Meeting Notes

Recycling Steering Committee
July 25, 2018
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Please send corrections, edits, or additions to kirsten.miller@ecy.wa.gov

Meeting Objectives

- To welcome and introduce the participants.
- Share information on the intent of the steering committee; establish ground rules and future meetings.
- Begin to define group purpose, problem statement(s) and process.

Attendees:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Status</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Association of Washington Cities</td>
<td>Shannon McClelland</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Department of Ecology</td>
<td>Alli Kingfisher</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>King County</td>
<td>Lisa Sepanski</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<td>Pioneer Recycling</td>
<td>Dave Claugus</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<td>Recology</td>
<td>Kevin Kelly</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunshine Disposal</td>
<td>Steve Wulf</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sustainable Packaging Coalition</td>
<td>Nina Goodrich</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department</td>
<td>Ether Beaumier</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Utilities and Transportation Commission</td>
<td>Ann LaRue</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Washington Refuse and Recycling Association</td>
<td>Brad Lovaas</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Washington State Recycling Association</td>
<td>Ron Jones</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Waste Management</td>
<td>Kim Kaminski and Matt Stern</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<td>Zero Waste Washington</td>
<td>Heather Trim</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<td>Lincoln County</td>
<td>Rory Wintersteen</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>The Recycling Partnership</td>
<td>Dylan de Thomas, Chris Cody</td>
<td>Phone</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ameripen</td>
<td>Andy Hackman</td>
<td>Absent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clark County</td>
<td>Travis Dutton</td>
<td>Absent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Department of Commerce</td>
<td>Brian Young</td>
<td>Absent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tribal Solid Waste Advisory Network</td>
<td>Danny Joe Stensgar</td>
<td>Absent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Washington State Association of Counties</td>
<td>Paul Jewell</td>
<td>Absent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Whitman County</td>
<td>Mark Storey</td>
<td>Absent</td>
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General Notes from the Discussion
The group started by introducing themselves and sharing how their organization is impacted by the Chinese recycling restrictions and what they are doing to address those challenges.

Ecology shared the initial phase of work they are doing:

- Convene monthly information sharing calls
- BMP guidance for local governments
- Tracking impacts to local governments
- Partner with DEQ on regional research
- Public outreach campaign development
- Potential legislation

**Ground Rules:**

- Allow audience questions and comments at the end of the meeting time permitting.
- Consistent participation.
- Inform your constituency.
- Start and end on time.
- Include copies of presentations in meeting notes.
- Note will be only high-level discussion and decision points.

**Defining the Groups Purpose and Structure**

The group shared key reasons and thoughts on why we are coming together. A number of comments were made, falling into categories of further defining the problem, finding solutions and increased communication and information sharing:

- **Further defining the problem**
  - The system is broken and this is an opportunity for change.
  - How should jurisdictional heaths districts respond in this outside-the-norm situation?
  - We need to define the real problem and get beyond talking about just collection, sorting and domestic vs export markets.
  - What’s the job were trying to get recycling to do? Manufacturing feed stocks.
  - Why do we recycle? What value and benefits does it provide?
  - We need to develop a problem statement and scope. Residential? Business?
What is contamination? Designed system based on landfill division; we need to design it from the manufacturing end.

We were addicted to China. Everything from this day forward will be more expensive. We have to get away from “free” recycling. Defining the problem will help us identify gaps, and help with legislation.

**Finding solutions**

- Continue work on BMPs
- Move beyond weight-based recycling goals and look at lifecycle benefits and over all Sustainable Materials Management
- Develop a list of materials that most can support.
- Cities want a consistent list of acceptable materials and messaging.
- A standard list brings us to lowest common denominator. Businesses won’t invest in infrastructure to do more; it won’t meet regional needs.
- Look beyond master lists and utilize guidelines and principles such as those in the Asterisk program.
- We need to process materials here, and then ship processed materials to China. We need Commerce in this group, need manufacturers here, paper mills, etc.

**Increased communication and information sharing**

- We might not all agree-so represent both sides.
- Local elected officials are asking.
- Report and share to national boards.
- Washington is a progressive state and the direction this state goes will lead others. Our response is critical.
- Follow the King County Responsible Recycling Task Force by doing a deep dive on specific topics for each meeting.
- Many organizations are working to get more recycling infrastructure, including making this part of national infrastructure bills. Nina and Dylan said they can give updates at future meetings.

**Next Steps:**

- Approximately monthly meetings starting in September. Ecology is working to hire a facilitator to manage this process.
- Meetings will be take place between 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- Next meeting in September or October.