

WASTE 2 RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

** MEETING SUMMARY **

May 16, 2017, 1 p.m.

Troy Lautenbach, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m. and introductions were made. He asked for a motion to approve the March 21, 2017 meeting notes. There was a motion to adopt them. The motion was seconded and the notes were approved.

Dennis Durbin Acknowledgment – Laurie Davies

Laurie acknowledged Dennis Durbin, who recently passed away, for his years of efforts in the solid waste arena and as a W2RAC member. We will miss him. Danny Joe Stensgar will deliver a plaque from Ecology to Stevens County honoring Dennis's work.

Budget/Legislative Update - Laurie Davies

Contact: 360-407-6103; Laurie.Davies@ecy.wa.gov

There is no sign of forward progress in this Special Legislative Session. Senate Bill 5762 passed, concerning financing of the mercury-containing light stewardship program. The bill reduces the fee required to be paid to Ecology by mercury-containing light producers from \$5,000 annually to \$3,000. The bill requires Ecology to refund the stewardship organization any fees received in excess of our administrative costs. Ecology will refund any excess fees by October 1 after the closing of each state fiscal year, beginning in fiscal year 2018. The bill also requires independent financial audits of the stewardship organization every two years instead of annually.

We refunded Product Care Association \$140,000 this fiscal year. Sales of mercury lights have declined. More consumers are moving to LED or other energy saving lights faster than we anticipated.

We are preparing for potential government shutdown if a budget doesn't pass by midnight on June 30. Ecology will notify CPG grant recipients.

WSRA Conference – Troy Lautenbach

Contact: 360-815-3222; Troy@lautenbachrecycling.com

Ann Piacentino said they have received great feedback about the three-day WSRA conference. It was well attended and included a variety of sessions. Troy said there was a lot of discussion over food waste and contamination, and packaging. The keynote speaker presented on "ugly food."

Rules Update – Laurie Davies, Peter Lyon, & Wayne Krafft

Contact: 360-407-6103, Laurie.Davies@ecy.wa.gov; 509-329-3438, Wayne.Krafft@ecy.wa.gov; 360-407-6381, Peter.Lyon@ecy.wa.gov

-350 Rule Update: Laurie said we were working toward filing a CR-102, but because of comments received on soils, concrete, and determination of solid waste, we decided to take a step back and not file the CR-102 until fall. Staff are reworking the soils portion of the rule and working on other

issues. Staff hope to have revisions done by mid-June. We will work with stakeholders in July/August, and have a final draft ready by mid-September for the economist's review. We plan to file the CR-102 in November, with rule adoption in late March.

Rod Whitaker asked if we are revising part of the piles section or the whole thing. Wayne Krafft said we are not certain about the approach. We are still receiving strong feedback on where we should land on that part of the rule. Heather Trim said she would like to see the soils language before October. Laurie said we will share the soils and piles language with W2RAC before then. There won't be a formal stakeholder process at this point, but we will share the language with those who are interested.

Troy Lautenbach asked if there is still subcommittee activity working on -350 or just Ecology staff. Wayne said mostly Ecology staff.

Coordinated Prevention Grant (CPG) Rule Update: Peter reviewed the rule schedule. The formal comment period starts on May 24, 2017, followed by a public hearing on June 27. The comment period will close on July 7. The rule adoption date is August 23, effective on September 23. We are currently working on the CPG Guidelines.

Peter said we are merging the requirements in 173-313 into -312 and subsequently abolishing -313. We are changing the name to "Local Solid Waste Financial Assistance Program." There is new language that allows retroactive costs, and we have developed formula based solid waste enforcement grants. We also added performance expectations that mostly relate to a recipient's administration of the agreement, but will also consider outcomes. The results of poor performance is a 10 percent penalty imposed on the applicant's award in the biennium following the poor performance evaluation. There is also an alternative allocation formula of financial assistance: 80/20 split or \$75,000 per county.

We are assuming a \$10 million allocation due to the alignment of the Governor's, House, and Senate proposed budgets. We hope the application period will be July 11-25, and July 31 will be the first day to offer grants. Start working with your grant officer before July 11 to prepare.

Public Participation Grant (PPG) Rule Update: Laurie said we had a public hearing yesterday and the public comment period closes on May 22. Changes include new scoring criteria, administrative procedures, an emphasis on environmental justice, revised language related to ensuring eligibility of tribes, and new definitions including "highly impacted community" and "individuals," and clarifying what lobbying is.

Research on Funding Mechanisms for Solid Waste – Jessica Branom-Zwick & Christy Shelton, Cascadia Research

Jessica and Christy made a presentation on their research and recommendations on funding mechanisms for solid waste. Two stakeholder surveys were conducted and the study was done in three phases: Assess current funding mechanisms, identify potential funding mechanisms, and preliminary consultant recommendations for further consideration (research, initial analysis, stakeholder input via a survey). See Cascadia's presentation posted on the W2RAC website. We welcome followup feedback from W2RAC between now and May 30.

Art Starry commented that the reality for many is when they go to their boards or organizations, the reaction will be “what are we doing with MTCA funding?” Also, even small cost increases are a tough sell.

Troy Lautenbach said the ideas are great, but there are roadblocks for each option.

Rod Whitaker asked if Cascadia looked at the financial viability for each item. Christy said they haven’t gotten into that level of detail.

Troy Lautenbach said this is a great summary of what we are doing, but we know the pitfalls of each of the options.

Laurie Davies said we will share the final report with W2RAC and talk about what we would like to pursue in the new biennium.

Benefits of Recycling Study – Jackie Marshall & Amy Reed, Evans School

Amy and Jackie made a presentation to W2RAC on a study they conducted for Ecology on the benefits of recycling. The purpose of their project was to:

- Determine how the current Benefits of Recycling Focus Sheet is used by the primary “influencers” identified by Ecology.
- Develop a better understanding of what economic and environmental information “influencers” find most useful.
- Reframe the most useful information in a scientifically robust and captivating manner to more effectively communicate the benefits and impacts of recycling.
- Design a new focus sheet based on their findings.

See their PowerPoint presentation on the W2RAC website. The Committee can provide feedback on the study to Gretchen Newman at Gretchen.Newman@ecy.wa.gov.

Agenda Items for Future Meetings

- Food Waste Prevention Work and other Sustainable Materials Management Initiatives – July 2017, Domenic Calabro
- Solid Waste Management Planning Guidelines Update – TBD
- Presentation by EPA per Danny Joe Stensgar – TBD

Meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

Submitted by: Susanne McLemore