

**DRAFT**  
**WHATCOM COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**October 22, 2015**

**Members Present:**

Barbara Brenner, Pete Edwards, Eric Johnston, Amber Jones, Marjorie Leone, Troy Lautenbach, Mark Peterson, and Martin Kuljis

**Members Absent:**

Ed Nikula, Greg Young, and Casey Heinle

**Staff Present:**

Jeff Hegedus, Janice Deptuch

**Others Present:**

John Wolpers – Whatcom County Health Department, EH Manager, Pat with Sanitary Services Company, and Wally Division of Emergency Management, Sheriff's Office.

**Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Whatcom County Solid Waste Advisory Committee was called to order on Thursday, October 22, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. in Administration Conference Room at 509 Girard Street by Vice Chair, Mark Peterson.

• **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes for the July 23rd, 2015 SWAC meeting were approved as written. The motion for approval was made by Marjorie Leone and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Amber Jones. Motion approved by all.

**Solid Waste Executive Committee (SWEC) Meeting Summary**

Jeff stated that we met with Solid Waste Executive Committee (SWEC) on September 2, 2015. Jeff gave SWEC a history of the transfer from Public Works to the Health Department Solid Waste Division. The SWEC approves and reviews the Solid Waste Programs and budget, they meet once a year. Mark asked if it was an annual meeting and Jeff replied Yes, they do vote by email. The Solid Waste Division of the Health Department did supply good summary descriptions for the items on the agenda for the SWEC meeting. Jeff talked about the Litter and Adopt-a-Road program, the improvements at the Disposal of Toxics facility, the tire amnesty event, and how we worked with ReSources.

**Mid Cycle Budget Adjustment**

The mid cycle budget was the big issue. The SWEC did approve the mid cycle budget adjustment. The mid cycle budget adjustment includes the new revenue changes, new in-direct costs, and proposed waste reduction and recycling program recommendations. The recommendations are:

1. Maintain the existing Youth Waste Reduction and Recycling Education Program (ReSource) at the budgeted \$35,000 per year.
2. Increase the existing Master Composter/Recycler Program (WSU) by \$10,000 per year from the current \$25,000 to \$35,000.
3. 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.

Troy asked if the money was coming from the excise tax and Jeff replied all. Jeff stated that legislature hit us with a six figure reduction. Troy mentioned there has been a lot of talk about getting CPG funds back in budget. It was determined that the excise tax is not charged at dumpsite, but at curb side. Mark asked if it came up about eliminating self-haul. Jeff said the self-haul was not discussed. Troy had questions on funds. Jeff we maintain 40 solid waste facilities, issue and oversee permits, 165 Local Source visit, 52 Enviro Stars sites, Site Hazard Assessments, Coal terminal, and Swift Creek. The litter grant program grant funds were doubled.

The SWAC talked about different major disaster events and Jeff stated that Wally had a nice plan, and possibly we could have him attend and present at the SWAC meeting.

Mark asked if there were any other question, none.

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

We received State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) approval and comments due by November 27, 2015, Utilities Transportation Commission reviews and approve, and met with planning and they should receive by email the fourteen day SEPA approval. The SEPA comment on the Environmental impact will go out for comments within the next ten days and is already on our website. The SWAC committee will meet to talk about comments.

The Disposal of Toxics program has a two year grant cycle; they serviced 15,836 Residential and 1,823 Business. For the two years took in 9,313 lbs. of waste chemicals, including mercury lamps. Barbara asked what percentage is being collected. Jeff said he was not sure. But can get the information. Barbara asked if that included the same person going twice. Jeff said that would be hard to track, we get a lot of people bring in for other people. Barbara asked if RDS and SSC goes through there recyclables and Jeff said if they see anything that should be in there they pull it and take it to DOT (Disposal of Toxics). Pete with RDS said they are looking all the time for toxics and that may get around 200 lbs. every three months. Amber with SSC said they see it when it leaks out of container.

Jeff stated that the light recycling is going well and the waste pharmaceutical program has action at the federal level. The DOT (Disposal of Toxics) takes control substances. People can take their control substances dump them in a Mr. Yuck bucket, sign off saying they disposed of their own drugs, this really hasn't been advertised. Mark said they do round-up events at the Police Department. Jeff said the focus was on the pharmacies, pharmacies have to mail prescriptions back to producer. Eric said it's a change of custody. Barbara asked about the expired prescriptions and if that should be express. John Wolpers (EH Manager) said the concern is about people dumping the drugs. Barbara asked if they are considered hazard waste and Jeff replied "Yes"

### **Review of SWAC Charter**

The Bylaws are filed with years of documents. It was asked how to know when changes were made. Barbara stated that when you see ordinance that's when changes occurred. The by-laws are supposed to be reviewed annually. Next year SWEC has budget work to do. The SWAC has to review and comment. Whatcom County Code Section 2.78 covers duties and terms of office. Vacancy for the first term is Casey and Ed, second term Pete. SWAC has to update 2.78.100 which covers administrative support and then has to go to County Council. Jeff said we need to discuss excused and unexcused absences, maybe in January when SWAC does their elections.

### **Open Session, Announcements, Agenda Items**

#### **Announcements**

Mark announced that Sustainable Connections received a grant from Alcoa for \$30,000 for waste audits. They have 30 new businesses that have joined. They are recruiting large buildings in

Bellingham, where they will be doing a waste audit on the Herald building; they will implement a recycle room and an office exchange. Sustainable Connections is working collaboration with ReSources to help toward zero waste efforts at Kulshan Middle School. ReSoucres has met with Ferndale School District to assess their efforts toward zero waste.

Troy attended a medical waste meeting, but missed the tour.

Eric mentioned that the last week for Clean Green will be October 31, 2015. City of Bellingham wants to see where the numbers come out, number of users from outside city limits. The loads are getting bigger and cost to operate is higher then what they charge for disposal.

**Agenda Items:**

1. Back ground on legal action of excise tax
2. Presentation by Wally Division of Emergency Management , Sheriff's Office
3. Possible changes to Bylaws
4. Election of Officers

**Adjournment**

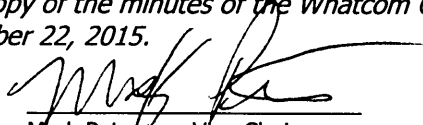
Meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Eric Johnston 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Amber Jones, all in favor.

**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 October 22, 2015.*

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Janice Deptuch Clerk III  
Whatcom County Health Department

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mark Peterson, Vice Chair  
Whatcom County Solid Waste Advisory Committee