

WASTE 2 RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
**** MEETING SUMMARY ** January 11, 2018, 9:30 a.m.**

Troy Lautenbach, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:50 A.M. He asked for a motion to approve the September meeting minutes. There was a motion to adopt and the notes were approved.

2018 W2RAC Meetings Schedule and Chair and Vice Chair Selection - Julie Robertson
Contact: 360-407-6132; Julie.Robertson@ecy.wa.gov

Julie Robertson let the group know that we had a schedule change for the 2018 W2RAC meetings. The original May meeting was May 22 during WSRA's Conference. To accommodate people attending the conference we changed the meeting to May 29, 2018. A new meeting reminder will be sent out to all attendees and we will update the website.

Selection of Committee Chair and Vice Chair

The floor was opened for nominations for the Committee Chair and Vice Chair

Troy opened the floor for nominations, none were offered. Julie asked Troy and Andy if they were willing to serve another year, both accepted.

Rules & Budget/Legislative Update – Julie Robertson
Contact: 360-407-6132; Julie.Robertson@ecy.wa.gov

The Governor's budget was released on December 14, 2017. The Governor's budget, and the House and Senate proposed budgets all have 10 million for LSWFA. All three fund the grant program out of the state building construction account. A draft copy of the Local Solid Waste Financial Assistance allocation table is available. Tami Ramsey, our new grant coordinator, will be sending out the draft allocation table and the updated 2017-19 guidelines next week. Julie had copies of the allocation tables and handed out copies to those who requested it.

Julie described some of the bills Waste 2 Resources staff is currently tracking.

- HB 2133 Rural foods and forest practices, would add criteria for water quality grant and loan programs. It would require Ecology to analyze food and forest product manufacturing processes.
- HB 2380 Concerns Washington's economic development potential as a leader in the stewardship of postconsumer materials. The bill requires the Utilities and Transportation Commission to develop a public outreach strategy with Ecology. The Department of Commerce will be required to conduct economic analysis of recycling.
- HB 2411 Reducing wasted food in order to fight hunger and reduce environmental impact. The bill requires Ecology, in consultation with the Department of Health and the Department of Agriculture, to develop a plan by 2020 to reduce wasted food in the state by 50 percent by 2030.
- HB 2279 Concerns the fair servicing and repair of digital products. While this bill does not have a direct work-impact for Ecology, it could potentially change the rate of electronic recycling.

- SB 6055 Creates a pilot program for outdoor burning to allow cities and towns partially located within an apple quarantined area to burn brush and yard waste.

Jody Snyder from LRI asked about the school composting bill. SB 6168 is a school composting bill that does not directly impact Ecology.

Julie also provided a rules update. The updated Local Solid Waste Financial Assistance (LSWFA) rule was adopted. The grant funding guidelines will be sent out next week. The allocation table is a draft since the budget has not been passed. The Ecology regional grant officers will be meeting with local governments to discuss scopes of work.

The chapter 173-350 WAC rule will be filed January 24, 2017. There are two public meetings scheduled. The first public hearing will be March 6 at the Northwest Regional Office, the Lacey headquarters, and by webinar. The second meeting will be March 9 at the Central Regional Office, Eastern Regional Office, and by webinar. Adoption is expected in late April and the updated rule will become effective in late May.

Rod Whittaker asked about the abandoned RV work group and if it was actually producing legislation. Julie explained that Ecology staff attended several meetings for the work group. The Department of Licensing created draft legislation and a report to the Legislature, but a new bill has not appeared during this session. Andy Comstock noted that the email regarding the report went out from Department of Licensing. He also noted that the draft legislation included putting a fee on RV registrations.

Troy asked if anyone else had any questions or comments on bills. Jody Snyder from LRI noted that there were some updates on the Clean Air Rule. She noted that the judge accepted a briefing on the severity of the rule. Ecology's website now says that the order is on hold and some people have received a request for information regardless. It was noted that data collection continues until the presiding judge makes a decision on legality.

China's National Sword – Andy Wineke

Contact: 360-407-6149; Andrew.Wineke@ecy.wa.gov

Andy Wineke filled in for Alli Kingfisher and provided information on China's National Sword. The largest concern is that the issue of China's National Sword impact has not been felt yet. Many people and news outlets are talking about the standards and their impacts. However, we really have not seen the impacts on a large scale yet. Alli is hearing the same from other area authorities such as the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). There is currently a 1.5 percent contamination threshold that China will accept. On March 1, 2018 that limit will drop to 0.5 percent. Paper and plastics processing are the industries really being hit by this. DEQ noted that it has been eerily quiet. The commingled workgroup continues to talk about the possibility of promoting a regional anticontamination campaign.

Melanie Case from Lewis County noted that they use Pioneer Recycling as their MRF. She noted that they are getting a lot more feedback than they ever have before. They started with Pioneer Recycling in 2007. Periodically, Lewis County would ask the MRF about contamination to ensure their messaging to residents was working. Melanie noted that, in the last three months, Pioneer

Recycling is sending them more material complaints and has refused a few more loads than normal.

Brad Lovaas noted that it seems uncertainty is the biggest issue. After March, when the new standard and the reduced import licenses happen, will be when the true impact begins. The slow-down is beginning. They are slowing down the belts and the sorting. If there is going to be a big bang, it is still coming. Brad asked Troy what he is experiencing since Lautenbach Industries is impacted.

Troy noted that they experienced a larger panic in November. He noted that San Juan County will continue with commingled for now. Everyone is talking about cleaning up the recyclables and markets are the issue. China has been the only market and we need a local collaboration to address the local market issue.

Brad Lovaas noted that people tend to ask, "Why don't you guys build more MRFs". He noted that trying to explain that the companies are set up as collection companies is difficult to explain. That it requires different equipment and specialization to process recycling. In addition, manufacturing in the United States has significantly decreased. The solid waste collectors also deal with other issues like environmental justice and solid waste handling standards.

Brad noted, if you look at it as a highway, we have four lanes that were originally congested which now are slowed down further by lane closures. The slowdown of recycling materials is hard, and then to get materials out without being provided import licenses. He noted that he sees it as a question. Do we need to collect all the things that lead to the contamination of recyclables that retain a market value? Brad stated that we need to do a better job of messaging. Almost two-thirds of all recycling goes to China so messaging the restrictions is vital.

Brad also noted that the biggest message is the original one: Collectors need clean and dry materials, people who pay attention to the local collection rules, and finally, if in doubt throw it out. The garden hose was never recyclable.

Lisa Sepanski from King County Solid Waste Division asked if Oregon and Washington state agencies are collaborating on messaging.

Domenic Calabro from the EPA noted that the equivalent commingled market between Washington and Oregon DEQ could be something to explore. DEQ has a focus on getting cleaner on materials. Most retailers will continue collecting it for now, but they may have trouble finding a market.

Lisa Sepanski also asked if there has been any information about cartons. If that is a big issue in the mixed fiber bale.

Brad Lovaas noted that anything that has contamination is the issue. With cartons and plastics - milk residue or any unwashed residues leads to contamination. The bales that have those issues then exceed the percentage of contamination allowed and have to be destroyed.

Melanie Case noted that she noticed a significant issue when Lewis County went from the three-bin to the commingled system. Commingled seems to be confusing customers to believe that garbage and recycling can be mixed together. She would like to see it renamed from commingled. Even

mixed recycling as a name may still be confusing. A better route in her opinion may be to use an acceptable recycling list and referring to it as recycling. The county has had commingled since 2007 and people seem more confused than ever.

EPA's Sustainable Materials Management Program – Theresa Blaine, Domenic Calabro, and Kristy Fry

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Troy introduced Domenic Calabro and Theresa Blaine who joined from the northwest regional office; Kristy Fry joined in Lacey. They presented on Sustainable Materials Management (SMM).

The EPA will be continuing work with electronics management and WasteWise for the private sector. WasteWise is an effort for the private sector to participate in the Federal Green Challenge to help them prevent waste and buy sustainable green products.

Kristy Fry discussed preventing food waste. A pillar of the work EPA is focusing on is to put food waste reduction into policy at local and state governments. Of the food that is wasted, 20 percent is surplus food, but only 2.1 percent is being recovered. Up to 40 percent of the produced food goes to landfills. If we could reduce that to 15 percent, we could feed 25 million people a year. EPA has created a food recovery hierarchy where feeding people and animals is the top priority. Domenic noted that the food recovery challenge is a free and simple tool.

Businesses receive free technical assistance from regional EPA staff. They are focused on places that hold large events or have consistent levels of traffic, such as universities, hospitality businesses, groceries, restaurants, etc., that could easily divert their food for reuse to feed hungry people or animals. For food that is not reusable, the emphasis is to compost that food vs. landfilling. The challenge provides technical assistance and recognition for participants. K-12 school districts also participate and have a special toolkit. Ecology is an official endorser of this effort.

Kristy noted that the topic of households is also addressed through a toolkit. The EPA worked with stakeholders to put together Food 2 Good to Waste. The toolkit allows households to save money and uses community-based local education. They target the economic and environmental impact of wasted food. This helps to educate consumers. People measure what they are throwing out, and get tips for making food last as long as possible with correct storage. We encourage people to prep food when they first bring it home so it is easy to eat what you have. Both King County and the City of Issaquah were some of the first partners to use the tool. The website for Tacoma is being worked on currently. The peer network is available and is linked at the end of this presentation.

The EPA published the Washington School Food Share Program Toolkit last July. It details one of the biggest barriers is the reservice clause of served food that most health departments have as policy. Moreover, it shares variance language to address the issue of reservice. Reservice variances allows everyone to get on board with recovering foods. In addition, it opens the door to industrial kitchens being able to recover foods as well. A partnership with USDA, the University of Arkansas, and EPA is leading to a streamlining of cafeteria waste audit. The audit provides an area for a very intensive or light audit to show end of life and help with tracking food.

Theresa Blaine discussed C&D debris. Not only is the EPA trying to build a knowledge base of where disposal of materials is possible, they are creating tools and resources that share the information. One of the areas they are working on is producing messaging and a toolkit for deconstruction of abandoned mobile homes, deconstructing buildings. They are releasing information at the end of January regarding the lifecycle of building materials and are hoping to create momentum and possibly lay groundwork for nationwide efforts to reuse, recycle construction debris.

Another pillar of work is Disaster Debris Management. The interesting piece of this work is the sheer variety of materials that are encountered during clean up. Not only are wood, metal, concrete, and white appliances involved, but also all the components – electronics, household goods, MRW, etc. EPA wants to encourage a recovery of those materials where possible. In the Midwest, they have developed a Disaster Debris recovery tool that displays as a GIS map to show management of debris. In the tool, you can search different materials and get driving directions for the closest option near you. It also includes estimated fill levels of how much material an area can take. Public industry and trade associations are discussing beginning to create a similar tool for Washington, Oregon, California, Idaho, and Montana. The plan is to begin launching the project in fall.

Domenic discussed sustainable packaging efforts. A 2013 report noted that 30 percent of all municipal solid waste is packaging and only half is recovered. Forty-four percent of carbon emissions come from packaging production. An upcoming report describes the national level policies in the US. It includes what is working and what is not working. Oregon DEQ and Ecology have worked together to reduce shrink plastic wrap and film.

Danny Joe Stensgar asked about how many schools are participating in the school program. Kristy Fry noted that there are several schools that EPA works with directly, but the toolkit is open for use. The direct tie that EPA has includes about 25 schools. With the Washington program toolkit on its way.

Troy asked about a meeting in Washington DC this month and asked about the focus. Theresa noted that there is a built environment forum. Most of the focus will be on C & D. All the opportunities of full lifecycle of building materials, construction of buildings, and lifecycle buildings as well as demolition lifecycle will be discussed. Included will be the idea of future designing for reuse and deconstruction.

Brad Lovaas noted that the Natural Disaster Debris plan sounds good and they will collaborate with it. He noted that it was a five year process between FEMA, counties, collectors, and local governments working together to come up with Washington's current plan. He asked if EPA has looked at the plan that is already in place before building the GIS for Washington. Theresa noted that region 5 started the effort but other regions are looking to bring it nationwide.

Bryan McKinnon noted that the tool to measure landfills and reuse is the area of concern that he sees. How that GIS map is updated could cause it to not be accurate. Theresa noted that updating the facilities would eventually be based on a schedule. The current system they have in Region 5 has over 6,000 facilities to review all the data points they collect. Even just in the state of Washington, some of those data points will be edited down. They are still determining the best way to keep information. In addition, the only way they can see that happening is for local government and state agencies to update the list.

Kristy noted that the GIS pull is from the publicly available list. At the same time, emergency management is going to need that information and keeping it updated to keep safety standards is the incentive. The same thing is true on the food side; the incentive of food recovery is not a tangible incentive. It is not an easy thing to do from this perspective, but it is possible.

Bryan noted that Kitsap's finalized plan is in place. Brad noted that the state level is done. In addition, most local communities are done, with the State of Washington and FEMA working together.

Kristy noted that, while it seems like an additional effort, having a plan that includes the GIS monitoring allows local connections to be easily found and tools readily accessible.

Roundtable

Bryan McKinnon gave kudos to Whatcom and Clallam counties for passing their pharmaceutical take-back ordinances.

Danny Kermode wanted to let everyone know that Penny Ingram passed away last month and her services are next month.

Lisa Sepanski from King County released a copy of their draft solid waste comprehensive plan and a draft environmental impact statement. It is available for public comment through March 8, 2018. They are utilizing an online system for comments. Participants can either take an online survey or email comments directly. They also will have three open houses and videos that describe the plan. The recycling plan will be available on the homepage for residents and businesses. She noted that questions should be sent to the manager, Beth Humphreys. She also asked Ecology about when we will release our 2015 recycling data. Patricia Hervieux noted that the data should be available by the end of this month. The contact for information is Dan Weston.

Anne Piacentino from Washington State Recycling Association noted that the annual conference will be May 20-23, 2018 and registration is open. It is the first time WSRA will be held in Blaine. We are also working on firming up the agenda. At the end of March, we will be hosting a WRED event. Lisa dubbed it a contamination fest 2018. Where contamination is happening in the local systems. It will provide a tour of Pioneer Recycling and Pierce County. People will be able to discuss opportunities for recycling. The event will be March 29, 2018. In addition, the board is open for nominations for the Annual Recycling Awards.

Heather Trim from Zero Waste noted that they are following a bill concerning the use of perfluorinated chemicals in food packaging. They also just started interns to create a report about China Sword. She is wondering if the group has some suggestions about topics the interns could include helping angle the information about the impact of past practices and current changes on China and residents of China. If anyone thinks of anything, please email Heather.

Becci Piepel from Douglas County Solid Waste noted that Michelson's Recycling finalized their contract with the county.

***Meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.
Submitted by: Johanna Painter***