

WASTE 2 RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
**** MEETING SUMMARY ****
March 15th, 2018

Troy Lautenbach, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:30 A.M. and introductions were made. He asked for a motion to approve the January 11th, 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 –

Ecology fared well this legislative session with the supplemental budget. \$1 million of WRLCA was restored to Ecology's budget. The Capital Budget passed during the first two weeks of session which included \$10 million in Local Solid Waste Financial Assistance grant funds. The slowness in getting applications out to local governments was an EAGL problem. There was a change in IT staff, this resulted in a backlog of applications. Hopefully folks have been working with their regional grant officers on project scope so when EAGL is active we will be ready to move through applications quickly. It will be important that cities and counties will be able to spend out their grant allocation with less project time.

For several years MTCA was operating with a shortfall due to diversion of revenue to other funds and programs. During this session Ecology was successful in reversing some of the fund diversion and the account now has a \$5 million dollar fund balance going into the 2019-2021 session. Ecology management has committed to requesting another \$28.2 million for LSWFA in the 2019-2021 budget. We will request LSWAF grant funding for the upcoming 2019-2021 budget out of the LTCA rather than the State Building Construction Account.

Legislative –

With the exception of a few bills, all the bills the W2R Program were tracking died. The most significant bill was HB 2914 - Post Consumer Materials Recycling, sponsored by Representative Smith. The intent of the bill was to clean up contamination in single stream recycling. This was in response to the China National Sword import/export restrictions on recyclable materials. The bill made it out of the house into the senate where it died in rules.

The bills that did make it through were HB 1047 (Medicine Take Back), SB 6055 (Apple Maggot Quarantine) and SB 6437 (Disposal of Abandoned Recreational Vehicles).

1047 – This bill creates a statewide program for safe and secure collection and disposal of unwanted medications.

6437 - This bill allows tow truck operators to apply for reimbursement for the transport, storage, dismantling, and disposal of abandoned RVs. Counties may continue their crushing programs on non-motorized RVs. There will be a fee increase when licensing an RV.

6055 – The City of Leavenworth wanted this bill. It allows a city or town located partially inside an apple maggot quarantine area to apply to Ecology for a permit to burn brush or yard waste.

Leavenworth has already applied for a burning permit and it was denied by Ecology; the decision was appealed by Leavenworth.

Local Solid Waste Financial Assistance - Laurie Davies
Contact: 360-407-6103; Laurie.Davies@ecy.wa.gov

LSWFA guidelines and applications are out in EAGL. We are still down a grant officer in Eastern. We are piecing it together for the moment with current staff and the help of Marni Solheim, Eastern Regional Office's new Section Manager.

We received the \$10 million for the Local Solid Waste Financial Assistance grants. We have been working closely with the health departments who don't request or use all the money allocated to them. Grant Officers have been talking to them about only applying for what they actually need; this would allow us to extend grants to other health departments and potentially other planning departments within individual regions.

All grants will be back dated to July 1, 2017. This was provided for when the Legislature approved the capital budget. Counties may request reimbursement for eligible cost incurred after July 1, 2017 before the grant agreements were executed. All PPG grants are written, out, and executed. This grant program is in Ecology's operating budget which was adopted July 1, 2017.

One of the activities we will be working on is jump starting the Competitive Grants Program in WRRLCA with the \$1 million coming back from Parks. Local governments and private, non-profits can apply. We hope to have the guidelines out and available by July, 2018.

China's National Sword/ E2SHB 2914 Postconsumer Materials Implementation – Alli Kingfisher
Contact: 509-329-3448, alli.kingfisher@ecy.wa.gov

HB 2914 did not pass. The recycling crisis is becoming a critical and challenging issue. Alli held a meeting with the Commingled Recycling group to focus on the exact messages we want to get out to the public regarding what should and should not be recycled. We will need to revisit the list of additional items that can be placed in the bin. It was agreed shredded paper, plastic bags, plastic film, and food contaminated containers should be kept out of the bin.

During the meeting it was decided to create a volunteer subgroup to help advance the work of the main group and come up with formal messaging and imaging around recycled items. "***When in doubt, find out or throw it out***" Even though we are working on a cohesive message and image, local governments can adapt their own wording and imaging.

Ecology's first Recycling Stakeholders meeting will be held on March 28th, 2018 and will focus on what steps we need to take in response to China Sword and how we can work together to create a solid cohesive recycling program in WA. The only remote option is call in and webex. Video conference is not available because of limited room space at Ecology.

Alli and Janie Bogar will be attending a conference on local market development for recyclables in Portland, OR held by the National Recycling Coalition. The conference is April 4th, 2018. Alli is working on inviting the Department of Commerce into this issue as well. She is hoping they will attend this conference in partnership with Ecology.

Brad Lovaas – We are taking in more material than we have orders for; which is forcing us to look at disposing of the excess in landfills. China cannot be replaced. Not only were they buying 50% of our recyclables but it was also cheaper to send it there then keep it state side. China is only willing to take specific items now. They will send their Customs Inspectors out to look at the containers, then refuse an entire container lot because of one piece of prohibited material i.e. a container with a little food waste/residue in it.

We have good recyclable materials; however plastics #3-7 have no market along with containers like milk cartons. We have trucks coming in everyday with material we are mandated to take that just sit because there is no market for it. We are in triage right now, and facing a public health crisis; which comes with stock piling paper and plastics beyond your capacity.

Brad has been working for a few years to include market variances clauses into their contracts. Not all contracts have them. He has been working individually with those customers whose contracts do not have them to add them or get exceptions.

Troy Lautenbach - It costs more to recycle on San Juan Island, then it does to remove the trash. It was a shock to the local community when the education program rolled out. Recycling processors are now required to have a solid waste permit, if they have to pay someone to take their recyclables.

Overview of EPA Region 10's Tribal Solid and Hazardous Waste Program- Angel Ip and Rick McMonagle

Angel and Rick were invited to speak about EPA's effort working with tribal waste programs in AK, ID, OR and WA. Most tribes only have one person or a half time person who handles the entire waste program for their tribe. The EPA's program acts as a support providing hands on assistance, funding, training, reviews of solid waste management plans, revisions, and contracts to local tribes. They also provide a wide partner network, which includes TSWAN, SWAT, RTOC, Northwest Interagency Partnership for Sustainable Communities, and more. See EPA's presentation posted on the W2RAC website. The Committee can provide feedback on the presentation to Angel Ip at Ip.Angel@epa.gov.

Danny Joe Stensgar, TSWAN member, commented on accessing the tire clean up funds for his tribe. Laurie Davies said she would double check to see if the tribes could access the funds. Currently, we have two long time contractors who are awarded the grant.

Round Table

Andy Comstock (Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department) there are currently seven counties that have passed ordinances for pharmaceutical product stewardship laws. Most Washington residents will be covered under one of those jurisdictions. They are looking forward to rolling out 1047 with each jurisdiction having up and running programs by the time the state does.

Laurie Davies (W2R) 173-350 is at the end of the public comment period. Public comments are accepted until March 20th. So far the biggest problems are asphalt shingles and impacted soils. Mostly focused on areas impacted by road activity.

Danny Joe Stensgar (TSWAN) TSWAN has an upcoming meeting at the Muckleshoot. The meeting will take place on March 26th, 2018. In the future, he requested we have TSWAN representatives come back and present to the committee what their group has accomplished.

Steve Skinner (Lewis County) – They are finalizing their solid waste management plan and plan to get in their grant application to Ecology this week.

Troy Lautenbach – San Juan and Skagit counties are close to finalizing their solid waste management plans, as well. Troy will be attending the WSRA Conference at the Semihamoo Resort in Blaine. The meeting will include a tour of one of Canada’s recycling facilities. He highly recommend it to the committee members to attend if possible.

Julie Robertson (W2R) – With the capital budget passed, we are looking at hosting a conference that would include 350 training. Summer is a challenge due to vacations and other scheduled trainings/meetings. We will be looking to the early fall for available dates.

Rich McConaghy (City of Vancouver) – They are waiting to see what funding will be coming available. They just kicked off the Regional Disaster planning pilot in Clark County. They are hoping to expand to other counties in the future.

Future Agenda Topics

- Presentation from TSWAN

Meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Submitted by: Nikki Candelaria