

SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

** MEETING SUMMARY **

November 7th, 2018

Andy Comstock, Vice Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:32 A.M. and introductions were made. He asked for a motion to approve the July 18th, 2018 meeting notes. There was a motion to adopt them. The motion was seconded and the notes were approved.

Recycling Steering Committee Update –Alli Kingfisher, Contact: 509-329-3448, alli.kingfisher@ecy.wa.gov

The committee has had two meetings; with the most recent held on Oct 10th. The committee is still finalizing the charter and prioritizing goals for the committee. They are trying to define short, mid and long term goals. Short/mid-term goals are goals that will take two years or less to accomplish and long term goals would require two or more years to accomplish. The next meeting is Nov. 28th, 2018.

A Request for Proposal (RFP) was posted for a group facilitator and we received forty-five different questions from nine firms. We hope to have a contract in place by the end of the year.

We are still holding the recycling stakeholder calls outside of the steering committee. Due to the feedback received, we are now holding them every other month instead of monthly. During the calls we have been giving updates on the steering committee, the King County Task Force, and including information on Oregon's progress with their recycling crisis. The group as a whole would like to see more presentations at the meetings instead of just updates.

The calls have not had a direct impact on the steering committee so far, but the main themes have been education/outreach and looking at coordinating a statewide list of what can be recycled and what cannot be.

We will look at having the December 13th call be a video conference (room dependent) which we'll cover an update on legislation currently in progress or in the works.

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

Budget –

We submitted our budget to OFM. It included a decision package asking for the \$6 million fund balance in WRRLCA. With the sunset of the diversion to Parks, \$15.5 million will be reinstated in Ecology's budget already.

With the additional \$6 million we are trying to bring back our Litter Prevention Program, restoration of the litter hotline, and reinstate litter pickup crews we had to cut. We will also look at carving out funds for CLCP so local governments can continue their prevention campaigns.

Ecology has been asked to give a briefing on the budget with Senator Rolfe during assembly days.

Draft/ Potential Legislation

We have submitted our proposed legislation to the Governor's Office and it looks like we will be moving forward with it. The legislation includes changes to the distribution of the Waste Reduction Recycling and Litter Control Account (WRRLCA) fund. If the legislation passes, 40 percent (from 50 percent) will go to Ecology and other state agencies for litter pickup and prevention. 40 percent (from 30 percent) will go to Ecology to develop waste reduction and recycling programs. 20 percent would stay the same and goes to local county governments to operate litter pickup programs on city and county roads and a matching fund competitive grant program for education and outreach on recycling.

The bill adds a new requirement for solid waste management plans to include a recycling Contamination Reduction Outreach Plan. This 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. Plans can be updated with an amendment or a regular revision.

Part of the funds would go towards creating a Recycling Development Center. This center will bring back some of the concepts of the Clean Washington Center. The center would be housed within Ecology, but in partnership with the Department of Commerce. The center would look at ways to offer incentives for recycling businesses to locate in Washington.

There is work on a state wide plastic bag ban along with looking at what compostable items are actually compostable vs. what should be kept out. This will include: bags, utensils, packaging, and straws.

We anticipate Representative Doglio will bring back her food waste bill, she has been working with the Pacific Coast Collaborative (PCC) and other stakeholders to strengthen the bill.

We also anticipate the paint bill coming back along with other possible bills that focus on recycling contamination or plastic product bans.

***WAC 173-350 Training Update –Kimberly Sarver, Contact: 509-575-2837,
Kimberly.sarver@ecy.wa.gov***

The Solid Waste Conference had really good attendance for the 350 training on the 2nd day. All the major changes were covered and attendees were notified of the upcoming workshops throughout the regions. We were happy with the questions we received and had enough time to answer everything.

Ecology just wrapped up the regional health department trainings. The trainings were specifically designed for the health departments so they fully understood the new changes. We were able to accommodate everyone for the most part; it was a popular training so we had to limit the in-person training to health departments only. We let everyone else know there would be a webinar going out shortly after the in-person training.

We had 93 attendees total with 23 being from Ecology. All the attendees received a copy of the PowerPoint along with a helpful permits guide. We offered continuing education units for the class.

After wrapping up the in-person trainings, we sent out the 350 update webinar invites. The agenda was very specific so people could attend sections they wanted to. We kept on schedule to ensure no one missed a section if they were not attending the entire training. There were roughly 145 attendees to start then dropped to about 96 by the last hour. There were a lot of good discussions and questions. We answered as many questions as we could while keeping on schedule. Anyone with in-depth questions were connected with their local health department representative.

We recorded the webinar and IT is getting everything formatted and ready to post online. If you are interested in the link, please contact Kimberly.

Solid Waste Conference Evaluations and Committee Feedback – Julie Robertson, Contact: 360-407-6132, Julie.robertson@ecy.wa.gov.

After the Solid Waste Conference, we sent out a survey asking for feedback and session ratings. The survey was sent out to about 160 attendees and 48 people responded. The conference was set up to address hot topics on the first day and 350 training on the second day. The highest rated sessions were Edible Food Recovery and the Morning Review of 173-350 Rule Changes. Overall everyone enjoyed the location, the opportunity to network and the training.

Holding another conference will be budget/issue dependent, it won't be yearly but it could be once a biennium. If we hold a conference in the future we will look at doing it for a nominal fee, selecting a bigger venue, and restricting registration so at least one person from each agency/jurisdiction can attend.

Recycling Rates Update by UTC – Mike Young, Contact, mike.young@utc.wa.gov

The Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) regulates rates, charges, classifications, rules and regulations for every solid waste collection company in Washington along with reviewing comprehensive solid waste plans for the counties. They set rates and surcharges which fluctuate to reflect current markets for commodities. While the processing costs seem to be settling down, the commodity costs have not. UTC sets the rates based on the cost the company incurs. Currently the surcharge is temporary which is separate from commodity adjustments and collection rates. The surcharge can only be added for increased costs directly associated with

processing the material and not used for a profit. Currently it is not required for them to have a plan to correct the need for the surcharge. The solid waste companies can keep 50% of the profits they make off the recyclables with 50% going back to customers in the form of a credit on their bill.

UTC has two open meetings a month which allow the committee to make a recommendation on if the collection company can increase their rates or not.

Round Table

Rod Whittaker shared with the committee our long time committee member and organics lead, Linda Dennis passed away from cancer last month.

Art Starry - the Washington State Association of Counties annual meeting is next week in Tacoma. The WSALPHO committee is working on funding scenarios for LSWFA grants for inclusion in the grant guidelines.

Laurie Davies – Marni Solheim in ERO is interviewing for the permit specialist, NW Madeline Wall, the NWRO engineer is retiring in December so we are conducting interviews this week to back fill the position before she leaves.

Kris Major City of Spokane – Spokane did a cart tagging along with education and outreach in the city by going through the worst routes to educate customers on their recyclables. We are also looking at a solution for glass in the recycling stream. We do not collect it in the single stream bin unless we find a market then we'll collect it separately. We recently received a grant from the USDA to help with food recovery in the less populated counties.

Troy – there is a concern over lithium batteries and starting fires at the MRFs. The WORC conference is next week, Thursday and Friday. Troy was at the paper conference a few weeks ago. China will not change. OCC fibers will continue to be strong. There is still a good market for office paper. Looking at adding a processing fee of 60 to 90 per ton for recyclables.

Meeting adjourned at 11:10 p.m.

Submitted by: Nikki Candelaria