

# WHATCOM COUNTY SOLID WASTE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

September 25, 2013

## Call to Order

The meeting of the Solid Waste Executive Committee was called to order by County Executive Jack Louws on Wednesday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at 3:05 p.m. at Lynden City Hall.

## Committee Members and Staff Present

Jack Louws, Whatcom County Executive  
Ted Carlson; Public Works Director, City of Bellingham  
Mike Martin, City Manager, City of Lynden  
John Perry, Mayor, City of Everson  
David Wilbrecht, City Manager, City of Blaine  
Jim Ackerman, Mayor, City of Nooksack  
Robert Bromley, Mayor, City of Sumas  
Chris Brueske, Assistant Public Works Director, Whatcom County  
Debbie Bailey, Solid Waste Coordinator, Whatcom County

## AGENDA

### **Supplemental Budget Authority**

Chris Brueske stated that the County budget is a two-year budget cycle and it is now necessary to make some adjustments since it was passed in 2012. Solid Waste is seeking supplemental budget authority for 2013 and 2014. The receipt of two Department of Ecology grants requires increases that are not reflected in the current budget. Additionally, Ecology requires that Comprehensive Solid Waste and Hazardous Waste Management Plans be updated every five years in order to stay current. The last plan is dated 2008. Copies of the Solid Waste Budget Status Report and Fund Balance Projections, including the addition of the Supplementals, were distributed which reflect a positive net balance for 2014.

- Coordinated Prevention Grant Funding – Request for budget authority to add \$138,328 in Department of Ecology grant funding to the budget each year, 2013 - 2014. This funding funds the operations of the Disposal of Toxics facility.

*A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to recommend to the County Council to approve an increase in revenue to the 2013 – 2014 Solid Waste budget of \$138,328 to support the operations of the Disposal of Toxics facility.*

- Litter Grant Funding – Request for both revenue and expenditure authority to add \$5,250 in Department of Ecology grant funding to the budget each year, 2013 – 2014. This program is funded 100% by the grant.

*A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to recommend to the County Council to approve an increase to the Solid Waste budget for 2013 and 2014, of \$5,250 in both revenue and expenditure authority, to pay for Adopt a Road and Correction crews to conduct roadside and illegal dump cleanup.*

- Solid Waste Comprehensive and Hazardous Waste Management Plan – Request for expenditure authority to increase the Solid Waste Administration budget to update the Comprehensive Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Plan. The current Plan is dated 2008 and Public Works has been informed by the Department of Ecology that the Plan is due to be updated. Public Works surveyed other counties and found that most utilize a consultant due to the requirements for the plans becoming more complex. It is estimated to cost up to \$175,000 for the project.

*A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to recommend to the County Council an expense of up to \$175,000 be added to the 2014 Administration budget for the update of the Comprehensive Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Plan.*

### **New Business**

Jack proposed holding future meetings of the Executive Committee thirty minutes prior to the Small Cities Partnership meetings. The meetings are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month, and most of the Executive Committee members will already be in attendance. The Committee concurred with the suggestion.

Debbie Bailey informed the Committee that the Solid Waste Advisory Committee is updating the Service Level Ordinance (WCC 8.10). The updates mostly include cleaning it up in respect to name changes and some minor clarifications, and has been reviewed by the Utilities and Transportation Commission. There are no substantive changes to the intent of the Code. The Ordinance will go before Council before the end of the year or shortly after the start of 2014.

David Wilbrecht, being new to the Committee, asked for some clarifications in the Solid Waste Fund.

### **Old Business**


Bob Bromley requested updates on the Pt. Roberts transfer facility, the hazardous waste program, and Clean Green.

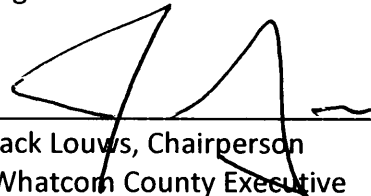
- The Pt. Roberts waste hauling operation and transfer station has been stable. The owner of Cando Recycling and Disposal is now more hands-on and working with Solid Waste and the Health Department to maintain compliance at the facility and provide satisfactory service to the residents of Pt. Roberts.
- The hazardous waste program (Disposal of Toxics) is going well. A new contract is in place for the operation of the facility over the next several years. Pharmaceuticals are now being taken from both residential and small-quantity generator businesses (for a fee) such as veterinary offices. Several cost-saving measures were put in place in 2010, in cooperation with the contractor, which have resulted in the program coming in under budget since that time.
- Ted Carlson reported that the fee at Clean Green was raised from \$4.00 a load to \$5.00 a load to make up for the reduced County subsidy for 2013. The City is considering raising the fee to \$10.00 to attempt to make the program self-sustaining. Because of the further-reduced subsidy for 2014 and the fact that there are other yard-waste options now available, the City may transition away from providing the current level of service.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:32 p.m.

**Certification**

I hereby certify this to be a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Solid Waste Executive Committee meeting held September 25, 2013, in Lynden, Washington.

Attest:   
Debbie Bailey, Coordinator  
Whatcom County Solid Waste Division

  
Jack Louws, Chairperson  
Whatcom County Executive