

SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
**** MEETING SUMMARY ****
July 18th, 2018

Andy Comstock, Vice Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:38 A.M. and introductions were made. He asked for a motion to approve the May 29th, 2018 meeting notes. There was a motion to adopt them. The motion was seconded and the notes were approved.

Budget/Legislative Update - Laurie Davies, Contact: 360-407-6103; laurie.davies@ecy.wa.gov

Budget –

We have submitted Ecology's request for inclusion in the governor's budget. The governor's budget normally comes out mid-December.

We are asking for a total \$24 million from WRRLCA. With the sunset of the diversion to Parks, \$15.5 million will be reinstated in Ecology's budget and we are requesting \$6 million of the fund balance for a total of \$24 million. In addition, we are asking for \$28.2 million from MTCA for LSWFA. We decided on \$28.2 million because that is the amount in LSWFA the last time it was fully funded. We will be asking for the fund balance in our biosoilds account and \$1 million for tires.

Legislative/350 Rule -

WAC 173-350 was submitted to Director Bellon for adoption. We expect to meet the early August adoption date.

Potential Legislation –

The governor's office has asked us to prepare draft legislation in response to the issues facing Washington's recycling system and import restrictions on recyclable materials from Washington.

Our draft ideas include -

- Generating revenue to help with development of local recycling markets. We are looking at adding items to the Litter Tax that are hard to recycle or the most illegally dumped. Those items could include such things as building materials, mattresses, furniture, and tires.

- Redirecting the Solid Waste Tax back to solid waste issues. It's a tax placed on the disposal of solid waste and was intended to deal with solid waste infrastructure issues. For the last two biennia, the money has been diverted from its original purpose and split between public works projects and K-12 education. In 2019 100% of the tax is slated for diversion to the K-12 education fund. We are going to try and reclaim at least 50% of the tax to go back to solid waste infrastructure.

- We are looking at bringing back the Clean Washington Center but under a different name. The center would still be housed with the Department of Commerce but in partnership with Ecology. The model would be slightly different, in that we are looking at ways to offer incentives for recycling businesses to locate in Washington. Research is still being done on the feasibility and logistics. If the legislation proceeds, we would look at part of the solid waste tax to fund this.
- We are looking at adding a new requirement for solid waste management plans to include a recycling Contamination Reduction Outreach Plan. This requirement will require local governments to find what items are considered contaminants in their recycling stream, how they will mitigate for those contaminants and how they will manage fluctuating markets for recyclable materials.

Solid Waste Conference Update - Laurie Davies, Contact: 360-407-6103;
[*laurie.davies@ecy.wa.gov*](mailto:laurie.davies@ecy.wa.gov)

We are holding a two day Solid Waste Conference in September in Leavenworth. The theme is partnerships and will include sessions on the current recycling crisis, food waste and training sessions on the changes to the 350 rule. The event notices went out in June and now the conference is full. We have a wait list for those who did not get in but still wish to attend. We will be going down the wait list on a first come, first served base. Registrants will be contacted directly. There will be over 150 attendees including local governments, businesses, and state representatives.

Blue Skies Recycling Update and Regulatory Impacts – Dawn Marie Maurer, Contact: 425-649-7192, dawn.maurer@ecy.wa.gov, Alli Kingfisher, Contact: 509-329-3448, alli.kingfisher@ecy.wa.gov

Alli Kingfisher - Tomorrow is our 4th recycling information sharing call. These calls have had a wide variety of participants from local health departments to private citizens. The calls are intended to be an open platform for information/concern sharing among the communities. We will keep doing these calls as long as there is interest in sharing information within the recycling/solid waste community. They are open invitation calls. Contact Alli Kingfisher if you would like more information.

We have started on our long term plan of forming a recycling steering committee. A letter went out about a month ago to twenty-one people, offering them a seat on the committee. We are in the process of finding a facilitator for these meetings and hopeful to have one by the first meeting on July 25th.

We just finalized our best practices document on what should be collected in local recycling programs and how those items should be processed. The best practices document will be going out soon. It was finalized this week.

We are working on partnering with DEQ Oregon to start a research project related to recycling. The areas of interest will include: what is currently going on with solid waste disposal and improving our domestic recycling markets. We are working on narrowing the scope on exactly what research we want to do.

While counties are trying to figure out what to do with their recyclables that are piling up, we've seen them start to take individual action. Counties are starting to deemphasize certain recyclables, like plastics #3-7 and glass; while trying to encourage recycling of profitable metals, #1 and #2 plastics, and cardboard.

Dawn Marie Maurer- We have started to see MRFs who are overwhelmed with the amount of materials coming in and not having a place to send it. Most are trying to work through the backlog of material. We've seen facilities baling items unsorted and sending them to other facilities that have more room. In many cases facilities are not shipping bales and are waiting for them to have value so they can move them. Health departments are trying to work with recycling facility staff when they are having issues with capacity.

Brad Lovaas – The biggest impact is still transportation and logistics. We are now having trouble getting the ships to go to the foreign markets, then trying to get the containers back to the U.S. China is looking at banning all scrap and metal imports within the next few years.

The cost to recycle vs dumping depends on the location. The facilities in the rural areas have a higher cost to recycle because they are the furthest away from a MRF. We've also seen an increase in audits by the MRFs to try and clean up the recycling stream from contaminants. There is a contamination problem across the board in both recycling and garbage bins. We are expecting this problem will be exacerbated by the tariffs being imposed by the U.S. and China.

Jan Gee posed the question, how many of the counties are picking up food waste and what is being done nationally on the topic?

Dominic Calabro (EPA) – Responded to Jan's question. We have just rolled out a mapping tool to identify the different locations of high food waste and how close in proximity they are to hunger relief agencies. Our research found the largest source of food waste is the residential household with the hospitality industry being a close second. We are currently looking at who we can partner with at a national level for outreach and education, especially within the grocery industry.

If you would like to learn more about the EPA's food waste programs please click the program names – [Food: Too Good To Waste](#) and [Washington School Food Share](#).

Capacity and Air Emissions at Organic Facilities – Marni Solheim, Contact: 509-329-3438, marni.solheim@ecy.wa.gov, Mary Harrington, Contact: 360-407-6915, mary.harrington@ecy.wa.gov

There is an increased need for composting facilities, but we are having difficulty with facilities ability to obtain a permit or cross the Apple Maggot quarantine zones.

Permits

An Eastern Washington composting facility, Dirt Huggers, was trying to expand because it's in a quarantine zone. This is a great option to deal with compost coming from the west as this facility is located within an apple maggot quarantine zone. Dirt huggers met with Ecology's Solid Waste Management (SWM) and Air Quality (AQ) Programs to discuss permit requirement. AQ is using California's model to determine air emissions standards for the facility and what permit requirements will be needed. It was determined Dirt Huggers will likely need a Title V PSD permit. AQ and SWM had several discussions with Dirt Huggers about the process and Dirt Huggers has decided not to expand at this time due to permit requirements.

We have a meeting with AQ staff to discuss air permitting at facilities handling organics to see if both programs can gain an understanding of what is required at these types of facilities. We are also going to see what we can do to start basing data off of Washington State and not California.

Apple Maggots and Contaminates

Composting is also dealing with contaminants in the waste stream. Like recycling, there is a big misconception on what is actually compostable. We have offered Moses Lake a LSWFA grant to do education and outreach to the local community on what contaminates are in yard waste composing. Kirkland has started piloting a curb check process. As they are picking up curb side recycling and compost, they are checking the bins for the correct materials. If they find the wrong items in the bin, the bin gets tagged and not collected. As part of the tagging, the customer receives educational material. They are currently operating under a three strikes and you're out process. If you are a repeat offender then you lose your recycling or compost bin. This is only a residential pilot project. This is great because it gets right to the source however it is not efficient when you only have one person in the truck.

Despite the level of contaminates making it into the stream, there are still markets for the compost. Many compost facilities in Western Washington made arrangements with compost facilities on the eastern side for their extra materials. This was working out nicely until the apple maggot issue. The apple maggots mostly come from backyard orchards in Western WA, the Eastern parts of Washington are considered "Pest Free Zones". The Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) started testing incoming loads and saw that the apple maggot was being transported from the quarantine areas to the Pest Free Zones. In response, WSDA now requires a special permit to be obtained by the sender, hauler and receiver before green waste can move from a quarantine area to a pest free area. Any raw green waste moving

from the west side to the east side must be heated for two weeks before you can send it over. If an existing eastern facility wants to accept raw organics they must meet fairly stringent management and treatment requirements administered by WSDA. This process could be costly to both the generator and the receiving facility.

When the WSDA redrew the apple maggot quarantine line it caused a lot of issues including preventing towns and counties from accessing their composting facilities. Leavenworth was one of those towns. They have been granted a pilot permit to burn their organics and are currently seeing if that will be a permanent option.

The apple maggots is only a residential issue, it is not seen in the commercial industry. But since the loads get mixed, both customers are effected.

Emergency Debris Management Planning – Chuck Matthews, Contact: 360-407-6383, chuck.matthews@ecy.wa.gov

Local governments have requested assistance with disaster debris issues and how to handle them in an emergency. Chuck Matthews gave a high level overview of the topic including the two different types of emergency debris – disaster debris and foreign animal disease, and why it is important to have an emergency management plan. For example, without a plan FEMA may not reimburse for cleanup costs.

Round Table

Laurie Davies - Senator Carlyle is proposing a big Solid Waste/Plastic summit. We are still waiting on a date for the summit.

Meeting adjourned at 12:03 p.m.

Submitted by: Nikki Candelaria