

# WHATCOM COUNTY SOLID WASTE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

## JULY 17, 2018 MEETING MINUTES

### **Committee Members Present**

Jack Louws, Whatcom County Executive  
Scott Korthuis, Mayor, City of Lynden  
John Perry, Mayor, City of Everson  
Jon Mutchler, Mayor, City of Ferndale  
Bonnie Onyon, Mayor, City of Blaine  
Kyle Christensen, Mayor, City of Sumas  
Brian Heinrich, Chief Administrator, City of Bellingham

### **Committee Members Absent**

James Ackerman, Mayor, City of Nooksack  
Greg Young, City Administrator, City of Ferndale

### **Staff Present**

Jeff Hegedus, Environmental Health Supervisor, Whatcom County Health Department  
Janice Deptuch, Clerk III, Whatcom County Health Department  
John Wolpers, Environmental Health Manager, Whatcom County Health Department  
Patty Proctor, Accounting Supervisor, Whatcom County Health Department

### **Others:**

Pat Dunn - SSC

### **Call to Order**

The meeting of the Solid Waste Executive Committee was called to order by County Executive Jack Louws on Tuesday, July 17, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. at Lynden City Hall.

### **Approval of 2016 Meeting Minutes and SWEC Bylaws**

The minutes for the July 18, 2017 SWEC meeting were approved as written. The motion for approval of the July 18, 2017 minutes was made by Scott Korthuis and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jon Mutchler. Motion approved by all.

### **Solid Waste Funding: Amendment to WCC 8.13, Solid Waste Disposal District, Regarding the Solid Waste Excise Privilege Tax**

Due to a 1997 solid waste legal arbitration ruling, the surcharge was repealed and replaced by an excise tax. Ordinance 97-41 amended WCC 8.13.030, Excise privilege tax levied, and implemented a solid waste excise tax, not to exceed \$8.50 per ton, excluding recyclable materials, that applies only to solid waste collected by certificated and franchised solid waste haulers, as per WCC 8.11.030, rather than to all solid wastes. Levying the excise tax, equitably, at the current established rate of \$8.50 per ton, would generate an estimated \$422,000 in additional revenue for solid waste services. As per WCC 8.13.140, Annual review of tax requirements, the actual excise tax rate would be reviewed annually. Revenue generation from the approved amendment to

the excise tax is consistent with estimates, reductions in state solid waste funding have been backfilled, and solid waste program funding has been maintained.

### **Solid Waste Operations Update**

Waste reduction and recycling community education and outreach programs continue on track for the youth (ReSources Sustainable Schools program), adult (WSU Master Composter/ Master Recycler program) and commercial (Sustainable Connections Toward Zero Waste program) target populations. Additionally, with Puget Sound Partnership funding as implemented by Ecology, staff conducted 176 commercial solid and hazardous waste technical assistance site visits in 2017, and implemented the newly expanded EnviroStars program.

Cedarville Landfill monitoring and maintenance activities continue as per the approved closure plan, and the application to Ecology for the required NPDES permit renewal been approved. Y Road Landfill's maintenance and monitoring proceeds without incident, and an adjoining property owner has purchased a portion of the property via lot line adjustment.

In 2017 the Disposal of Toxics facility, which includes the operation of three satellite collection stations and one off-site collection event, processed a total of 484,219 pounds of waste chemicals that were collected and reused, recycled, or properly disposed from 9,556 residential and commercial customers.

In 2017 the Adopt-A-Road program resulted in the cleanup of 34,443 pounds of solid waste from 260 miles of roadway, 5 acres of land, and 12 dump sites using 1,677 volunteer hours. Birch Bay solid waste collection and Birch Bay July 4<sup>th</sup> cleanup efforts continue as per routine.

The Health Department took over the Solid Waste program three years ago.

### **Solid Waste Voucher 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 staff is proposing to emulate the program in Whatcom County. Staff will present the program and seek input regarding use of the program as a compliance enforcement tool.

We request \$15,000 in the budget for the program. Scott Korthuis asked if \$15,000 was enough funds to make it effective and Jeff Hegedus said "Yes." John Perry asked about the big items and Jeff said the Health Department would help people with them.

Jon Mutchler mentioned a program they have in Ferndale called "Operations Love Thy Neighbor". They supply a Tupperware box with, gloves vest, etc...

Motion to approve the \$15,000 in the budget for the Solid Waste Voucher Program was made by Kyle Christensen 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> John Perry. Motion approved by all.

### **Secure Medicine Return Program: WCC24.15, Secure Medicine:**

Waste pharmaceuticals generated from residential sources are defined in Washington State as a Moderate Risk Waste, which are regulated as solid waste. The Whatcom County Health Board, as the tenth local jurisdiction nationally to do so, approved Ordinance 2017-073, Secure Medicine Return Ordinance on December 5, 2017 thereby adopting WCC 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 are several places in Whatcom County where residents can drop-off their unwanted medicine for safe disposal. However, these locations are not convenient for many people and lack sufficient and sustainable financial resources. At the request of the Whatcom County Health Board, the Health Department is preparing legislation for the Board's consideration that will create and fund a comprehensive medicine return system. The proposed policy will be modeled on regulations passed by the local boards of health in King, Snohomish, Kitsap, and Pierce Counties.

The medicine collection systems must provide reasonably convenient and equitable access for all residents. Through this system:

- Any Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) authorized pharmacy, hospital, or any law enforcement facility that volunteers to host a drop box will be able to participate.
- A minimum number of drop boxes is required in every city and in unincorporated areas with a pharmacy, hospital, or a law enforcement facility.
- In areas without enough drop boxes, collection events or prepaid return mailers must be provided.
- Prepaid return mailers must also be available upon request for homebound or disables residents.
- Expand secure medicine disposal options for Whatcom County residents to reduce risks of medicine poisonings, misuse, and environmental pollution.
- Improve convenience for residents by expanding the number of secure drop box locations in the county, including at local pharmacies and medical centers.
- Provide prepaid return mailers for homebound residents and others who don't have access to drop box locations.
- Ensure financial sustainability through a pharmaceutical manufacturer-financed system.

We hope to have this operational next year.

### **Point Roberts: Amendments to WCC8.11, Solid Waste Recycling and Collection District and WCC8.10, Solid Waste and Recycling Collection**

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. These recommendations were to 1) eliminate the exemption from mandatory residential curbside solid waste collection services for developed residential

parcels with an on-site sewage system, 2) require a minimum residential curbside collection service level of variable every other week, with 32 gallon can, bundled with recycling, for these parcels, 3) collect payment for the minimum service level as a fee on annual property tax bills, and 4) have the service provider invoice directly for any additional requested services above the minimum service level, such as for larger can size, more frequent collection, or carry out/ drive in services. On May 22, 2018 a public hearing was held, and Council approved the proposed amendments to ordinance.


**2019-2020 Solid Waste Budget**


Patty Proctor gave update on the 2018 supplemental budget was presented and approved by the Committee. The budget adjustment covers upgrades to furniture, Department of Ecology toxic program, Pt Roberts facility, and Cedarville. They had to adjust out the CPG funding, but are now putting it back in. Motion to adjust the mid biennium supplemental budget was made 1<sup>st</sup> by Scott Korthuis and 2<sup>nd</sup> by John Perry, all in favor.

2019 Budget – Health Department lost one environmental health specialist. They are bringing on one new person and a vehicle. Three years ago the solid waste division absorbed additional programs. A motion to accept the 2018-2019 sustainable for the budget was 1<sup>st</sup> by Scott Korthuis and 2<sup>nd</sup> by John Perry. All were in favor. The committee wants to wait on the waste management program.

**Open Session, Adjournment**

No public in attendance, and no public comments.  
Adjourn at 11:25 am. by Jack Louws.

  
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Jack Louws, County Executive  
8-20-19  
Date

  
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Janice Deptuch, Clerk III  
8-20-19  
Date