

**SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**\*\* MEETING SUMMARY \*\***  
**July 17, 2019**

---

Andy Comstock, Committee Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:34 A.M. and introductions were made. He asked for a motion to approve the May 15, 2019 meeting notes. There was a motion to adopt them. The motion was seconded and the notes were approved.

***Grants Information – Tami Ramsey, Contact: 360-407-6223, [tami.ramsey@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:tami.ramsey@ecy.wa.gov)***

An update was given on closeout of the biennium. Grants are 88% spent out in the current biennium. We hope to hit 100% with final invoices. Community Litter Cleanup Program (CLCP) is 87% spent. Waste Reduction & Recycling Education (WRRED) is only 50% spent, but there was only \$200,000 and no cause for concern.

As of July 12, the grant status for the 19-21 biennium is as follows.

- Local Solid Waste Financial Assistance (LSWFA) received \$10 million (formula award, 25% match required). The application period closed in June with 107 applications received. Total unrequested for solid waste enforcement (SWE) was \$155,000 and \$63,000 for implementation (IMP). Total unrequested for SWE was \$155,000 with \$6,719.50 disbursed, and \$63,000 for IMP with \$1,912.50 disbursed.
- CLCP received \$3.2 million (formula award, no required match). The application period closed in March with 35 applications received.
- Public Participation Grants (PPG) received \$2.41 million (award limit is \$120,000 in biennium, no required match). The application period closed in April with 36 applications received.
- WRRED received \$500,000 (award limit is \$60,000 in biennium, includes 25% match).

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

**Supplemental Budget Requests**

- Ecology is requesting \$1.5 million from the Model Toxics Control (MTCA) account for LSWFA. The money will be used for a supplemental LSWFA grant program for cleanup of homeless encampments and needle exchanges. If this request is successful, the hope is for a policy ask next biennium. Funding is available for homeless encampment cleanup of human and medical waste that cities and counties are tasked to clean up. Eligibility is being expanded under SWE to include reducing illegally discarded used syringes. The Department of Transportation (DOT) also received funding for cleanup. The proposal passed first level review through Ecology and is due to the Office of Financial Management (OFM) in September. Once OFM approves, it will be included in the Governor's budget.
- Four programs made a one-time request for almost \$1 million from MTCA for testing of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). PFAS is in groundwater and sediments, but it is unknown if it is in the water environment. A study will be done to look at wastewater POTWS (influent, effluent, solids, and biosolids) in three facilities across three different treatment technologies. The request is currently being drafted and approved by Ecology management.

**HB 1114 Food Waste**

- Mary Harrington is the lead, and Michelle Andrews is the co-lead. They are working with the core advisory team including DOH Food Safety, WSDA Food Assistance Program &

Production, and OSPI schools. The committee will be the core group to draft the food reduction plan (a law to develop and stop wasted food, giving to people who can use it). The goal is a 50% reduction of waste by 2030. The work will enhance a similar initiative currently underway with the Pacific Coast Collaborative. No appointments have been made to the stakeholder advisory panel. It will consist of local health and solid waste departments, food banks, waste reduction non-profits, public education, and food businesses (grocers and processors). There will be a subject matter work group with subject areas divided to address in the plan including public health and food safety, waste management, hunger relief, behavioral health and change management, and recovery and innovation technology. Those groups will meet in the next 90 days. Ecology is in the process of hiring a facilitator.

#### HB 1543 Agency Request for Sustainable Recycling

- There are two key elements to set up the Recycling Development Center (RDC), which will be administered by Ecology and the Department of Commerce: 1) research recycling technologies, expand, and incentivize markets to bring businesses and technologies to the northwest and the state; and 2) work with local governments to do contamination and outreach plans to get contaminants curbside recyclables entering the MRFs, and work with haulers and residents to get contaminants out of bins. Ecology is negotiating an interagency agreement with Commerce on how we will partner and transfer funding, since the budget was appropriated to Ecology. We hope to have an agreement in place by September.
- The announcement for the RDC lead went out this week, and we hope to hire by mid-September. Once the lead is hired, the board will be appointed. The statute was explicit in the makeup of the board. There will be rotating terms with 14 members including representatives from cities, counties, public interest groups, universities, federal research institutions, and private sector members to represent all aspects of the recycling system. The Chair of the Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) will serve as a non-voting member. Ecology will provide staff to the board.
- Other positions to be hired are a planner to research external work on prioritization of products and work with the RDC lead, and a contracts/grants manager to incentivize businesses and/or research businesses. The positions will be hired in September/October, and we hope to have them working sometime between October and December. The board will be appointed prior to hiring the positions.

#### Other funding

- Ecology received funding back from the litter account. Two positions are being recruited: 1) a senior planner to do a state version of the Contamination Reduction and Outreach Plan (CROP); and 2) a litter coordinator to bring back the hotline, coordinate with state agencies, and do some form of a prevention campaign. A meeting is scheduled the third week of August to discuss the appointment process of the advisory group, with the goal of starting in October.

#### **350 Implementation Status & JHDs Progress Information - Marni Solheim**

**Contact:** (509) 329-3438, [marni.solheim@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:marni.solheim@ecy.wa.gov)

The WAC was adopted last fall, effective September 21, 2018 and is approaching the one-year deadline. Workshops, webinars and other events were done across the state. A solid waste conference was held in Leavenworth. After the educational push, notification was sent to exempt facilities to see where they fit into the new rule. They are still trickling in, and there are a lot of exempt facilities in the

state. Exemptions were initially offered in 2003. Ecology evaluates them as they come in, updates the database, and informs facilities if more info is needed. Follow-up reminders will be sent to facilities who have not returned notifications.

Regulatory staff met with health departments to discuss facilities in their region. Commingled MRFs, commingled C&D, piles storage, and limited purpose landfills are primarily affected. The Southwest and Central Regional Offices prioritized inspecting all exempt facilities and health departments. The Eastern Regional Office wasn't able to connect with other regions prior to this meeting to see what they are doing about limited purpose landfills. A few solid waste facilities are working with health departments to obtain permits. Three facilities are applying in the Central Regional Office. One is applying in the Eastern Regional Office, and a few are deciding if they will make changes to operations. There are mostly independent permit changes in the Northwest Regional Office.

There are five or six facilities that changed the status from exempt to permitted. We can offer a list from our facilities database, but it may not have exact numbers. The goal of this process is to develop a more accurate list. The new commingled requirements are straightforward and most facilities are already following them. For non-traditional (C&D) recyclables, new requirements apply and now must be covered. We are working with health departments on workarounds that are appropriate and protective. Facilities are being notified that a sand and gravel permit is required. Updated plans for new limited purpose landfill standards are required until March 2020. We are not aware of any facilities updating plans. We anticipate assistance will be required for the post-closure report. There are relatively minor changes in soils. Mostly street waste public comments were from street waste materials handlers, and we provided parameters. We think there are a lot of facilities that need permits, and intend to provide guidance on soils. The health departments are looking at the number of facilities applying for permits in the northwest region without our assistance. The regional office can poll their health departments.

An ordinance adoption requires exempt facilities to submit permit applications by September 1. There are 22 facilities in process, and 14 using existing ordinances. We advised those facilities to consult legal experts. Four facilities are adopting new standards, 2 proposed to adopt with amendments, 2 in the process of adopting, and 17 with unknown progress. The two who are adopting want to add more stringent requirements on exempt facilities, but they don't have the authority to impose. Only Ecology has the authority.

**Recycling Steering Committee Update and Recycle Right Campaign Results - Alli Kingfisher**  
**Contact: (509) 329-3448, [allison.kingfisher@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:allison.kingfisher@ecy.wa.gov)**

**Committee Update**

- We toured the NORPAC facility and are ready to have a check-in on where we are and the direction for the committee. The next meeting will be an internal examination on where we are, where we want to go, and how we fit in with other committees. There are different perspectives from members, and we want to meet the needs of the group. A meeting is scheduled next week.

**Campaign Update**

- The root cause of contamination is due to messaging. We need to shift the perception that it is bad to throw something in the trash if it can't be recycled. Many consumers are not aware that some of their behaviors are counter-productive. Telling them the reasons will change their behavior. People referred to as "wish recyclers" want to do what is right, only if it is easy and

doesn't conflict with higher lifestyle priorities. Informed recyclers think they already know what they are doing and believe we are wrong.

- The toolkit items and strategy were reviewed. TV spots were run in English and Spanish. Lessons learned: Getting TV ads on Facebook was more complicated than anticipated. Issues: Facebook deemed the ads to be an issue of national significance, and rejected ads in English because of our desire to change behavior. We tweaked the ketchup ad, but were not able to get the soda ad in English to run. Dave Bennett had to get approval for ads, and couldn't do it in a timely fashion. Other ads including wood smoke were also rejected. There were fewer TV purchases in the southwest region and Clark County due to competing with the Portland market. The click-through rate for digital ads seems low, but is much higher than average.
- This is the first time we have done such a large scale campaign involving social media. We underestimated how much time it would take to respond to comments. Social engagement comments were positive overall. The call to action "check out our video" had the highest rate of click-throughs. Positive and negative comments were reviewed, along with billboard results. A question was asked about why the tuna ad was the most successful. Alli was not sure, but will look at the results.

### ***Overlap of Advisory Committees & Next Steps - Laurie Davies***

**Contact: 360-407-6103; [laurie.davies@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:laurie.davies@ecy.wa.gov)**

#### Committee History

- The SWAC was mandated in statute, and we expanded to create the current group. Governor Gregoire cleaned up redundancy and the committee was eliminated, but we decided to keep it. In the early 80s when the program was part of hazardous waste, this was the rulemaking advisory committee. Now this committee provides advice for program activities.

#### SWAC Overlap with New Committees

- Laurie recommended keeping the SWAC together as an overarching committee and touchstone. We need to determine how other committees work, and how this committee will work with them. With food waste, some work is called out in the statute, especially the subject matter expert and stakeholder group. We assume the group will want to stay in place past the requirement of developing the plan, in order to implement it. We will coordinate with the Pacific Coast Collaborative who also adopted a goal involving Oregon, California, and British Columbia. We assume several members will want to be on the food waste committee, and suggest creating a subcommittee of this group to cross pollinate.
- Plastics is not a standing committee, and is a stakeholder group to inform and populate a survey. We are not sure what will happen in the next legislative session. The target date for completing the report is 2020. There will probably be people in this group who may want to be in the plastics group.
- HB 1543 requires a prescriptive board. We believe WRRRA and businesses already in this group will want to serve on that board. When they develop the charter, the SWAC could communicate with that group.

#### Other comments

- We will have conversations with the Recycling Steering Committee next week. Mary Harrington is in the process of creating her list. A question was asked about advantages and disadvantages of having one or multiple people on all groups. Many people are not decision

makers to speak on behalf of multiple organizations. The Recycling Committee was originally created to provide guidance on contamination issues and the media campaign. There will be another campaign, but the details have not been decided. The Recycling Development Center board will be a higher level policy group. Other committees will feed into that group and the SWAC. Ecology needs to coordinate what's going on amongst all committees. There needs to be an umbrella for all groups. Primary regulators and key people from private sector principals are important. It will be very helpful to send monthly messaging to the SWAC. Laurie will send stakeholder lists for the SWAC to share and identify other people that should be included.

### **Roundtable**

Heather Trim – The food and safety code was updated with two provisions to allow people to bring their own container. We would like them to include beverages, which is allowed by the current FDA code. Attended state food code update meetings.

Rich McConaghy – Vancouver curbside food waste program will roll out in early September.

### **Announcement for Next Meeting**

The September meeting was rescheduled to October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Beth Gill wasn't able to update the original meeting request, and asked members to delete it from their calendars. A new meeting request was sent.

***Meeting adjourned at 11:21 a.m.***

**Submitted by:** Beth Gill