

WHATCOM COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES
January 28, 2016

Members Present:

Casey Heinle , Eric Johnston, Amber Jones, Martin Kuljis, Marjorie Leone, Troy Lautenbach, Ed Nikula, and Mark Peterson

Members Absent:

Barbara Brenner, Pete Edwards, and Greg Young

Staff Present:

Jeff Hegedus, Janice Deptuch

Others Present:

John Wolpers – Whatcom County Health Department, EH Manager, and Wally Kost - Division of Emergency Management , Sheriff's Office, Katie Stanford - Whatcom County Health Department, Emergency Management Specialist, Larry McCarter- RDS, Lisa Friend – Citizen, Beth Chisum – WSU Extension , Scott Bissell – Republic Services, Ferndale Transfer Station, Justin Clary- Maul, Foster & Alongi.

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Whatcom County Solid Waste Advisory Committee was called to order on Thursday, January 28, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. in Garden Level Meeting Room by President, Mark Peterson.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the October 22, 2015 SWAC meeting were approved as written. The motion for approval was made by Amber Jones and 2nd by Troy Lautenbach. Motion approved by all.

Election of Officers

Mark voted Chair, Ed voted as Vice Chair.

Whatcom County Disaster Debris Waste Management Planning

Wally Kost with Division of Emergency Management, Sheriff's Office gave a presentation on the Whatcom County Disaster Debris Waste Management Planning. He talked about the meeting objectives, Whatcom County Landfills/Dumps and the fact that Whatcom County has no active landfills. He talked about the private haulers, drop boxes, solid waste transportation and how debris is transported out of County, and disposal locations. Wally showed slides on Columbia Ridge, Roosevelt, Cowlitz landfills. Talked about what happens to Canada's waste, what we have authority to say or do. He talked about disaster debris creating hazardous events, types of debris. Showed slides on some of the events that happened, Nisqually Earthquake, Hurricane Katrina, Cedar Rapids Flooding, and Whatcom County Flooding 2009 debris. Showed slides on Cascadia Subduction Zone, which covers from California to Vancouver Island and how there are some Restricted Bridges. Showed multiple slides on Liquefaction Legend, Skagit River Bridge Collapse, Map of Snohomish County, Liquefaction and Landslides slide and talked about the potential for landslides in Whatcom County. Slides on Tsunami Time Series, Tohoku Japan Earthquake/Tsunami, and Residents What Do I do with the Stuff? Talked about situational awareness, methodology, showed a partial list of literature review, talked about existing agreements, disaster debris streams, variations in disaster debris, FEMA 325 Public Assistance and what FEMA would look at in the plan.

Jeff asked Wally how many counties in Washington are have a plan and Wally replied not many, Seattle King, and Spokane. Mark asked what the motivation for the plan was; Wally said FEMA

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and Hurricane Katrina and the lawsuits that happened with not getting proper permits, Whatcom County would be proactive. Jeff asked what role the SWAC would have in this plan. Wally said they have to show that it went before different groups and that they did their due diligent. He feels SWAC is the ambassador, Troy asked what was next? Wally said Cascadia will be a spring board to get groups (committee's) together; they need people to look at geological, legal, and to gather information after June when they can focus. The groups will be any counties that want to participate, Department of Defiance, National Guard, and FEMA; they will look at what the big threats there are to America, how would country /region react?, and do we have planning/communication for Mass Emergency Planning?

Katie asked the groups opinion about the debris plan: Troy said bureaucracy, Martin said it was overwhelming, concerned about Canada's debris items coming down if a Tsunami hits. Wally said he would like to talk to each person in the SWAC group. Jeff asked if county funded the plan and Wally said "No".

Response to Comments Review:

Draft 2015 Comprehensive Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Plan

Eric asked where we were at with the Comprehensive Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Plan. Jeff responded that the SWAC requested that we move forward, it went to the SWEC, SEPA review and sent for comments. The SWAC asked for one more meeting before the Comprehensive Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Plan goes before the County Council. Eric asked if there was a direct action needed, Jeff said "No"; we are only fine tuning the plan. Mark asked if the comments were incorporated, Jeff said we were still waiting to review some comments and that we would work to get number of comments. Eric stated that there were lots of comments by very few people. Mark asked if everyone had a chance to review the public comments; thought people brought up good comments. Jeff also said lots of great comments. Mark asked what the committee wants to do next, not an action item. Eric commented on page 68 section 8.1.8 draft comp plan language regarding the use of vector waste as alternative daily landfill cover. In response, language will be amended to state:

Due to the classification of the material, vector waste recycling or reuse options are limited. Since the facility is permitted as a transfer station, the City currently legally contracts with a private hauler to transport the material to the Waste Management Greater Wenatchee Solid Waste Landfill for reuse as alternative daily landfill cover. The City of Bellingham continues to pursue avenues to reuse and recycle vector waste and street sweepings.

Mark asked if there was anything else and Wally asked if he could get contact info from the SWAC group so he could start to get information from the group regarding the Whatcom County Disaster Debris Management Plan. The group said it was ok for us to share their email address.

Open Session, Announcements, Agenda Items

Announcements

Eric stated that after 25 years Clean Green program has come to an end. They are looking at having a week in spring and in fall that will be open to public to drop off their large wood debris; they are working on a site. They believe private providers will be stepping up.

Mark announced that Sustainable Connections received news on December 23, 2015 that the Waste Educational Funds will be reduced by \$100,000. Mark said the budget was done. We fell from the 24th slot on the grant list to 31st. Sustainable Connections received less than 10% from Department of Ecology. Troy mentioned that the reason grant funding was cut was because.

Agenda Items:

1. Back ground and current status on legal action of excise tax
2. Review to Bylaws
3. Check in with Wally about where they are at with the Whatcom County Disaster Debris Management Plan.


Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Eric Johnston 1st and 2nd 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 January 28, 2016.

Attest: 
Janice Deptuch Clerk III
Whatcom County Health Department


Mark Peterson, Chair
Whatcom County Solid Waste Advisory Committee