

WHATCOM COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY (SWAC) COMMITTEE MINUTES April 26, 2018

Members Present:

Amber Jones, Ed Nikula, Mark Peterson, Larry McCarter, Kevin Moore, Lisa Friend and Ted Carlson

Members Absent:

Barbara Brenner, Eric Johnston, Greg Young, Troy Lautenbach, and Robert Hendricks

Staff Present:

Jeff Hegedus, Janice Deptuch, and John Wolpers

Others Present:

Ken and Allison Caulder, Rodd Pemble - SSC, Pat Dunn - SSC, Paula McLeary, Jennifer Hayden – WCHD, Dave Bader -, Syria – Republic Services.

Call to Order:

The regular meeting of the Whatcom County SWAC was called to order on Thursday, April 26, 2018 at 5:31 p.m. in the Garden Level Meeting Room by chair, Mark Peterson.

Roll Call, Determination of Quorum, Approval of Minutes, Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson:

The minutes for the October 26, 2017 SWAC meeting were approved as written. The motion for approval was made by Lisa Friend and 2nd by Larry McCarter. Motion approved by everyone.

The election of the new chairperson, motion to nominated Mark Peterson, was made by Lisa Friend and 2nd by Amber Jones. Motion made to nominate Lisa Friend as Vice chairperson made by Mark Peterson and 2nd by Ted Carlson. Nominations approved by all.

Point Roberts Solid Waste Management System

Since May, 2016 solid waste program staff have been meeting with the Point Roberts Community Advisory Committee (PRCAC) and the community to review the local waste management system to ensure that needs were being met. Based on this process, PRCAC made specific recommendations on October 10, 2017 for improvements to solid waste services. On December 5, 2017 and on April 10, 2018 these recommendations were presented to the County Council Public Works and Health Committee. On February 13, 2018 staff presented a draft amendment to ordinance to PRCAC to implement the recommendations, sought further input, and offered support to the community on outreach and education opportunities as may be requested. PRCAC requested that a mailer with a 'Frequently Asked Questions' flyer go out to affected property owners, and that a Town Hall meeting be conducted. Staff developed the FAQ and mailed 2,300 mailers on March 27, 2018. PRCAC scheduled and hosted an April 14, 2018 Town Hall meeting, at which staff responded to two hours of questions from residents. Since November 21, 2017, we have had a total of 9 calls from the Point Roberts community. Ken and Allison Caulder shared their concerns about Cando Recycling and the rates.

Secure Medicine Return Program Implementation

Jennifer Hayden from the Whatcom County Health Department presented a presentation on this program.

Waste pharmaceuticals are defined in Washington State as a Moderate Risk Waste, which are regulated by solid waste handling standards. The Whatcom County Health Board approved Ordinance 2017-073, Secure Medicine Return Ordinance on December 5, 2017 adopting Whatcom County Code Chapter 24.15, Secure Medicine Return. The ordinance requires a producer provided and funded product stewardship plan for the safe collection and disposal of unused drugs from residential sources. Implementation actions fall into the general categories of (1) Implementation/Start-Up, (2) Stewardship Plan Review, (3) Program Operations Oversight, (4) Promotion, and (5) Compliance & Enforcement.

There will be mailbox services at police departments, fire halls, and hospital with pharmacies that will take prescriptions as well as controlled substances. The Whatcom County Health Department will be doing promotions. The timeline for starting is December 2018, but Jennifer feels it will likely by February or March 2019.

Solid Waste Voucher Compliance Program

In May, 2000 the Skagit County Health Board approved a resolution to implement a solid waste voucher compliance program to support efforts to mitigate public health nuisances created by solid waste handling violations. The program provided funding to provide limited, one-time assistance for cleanup and disposal costs in problematic situations. The program has been a success in Skagit, and solid waste staff is in consideration of emulating the program in Whatcom County. Staff will present the program and seek input regarding use of the program as a compliance enforcement tool. The voucher has an expiration date, estimated load size and they will need photo ID. The program is funded through the tipping fees. The goals are to help with property damage, property values, promoting general public health, develop positive relationships and increase solid waste management. Mark asked if they have done a cost analysis and Jennifer said they were working on it. Kevin Moore asked if it applies to the homeless, Jennifer said that is another consideration. Jeff stated it is a case by case judgement. Mark asked how to move forward? Jennifer replied they will talk to SWEC in July and then to County Council.

Street Waste Management

Street Wastes are solid wastes that include liquid and solid wastes collected during the maintenance of storm water catch basins, detention/retention ponds, ditches and similar storm water treatment and conveyance structures, and solid wastes collected during street and parking lot sweeping.

Currently, street wastes are regulated by Appendix IV-G, Storm water Management Manual for Western Washington, Recommendations for Management of Street Wastes. However, the current proposed revisions to WAC 173-350, Solid Waste Handling Standards include significant updates to street wastes management.

In Whatcom County, there is currently only one permitted solid waste handling facility that is designed and operated specifically to manage street wastes, which is a critical service to the many county entities managing compliance with water quality permits. This solid waste handling facility, owned and operated by the City of Bellingham, has recently experienced some changes. These changes will be discussed, along with the issues and consequences of having only one county facility, which is a public facility in a privatized solid waste system, to manage this important waste stream. Larry McCarter said he sees it as an opportunity. Eric and staff can come and give more updates.

Open Session, Announcements, Agenda Items

Agenda items: Disaster Debris Plan and check in with Department of Emergency Management on how things are going.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made 1st by Larry McCarter and 2nd by Ted Carlson, all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify this to be a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Whatcom County Solid Waste Advisory Committee meeting held April 26, 2018.

Attest: _____
Janice Deptuch, Clerk III
Whatcom County Health Department

Mark Peterson, Chair
Whatcom County Solid Waste
Advisory Committee