

WHATCOM COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

April 25, 2013

NOTES

Members Present:

Ed Nikula, Casey Heinle, Marty Kuljis, Greg Young, Amber Jones, Marj Leone, Pete Edwards, Barbara Brenner, Eric Johnston

Members Absent:

Calvin Den Hartog, Mariah Ross

Staff Present:

Debbie Bailey

Others Present:

None

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Whatcom County Solid Waste Committee was called to order on Thursday, April 25th at 5:31 p.m. in the Forest St. Annex by Chair, Ed Nikula

Introductions:

New City of Bellingham representative, Eric Johnston was introduced.

Minutes:

The minutes of the, January 24th, 2013 SWAC meeting were read and approved as written.

Communications:

None

Agenda Items:

1. EOW Service Pilot – Ferndale

Greg Young said that Amber attended the Ferndale Council committee meeting, where there were some new questions asked, but nothing decided. Has had received some comments from the public, and some were negative. Since the topic has not made any more progress on the topic, to see what the public perception might be. Greg said he will bring it before the Council again.

2. Clean Green Update

Eric provided copies of his presentation before the city council. Council will not provide any more funds for the Clean Green program. Looked at some of the slides. Pretty heavily subsidized program. As the County subsidy drops, the likelihood of increasing the fee is pretty high. Now \$4 a load. Usage drops, but tonnage stays the same with increase in fee. Average load was 220 lbs. 2002 started tracking. 30,000 customers in 2010. As customers dropped, tonnage stays constant, cost per load stays up. Message is that expenditures stay constant, and cost per ton stays constant. Higher the fee, fewer people come. Harder to make up the revenue. Compares to other options. Slide #11, load comparison, with RDS, Clean Green, other options were more expensive, averaging \$17 load with transport, etc. city Council, contribution goes down, city needs to go up, or evaluate if it is really a beneficial program for city residents. So, what's the purpose? Alternatives are competing with City. Has to come back to city council in June or July with more data after fee increase. Customers have dropped already this year, with no explanation. If customers stay low....council raised fee on a tiered schedule? Maybe. Greg asked, where are they going? GY, if Clean Green is gone, where do they go? BB_ are they getting small composters for home? Eric_ what other things, can we have spring cleanups? BB: this was seen as an interim measure, where the private sector has stepped up to take care of it. Eric: we can't raise the fee so high that the usage goes down. Marty: sees Clean Green being used by commercial landscapers. Take the signs off the trucks and dumping at Clean Green. Eric: what about the 2015 216 budget cycle, maybe a different

program. Eric – maybe hand out pamphlets, etc. for options. Can look at composter subsidy. If the need is to promote composting, can look at it. Greg: looking at slide 14, spike in both visitors and usage. November spike, maybe hold an event there. Also July and in spring. Suggest 3 or 4 time a year event. BB: why not work with private business and hold the events at the private business locations? BB: businesses can provide the service, utilize BB: you would be willing to work with city and county to do that. SWAC: thinks idea is great. Eric: current model is not self-sustaining. Eric: probably will see a need for rate increase in 2014. BB: sees no problem with having a subsidy to inspire more usage with the private sector. Marj: do city parks get the material from Clean Green? No. It goes to Skagit County. Greg: does the parks now buy it? Eric: no now self-sufficient. There is a strong proponent of the community that says that govmt shouldn't compete with private. Marj- people

3.

Other Business

Updates on pharmaceutical. Service level ordinance needs to be reviewed.

BB: how is the Food Plus program going. SSC: about 7000 customers, and cuts in half during the winter. Amber. Encourages customers to keep the service during the winter. Most of the county is covered with food waste.

Open Session

BB: how is it working with the haulers going into the more rural areas, rather than keeping it more centralized? Ed: WUTC requires that all people be served. ED, Amber – not aware of any issues.

Next Meeting Agenda

1. Review the Service Level Ordinance
2. Update on EOW service in Ferndale.
- 3.

Next Meeting Schedule

The next meeting will be held from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 25th, location to be announced.

Adjournment

Meeting was 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 25th 2013.

Whatcom County Solid Waste Meeting Minutes – 1/24/13

Attest: _____
Debbie Bailey, Coordinator
WCPW Solid Waste

Chair
Whatcom County Solid Waste Advisory Committee

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