



SPU Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC)

October 3, 2018 Meeting Notes
 Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 Fifth Avenue
 Room 4901
 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm
Chair: Holly Griffith
Secretary: Adam Maurer

| Committee Members | Present? | SPU Staff | Role |
|--------------------|----------|----------------------|---|
| Quinn Apuzzo | ON LEAVE | Sheryl Shapiro | CAC Program Manager |
| Holly Griffith | Y | Natasha Walker | CAC Program Coordinator |
| Emily Newcomer | Y | Susan Fife-Ferris | Division Director, SPU Solid Waste Planning and Program Management |
| Colin Groark | Y | Sego Jackson | Solid Waste LOB Policy Liaison |
| James Subocz | Y | David Hare | Planning Strategic Advisor, Solid Waste Planning and Program Management |
| Alan Garvey | Y | Katie Kennedy | Lisa Sepanski, Program/Project Manager III, King County Solid Waste |
| Amelia Fujikawa | P | Jemini Davis | Administrative Staff Analyst, Solid Waste Division |
| Adam Maurer | N | Sally Hulsman | Solid Waste Compliance and Inspections, Director |
| Rachtha Dahn | N | | |
| Alessandra Pistoia | N | Guests | Affiliation |
| Dirk Wassink | Y | Lisa Sepanski | King County Solid Waste, Guest |
| | | Christian Hoogerhyde | Guest |
| | | Heather Trim | Guest |
| | | Heather Levy | Cascadia Consulting Group, SWAC Alum |
| | | Kit Gardner | Guest |
| | | Zadka | Guest |
| | | Raymond Williams | Guest |

1. Regular Business

SWAC Chair, Holly Griffith called the meeting to order at 5:37 PM

- Members and guests introduced themselves.
- Meeting notes from September will be distributed electronically for approval.
- Sheryl indicated emergency exits and exit procedures.
- All-CAC Meeting is 10/24/2018 at 5:30PM. The topic will be on SPU’s Risk Resiliency Framework. SPU Customer Review Panel members have also been invited to attend.

2. Solid Waste LOB Updates

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

- **Susan welcomed Jemini Davis**, Administrative Staff Analyst, to the Solid Waste Division. Davis was in attendance as an observer to SWAC.
- **Food Waste Innovation Lab is Nov. 7**; SPU is the lead planner for this invite-only event. Susan shared statistics related to food waste and food security that highlight this issue in our region. The focus will be on those who create edible food to work with those who can get food to those who need food. Liz Fikejs is the SPU contact. If SWAC knows organizations or individuals who should be in attendance, please notify Segó or Susan.
- **RV remediation pilot**; The focus is on engaging RVs and occupants to voluntarily move their vehicle to allow contractors to clean and remove garbage and debris. 84 tons of garbage have been collected through this program, 511 vehicles have left voluntarily, and 44 have been towed. Over 250 contacts have been made with owners, through City Navigation Team.
- **Encampment trash pilot**; Began in 2016. Provides garbage service and collects garbage and litter around encampments. 20 sites have been serviced in 2018. 22k purple bags have been distributed, and having the colored bags helps the pilot staff identify what bags were provided via contact. 24% have been collected of those distributed. 317 tons of garbage have been collected through the program, with over 2400 contacts via the City Navigation Team.
- **PBS Newshour**: The segment featured Becca Fong and Mami Hara from SPU, as well as SPU contractors and other community businesses discussing plastics recycling and contamination. **The video link will be sent following the meeting.**
- **Service Impacts**: There was a service interruption when lightening hit trestles on the way to Oregon on the way to the landfill where Seattle's waste is hauled for disposal. Waste Management, SPU's long-haul hauler, rebuilt the trestles and had it up and running in 72 hours. We have 5 trains per week full of trash, with 1000 tons per day on average. i.e. Any disruption is a huge disruption.
- **Sego Jackson received SPU's 2018 World Class Award for Environmental Stewardship.**

Legislative updates included:

- Statewide plastic bag ban bill
- Plastic Packaging produce responsibility bill
- Compostable plastics labeling law
- Paint producer responsibility bill
- Right to repair bill
- Litter tax
- Food waste prevention bill

If later SWAC determines it would like to support legislation via a letter, that is something we can explore and provide past examples of.

3. Construction and Demolition Program

Katie Kennedy, Waste Diversion Lead, Solid Waste Planning & Program Management will be managing the Construction and Demolition Program. Kennedy is former SWAC member. Kennedy provided an overview of the scope of her current work, which includes the management of waste diversion reports and management of construction disposal bans and mixed construction waste facility certification and sampling. She discussed what she is looking forward to in this area of work, including increasing deconstruction.

Prior to today's meeting, Kennedy met with SWAC members Dirk Wassink and Adam Maurer to discuss how can we increase diversion of construction demolition materials in Seattle going forward. Wassink shared highlights of that discussion:

- They looked at the policy landscape that supports diversion of construction and demolition waste, and opportunities to continue to develop and encourage greater amounts of diversion.
- For situations where there is demo of >750 sq. ft. on a project, a permit applicant is required to get a salvage assessment done for what is being removed. This process requires a call to a salvage operation or someone who has demonstrated verifiability to know markets, and a document gets submitted and reviewed for existence. A permit is not issued unless this document is submitted. Wassink shared that while this went into effect in 2014, for the first couple of years no one was reviewing the content of these documents. Wassink said he did a public information request for submitted salvage assessments in late 2015 and felt that many the documents submitted up to that point were inadequate or inaccurate. Apparently, there is now at least a nominal review of salvage assessment documents during the permitting process. Part of the meeting with Kennedy was spent discussing how to improve the salvage assessment process and strengthen those requirements.
- Discussed possible landfill bans on clean wood and asphalt, brick and concrete, metal, cardboard and clean gypsum, which could motivate diversion.
- Discussed a desire to cast a wider net on what could incentivize and motivate diversion, particularly in the demolition sector. They looked at what other cities are doing in this area. Dirk shared about the Building Materials Reuse Association, a national organization for reuse which recently held a conference in Michigan. Dirk shared a report which included various ways cities are incentivizing diversion. (This document was then emailed out at a later date.) A few examples were discussed:
 - o Milwaukee and Portland have policies requiring diversion on buildings over a certain age. Certain circumstances require deconstruction, and contractors must have a licensed/certified deconstruction contractor that demonstrates a high level of diversion not achieved by recycling alone. Portland had a committee that met for two years before rolling out their policy. The committee included contractors, haulers, government, public and other interested stakeholders. Milwaukee was rolled out without a Committee, and Wassink noted that they had some issues with the roll out. May highlight the importance of a committee in the review stages.
 - o Austin, Texas has a diversion requirement of 50%. In 2020, it will move to 75% and in 2030 it will be 95%. Wassink noted that to get to 70% diversion (such as Cook County, IL), you generally need to incorporate reuse.
 - o In Seattle, rather than get a demolition permit, you can get a deconstruction permit. This permit is issued immediately with no wait, so there is a time advantage, which can be helpful for financing. Deconstruction must be demonstrated with scale tickets.
- **A staff member** asked if contractors are required to verify when materials are diverted? Wassink replied that the Milwaukee and Portland policies require documentation of diversion on deconstruction projects. Cook County, which rolled out policies on demolition diversion in 2013, has reported that they are having trouble determining compliance due to inconsistent documentation/verification. He noted that enforcement costs need to be considered.
- **A SWAC Member** asked about the feasibility of meeting a 100% diversion goal. Wassink replied that 95% is typically the pinnacle. He also noted that most diversion policies can petition in the

event of fire or water damage, or where it may be structurally unsafe to enter a building. Good policies, he said, will set high bars for petitions.

- **A SWAC Member** suggested that SPU connect with historical preservation societies and those involved in the tiny house movement. Historical preservation may know parts that are important to restore, and tiny houses builders could reuse components of demolished houses.
- **A guest asked** to what extent are local/international markets tied to or impact construction demolition? For example: do second use stores buy doors? If the markets don't exist, does it impact diversion? A SWAC member responded that markets are required to support infrastructure to reuse building materials, but that it tends to be regional because the cost and carbon footprint of shipping those materials nixes the value of shipping them overseas.

4. Report on Responsible Recycling Task Force (RRTF)

Lisa Sepanski provided a more in-depth update on the Responsible Recycling Task Force (RRTF). Segó has been providing updates to SPU SWAC, but the group is approaching their recommendation stage, so a more in-depth presentation seemed timely.

The RRTF convened in response to China National Sword policies which restricted imports to China of mixed waste paper and mixed plastics. The group has been meeting once per month since April at the request of King County's Solid Waste Advisory Committee and invited the City of Seattle to participate. The goal is to become experts on the China National Sword situation and go beyond collection and sorting in order to understand issues with market and materials. They aim to look from product design to end of life (beyond processing).

Sepanski reviewed the Committee goals. She then reviewed the results of each RRTF meeting to date. Sepanski noted that one of the advantages of having the City of Seattle at the table was that RRTF could go into detail about how SPU does their contracts. Fife-Ferris added that SPU contracts are very different from Suburban Cities. In Suburban Cities, collectors take 100% of the market risk for materials collected curbside. By contrast, SPU takes 100% of the market risk.

Time was spent discussing the waiver recommendation, including the recent incident with Republic's waiver request in which some suburban cities accepted the waiver request, but the City of Seattle did not. RRTF recommendation is to have a coordinated and consistent approach to waivers.

- **A staff member** asked how surcharges have been imposed in light of changing markets. Staff responded that with respect to Cities that have contracts, the haulers had to make a request. Some of the cities have agreed to them. Staff explained that to get a surcharge, haulers must show that a reasonable profit margin is not being met, sometimes for a specific term. Because they're held to a certain increase, which is tied to cost of living, they will front-end their charges. Staff added that it can be a challenge to communicate that surcharge to customers. Any rate increase requires, by Washington State law, 45-day notice. But this charge won't be lined out in a customers' bill. Examples of recent surcharges, such as the City of SeaTac and in Everett, were discussed.

5. Solid Waste Comprehensive Plan Update

David Hare, Planning and Strategic Advisor, Solid Waste Planning and Program Management, gave an update on the Solid Waste Comprehensive Plan amendment. Hare highlighted some of the anticipated updates, including:

- Shifting the conversation to the consumer: addressing consumption of single-use plastics.

- Better understanding waste metrics. This includes: how to set metrics for waste reduction (and specifically food waste rescue), the downward trend in per capita waste generation, the effect of light-weighting materials, how to collect better data, and how to quantify reuse.
- Additionally, the team has been looking at how to incorporate resiliency in the Solid Waste field, affordability, population growth, and race and social justice. Hare emphasized that we would not be able to meet our recycling goals without inclusivity, and that they would be taking a much deeper look into applying a demographic lens to recycling goals.

Hare was joined by Heather Levy with Cascadia Consulting who provided an update on the project schedule. Levy explained that there are two primary tracks: content development and stakeholder engagement. Heather shared their joint work with SPU's Environmental Justice and Service Equity (EJSE) division, and the application of the City's Equity Toolkit to the Plan. This will feed into the Public Involvement Plan which details who the stakeholders are, when and where will they be engaged with, and what the metrics for success are for stakeholder engagement. Levy shared more about the process for gaining SPU internal stakeholder input including meetings and the development of a survey. The consulting team will also be engaging with the Solid Waste Branch Equity Team (BET). Towards the end, they will convene specialized Subject Matter Experts (SME) to dive deeper into issues. Following this, they will be going for public input in Q1 2019.

- **A staff member** asked what SWAC's involvement in this process will look like. Levy explained that SWAC will serve as a good trial run before bringing materials to the public. She expected more on that in late 2018 / early 2019. Levy said they intend to present the framework to SWAC as though they were members of the general ratepaying public, with hopes that SWAC can provide insights into the content and approach.
- **Staff requested a SWAC Plan and timeline for engagement that we could work into future SWAC meeting agenda planning.**

6. Overview of SWAC Officers Nominations and Elections Process

SWAC Policy Liaison, Segó Jackson shared a draft timeline for the SWAC officer nominations and elections process. CAC Program Coordinator, Natasha Walker, will send an email reminding SWAC that nominations for 2019 officers are now open and will be open until the November 7 SWAC Meeting. The election will be held at the December meeting. Sheryl reminded members that they may self-nominate.

Holly Griffith will be stepping down from the Chair position. Griffith shared her experience serving as Chair and Secretary, including typical expectations of the SWAC officers.

7. Ask Susan / Segó & Around the Table / Community Insights

The "Ask Susan/Segó" section of the agenda has been added to make space for SWAC members to ask questions that might not otherwise be addressed during a SWAC meeting. SWAC members can expect to see this on SWAC agendas in the future, when there is time available.

- **A SWAC Member** shared about student move-in at the University of Washington, as well as tailgating recycling bags effort. They explained that the latter is not so much education as it is outreach to ensure proper recycling. They have also conducted visual audits on The Zone for

husky stadium. They provided pictures of contamination and they are seeing improvements. Containers are green now, and they have enforced stricter requirements on vendors.

- **A staff member** shared about an upcoming compost giveaway. 300 yards of compost will be donated. For more information, contact Fife-Ferris.
- **A SWAC member** shared that Kroger announced plans to eliminate plastic bags by 2020.
- **A guest** shared that at the Bellevue QFC, they are eliminating bags by Oct 1. They asked if the Kroger plans includes Kitsap County? A SWAC member said they believed it did. The SWAC member also shared that Kroger/QFC deals with shopping cart theft, noting that the carts run \$500-600 per cart. Staff shared about some of the technology used to reduce cart theft.

Adjourned 7:31PM