Waste Line of Business is funded and structured. Susan reviewed not only the internal sections within Solid Waste divisions, but the numerous contracted services. Lastly, Susan reviewed the decision-making drivers for programs and policies that SPU implements.

- **A SWAC Member** asked if the SW LOB is funded entirely by solid waste fees. Staff responded that some SW programs, such as Clean Cities, are technically funded by the City's general fund. However, SW fees collected are taxed by the general fund. A discussion ensued about this funding system. A guest asked if Clean Alleys was also part of the general fund; staff answered that it is part of SPU's SW Inspectors and Compliance section.
- **A SWAC Member** asked about more information on the Recycling Potential Assessment (RPA). Staff responded that SPU conducts waste composition studies every 4-5 years on different segments of the waste stream (for example: single-family residential waste collected curbside).

Through that, SPU identifies what materials are still in the waste stream that might be able to be diverted for recycling. The RPA uses that data to identify if programs/ideas make economic, environmental and social sense. This helps guide SPU decisions to implement programs. The RPA also feeds into the SW Comprehensive Plan.

#### **4. SWAC Work Plan for 2019**

As a starting point for the 2019 work plan discussion, SWAC members reviewed a list of topics generated by SWAC officers. To facilitate deeper discussion, members broke into smaller groups of 2-3 people to focus on specific categories of these topics and record priorities and gaps. Members reported out on their key discussion points for the categories they chose:

- **Policy/Legislation**
  - Combine city/county/state/region into one information session. To see how policies layer out on top of each other.
  - Add: Global policies such as Blue Skies/China or impacts from other countries.
  - Review waste headlines in the past year that have been meaningful to the SW industry.
- **SW Customer Service & Community Outreach**
  - Annual residential customer communication. Dig in deeper with the “how”, specific audience segmentation, social media engagement, and green business engagement.
  - Add: How SPU adjusts to changing perceptions of recycling and how they respond to them. In line with the earlier suggestion, members could look at global headlines for examining changing perceptions.
  - EPR program and paint collection centers for paint.
- **Recycling/Composting**
  - Add: De-packaging. Separating different materials from a single product. This is an especially big issue in the commercial sector, where everything is packaged.

If Members had additional thoughts on the work plan that did not get captured in this exercise, they were encouraged to send them via email because SWAC Officers will be drafting a work plan shortly.

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

- **A SWAC member** discussed a recent straw ban video that had gone viral.
- **A SWAC member** asked about SPU recycling instructions for foil. Specifically, they wanted to understand why SPU asks customers not to ball-up foil. Staff responded that it helps ensure the foil is not food-soiled.
- **Staff** shared about an Environmental Justice Summit reception they are attending on Friday. Sheryl said to expect homework on RSJ and mapping community connections soon.
- **Staff** shared about the Econet Summit on January 26, focused on Climate and Resiliency. Heather Trim with Zero Waste Washington manages the Econet listserv. Please reach out to Heather if you would like to be added.

**Adjourned 7:34PM**