

# WHATCOM COUNTY SOLID WASTE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

## SEPTEMBER 2, 2015 MEETING MINUTES

### Committee Members Present

Jack Louws, Whatcom County Executive  
Scott Korthuis, Mayor, City of Lynden  
John Perry, Mayor, City of Everson

### Committee Members Absent

Kelli Linville, Mayor, City of Bellingham  
Gary Jensen, Mayor, City of Ferndale  
Harry Robinson, Mayor, City of Blaine  
Bob Bromley, Mayor, City of Sumas  
James Ackerman, Mayor, City of Nooksack

### Staff Present

Jeff Hegedus, Environmental Health Supervisor, Solid Waste Division  
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

## **AGENDA**

### Call to Order

The meeting of the Solid Waste Executive Committee was called to order by County Executive Jack Louws on Wednesday, September 2, 2015 at 1:03 p.m. at Lynden City Hall.

### Introductions

We went around the room and everyone introduced themselves.

### Solid Waste Division Transfer and Operations

Jack Louws, County Executive was very pleased on how the Whatcom County Health Department took on the Solid Waste Division and how smoothly the transition went from the Public Works Division to the Whatcom County Health Department, Solid Waste Division.

Jeff Hegedus gave an update on the Solid Waste Division transfer.

Effective January 1, 2015 the Whatcom County Solid Waste Division was transferred from the Public Works Department to the Health Department. All business functions, records and institutional knowledge are essentially transferred and working smoothly. Grants, contracts, lease agreements and interlocal agreements have been reviewed, updated, and renewed. The draft comprehensive solid waste plan is completed, and the new county web site now includes information regarding SWEC agendas and minutes on the solid waste page.

The Litter and Adopt-a-Road programs are functioning well, and the Birch Bay seasonal solid waste system, including the collection of 6 tons of waste fireworks debris from the July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration, was implemented, with help from the Blaine

Chamber of Commerce, 150 volunteers, and Adopt-a-Road program. Sanitary Service Company donated haul services to the effort, and was thanked for their work..

Significant capital improvements were implemented at the Disposal of Toxics facility. Excess grant funds from Ecology that were slated for deobligation were instead targeted for necessary and overdue facility upgrades and maintenance. The facility gravel driveway, parking lot and work area was paved; the building exterior was pressure washed and cleaned, and the interior was cleaned from over a decade of waste chemical processing. Three waste oil and antifreeze collection tanks, which were leaking into their secondary containment chambers, were replaced. New signs, storage units, carts and tables were purchased, and previously unmanaged problem waste was disposed of. The overall program continues to operate exceptionally well.

Cando Recycling and Disposal in Pt. Roberts recently entered into receivership, but emerged intact. We have more of a presence and are in Point Roberts more, and will soon increase attention to service provision.. The Health Department did meet with legal counsel to discuss the issue. Jack Louws asked if they go out of business, can the County take over at our expense.

Scott Korthuis asked can we get Sanitary Service Company (SSC)?

Jack Louws stated we should have an interim plan as we move forward. Maybe have language in plan regarding financial crisis.

Jeff Hegedus stated that an upcoming issue with County Construction Recycling (CCR) Landfill post-closure care funds will expire soon, and contingency planning is in progress. The county is not obligated according to the RCW, if they go through foreclosure, and we pick it up we are not responsible. Scott asked who is. John Wolpers said that it should have been closed early with the intent that CCR could build up funds, which there they looked at equipment and economy.

Jeff Hegedus talked about the tire amnesty event, utilizing Ecology funding that was implemented, and resulted in 3,400 waste tires from backyard residential sources being properly collected and disposed at no cost to residents. Jack Louws asked if certain areas of the county were highlighted and Jeff said yes, Deming area.

Jack asked if anyone had any questions. No one had any questions.

#### **Disposal of Toxics Program Fee Schedule for Non-Profit Organizations**

At the Disposal of Toxics Facility, small business and households can dispose of their waste. In 2007, SWEC moved to allow non-profit organizations to dispose of universal and moderate risk wastes at no charge; costs have increased significantly (estimated at \$12,000 for 2015), are not grant eligible, and the allowance is unique. Additionally, current legal counsel is that the existing policy constitutes a potential gifting of public funds. SWAC has recommended that non-profit organizations now be subject to the Disposal of Toxics program fee schedule for small quantity generators, equivalent to other businesses. The County should start charging non-profits for disposal, households are still free. The Disposal of Toxics does not reimburse us. Jack Louws said that the household waste was not a make or break deal.

A motion was made for SWEC to reconsider the 2007 non-profit policy and move to adopt the SWAC recommendation to charge non-profit organizations, subject to the Disposal of Toxics program fee schedule, for universal and moderate risk waste disposal. It was made by Scott Korthuis and 2<sup>nd</sup> by John Perry. We will poll other members by email.. NOTE: Polling resulted in 6 yea's and 0 nays, with Bellingham and Ferndale abstaining.

### **Draft 2015 Comprehensive Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Plan**

Jeff Hegedus stated that the law requires that the Comprehensive Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Plan be reviewed and updated every five years.

The draft update of the existing 2008 plan, as required by RCW 70.95, describes the current solid and hazardous waste management system and makes recommendations for potential future implementation. The draft update proposes no structural changes to the existing solid waste system; primary recommendations include an increase of waste reduction and recycling community education and outreach activities, in order to continue to increase waste recycling and diversion rates.

How can we support people? We can do waste audit and assessments, and going out to schools and commercial sites for education training. Jack Louws asked what it will take to move forward. Jeff said that the draft 2015 Comprehensive Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Plan is completed and SWAC has been substantially involved in the planning process, and has approved moving the plan forward to Ecology for preliminary review. The plan has been submitted to Ecology, and will soon enter into the SEPA public review and comment phase.

Concurrent with the 120 day Ecology preliminary draft review period, the plan will 1) be reviewed by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC), and 2) enter into a SEPA public comment period. SWAC will conduct a final review, and the plan will be submitted for SWEC review, comment and approval. Following this, the plan will be submitted to County Council and Ecology for final approval.

Jack Louws asked if there were any other questions. No other questions.

### **Mid-Cycle Budget Adjustment**

Patty Proctor, Accounting Supervisor for the Whatcom County Health Department presented the mid-cycle budget adjustment information.

There will be a reduction of an annual \$110,444 in revenue from the Ecology Coordinated Prevention Grant (CPG), which is about a 50% reduction. The county did get an increase in the litter grant. These are the recommendations:

Maintain the existing Youth Waste Reduction and Recycling Education Program (ReSources) at the budgeted \$35,000 per year.

Increase the existing Master Compost and Recycler Program (WSU) by \$10,000 per year from the current \$25,000 to \$35,000.

Budget an additional \$35,000 per year to implement a Commercial Waste Reduction and Recycling Program. The objective of the program would be to provide commercial waste audits and business specific detailed waste assessments and action plans for waste reduction and recycling opportunities in the construction, food service and residential multi-family property management sectors.

Jack asked how much longer on the ReSources Contract? Jeff Hegedus said we held onto the contract just not signed yet.

Jack asked out of the \$25,000 to \$35,000 what the deliverables are? Jeff Hegedus said the extra \$10,000 was for adding middle and high schools. Jack Louws asked about the \$10,000 for the WSU program and Jeff sated it is the same work for the adult students in their programs, with a proportional increase in outcomes.

Jack Louws asked that next time we document number of how many contacts, kids, etc..., to give a sense of how many people. Jeff will send information to members about the deliverables.

A motion was made that the county stay consistent with the current adopted interlocal agreements between the cities and the county, staff requests that SWEC review and approve the mid-cycle budget adjustment as presented in the meeting materials. The motion was made 1<sup>st</sup> by John Perry and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Scott Korthuis. They will poll other members by email. . NOTE: Polling resulted in 6 yea's and 0 nays, with Bellingham and Ferndale abstaining.

### **Open Session**

Jack Louws is trying to get more information on the County website, contracts, deliverables, etc...

John Perry gave the Health Department praise on getting the OSS and Drinking Water documents online.

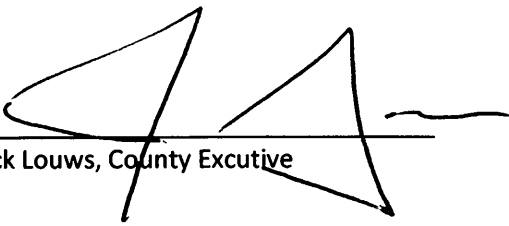
Jeff mentioned that the Solid Waste Executive Committee and Solid Waste Advisory Committee minutes and agendas are now online.

Jack Louws stated that he is looking forward to working with the Whatcom Health Department on solid waste issues.

Jack Louws also mentioned that it might be easier to more of the mayors to attend if we had the meetings before or after the Small Cities Caucus, which meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month or the Whatcom Council of Government meeting that meets once a month at 3 p.m. on Wednesday,

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:54 p.m. by Jack Louws.



Jack Louws, County Executive

7-19-14  
Date