

WASTE 2 RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

** MEETING SUMMARY **

January 19, 2016, 9 a.m.

John Sherman, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. and introductions were made. He asked for a motion to approve the September 15, 2015 meeting notes. There was a motion to adopt them. The motion was seconded and the notes were approved.

Legislative/Budget Update – Laurie Davies

Contact: 360-407-6103; Laurie.Davies@ecy.wa.gov

Laurie introduced Julie Robertson, the Waste 2 Resources (W2R) Program's new legislative and policy coordinator.

The price of oil continues to drop. As of this morning, it's \$29/barrel, the lowest in more than 12 years. MTCA is the primary account for Ecology, especially for waste management programs. Revenues are \$8-10 million less than projected. A Senate Ways and Means Committee Work Session is scheduled to give an overview of MTCA, and present Ecology's and the W2R Program's budget request. The majority of the request is bond money to move forward on cleanup projects, most of which are currently suspended.

The reduction to the W2R Program is in the PPG Program. In the enacted budget, PPG was \$3.9 million including staff. The Governor took \$1.3 million from that.

Suellen Mele asked if the reduction changed policy. Laurie said we agreed with OFM we would fund PPG with 1% of revenue. We provided comments to OFM, stating the \$1.3 million reduction was less than the 1% of the HST required by statute. If taken, it will likely be a one-time reduction for 2015-17.

Laurie gave W2RAC an update on legislation. Bills we're tracking include:

- HB 1525/SB 5008 – Beverage Containers
- ESHB 1571 – Paint
- HB 2274 – Abandoned Vehicles
- SHB 2346 – Renewable Energy Promotion (Solar Panels)
- HB 2386 – Public Info on Biosolids Uses
- HB 2400 - Steel Slag from Electric Arc
- HB 2547 = Synthetic Turf Materials
- HB 2903/SB 6378 – Electronic Product Recycling
- SB 6188 – Distributed Generation
- SB 6521 – Recyclable Materials
- SB 6605 – Solid Waste/Disease & Pests
- SB 6570 – Toxic Pollution Cleanup (aka the MTCA bill)

We are also watching Minimum Wage legislation because of our Ecology Youth Corps program.

John Sherman said that in the past, CPGs were funded out of bond money. Will any programs be funded with bond money? Laurie responded that the agency is requesting bond money to fill the gap in MTCA between the appropriation in the enacted budget and revenue collected.

Suellen Mele talked about the beverage container bill. She brought a sample of a can with a removable top. Her understanding is if a removable top goes in a recycling bin, it will wind up in the MRF, drop through the grate that's meant to capture glass, and later get pulled out of the glass. It won't go through the recycling process, so a portion of the can may be lost.

Candy Castellanos said anything smaller than two inches will fall through the MRF. Very few cities allow lids at all, and those that do allow them only allow lids three inches or larger.

Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC) Briefing – Laurie Davies

Contact: 360-407-6103; Laurie.Davies@ecy.wa.gov

Laurie said that a solid waste summit was tacked onto November's WSAC annual meeting. She didn't attend, but heard there was negative feedback on the CPG cuts. We met with WSAC to talk about the legislative agenda and how we can work together. WSAC fully intends to pursue the CPG funding that was taken.

Kevin Kiernan said there will be a February 2 meeting to talk about solid waste directors organizing under WSAC.

Laurie said we're embarking on updating the CPG rule and organizing a workgroup. We want to have the workgroup in place by March. Please contact Laurie if you are interested in participating.

Grants Update – PPG & CPG – Jason Alberich, Peter Lyon

Contact: 360-407-6061, Jason.Alberich@ecy.wa.gov; 360-407-6381,

Peter.Lyon@ecy.wa.gov

Because of a challenge to the review process for our PPG grants, we reviewed them again, this time without technical review. The applicant who challenged the process still didn't get a grant. Some who got a grant in the first review didn't in the second review.

John Sherman asked if the process we used for the second review will be the one we'll use going forward. Laurie said the only difference in the second process was not having technical review. We will need technical review in the future because grant officers do not have that expertise.

Jody Snyder asked if we will use the same technical review person we have used in the past. Laurie said it will depend on the sites and projects.

Solid Waste Annual Status Report – Susanne McLemore
Contact: 360-407-6105, Susanne.McLemore@ecy.wa.gov

Susanne proposes to discontinue publishing the hardcopy annual report that we post online in PDF format each year and move to a web-based annual report, which would mean publishing a shorter version with links throughout to information on Ecology's website. She asked W2RAC for their thoughts on the change. The committee had no strong feelings on the subject, other than ensuring the report is easily navigable.

-350 Update – Wayne Krafft
Contact: 509-329-3438; Wayne.Krafft@ecy.wa.gov

Wayne reported that we're wrapping up the first stage of rulemaking. We worked to find stakeholders to represent their interest groups upfront. Rule language is due on February 1. At that point, Kyle Dorsey will work to compile sections, look for consistent language, and do cross reference checking. We'll next do an internal review starting March 1, and then the draft rule will go out to the General Public in mid-May for an informal review. We will incorporate comments we receive and the formal comment period will begin in September 2016. There will hopefully be no major changes. If there are, we will start the formal comment period again. The goal for rule adoption is mid-March 2017 (March 20 at the latest). If we wait beyond that, we'll have to repeat the public comment period.

Regarding sections 210 and 310, Rod Whittaker said it seems like the change to get an exemption is that commingled materials can't be accepted. Looking at facilities operating under exemption, a fair number wouldn't qualify. The new rule changes from by weight to volume. What does the update to the exemption accomplish? Wayne said there will be a lot more permitting for those accepting recyclable materials and fewer operating under exemption. There will be a rule implementation plan developed with an implementation timeframe.

John Sherman asked if there are changes to the definition of solid waste. Wayne said there are a couple of changes. One is language that says if constituents are toxic or harmful, they will still be solid waste. Language is also being developed to identify when material is recycled, e.g. transformed into a marketable material, and therefore out of the solid waste world.

Suellen Mele said the Definitions Workgroup tried to find clarity on when something moves out of the system and is no longer a solid waste. The next version of the rule that is coming out is significantly different than the workgroup's direction.

Cal Palmer said he thinks economics should drive determining if a material is a solid waste.

State Plan Implementation – Janine Bogar

Contact: 360-407-6654; Janine.Bogar@ecy.wa.gov

We have an opportunity to do some projects with extra funding in WRRLCA. We have a list of project ideas that was narrowed to the following four by W2R's Program Management Team:

1. More research on financing the solid waste system. Assemble stakeholders and figure out what aspects to study.
2. Glass. Southwest and northwest workgroups have looked at commingling. The northwest workgroup's study is not yet complete, but suggests next steps for research.
3. Look at the benefits of waste reduction and recycling, including economic and environmental.
4. Working with Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), research benefits or risks of promoting single attributes of recyclable, recycled-content, compostable, and biodegradable. The idea is to assemble a number of states or NGOs to co-fund this project.

Dominic Calabro asked for an example of the single attribute promotion concept. Janine referred to the Dave Allaway (Oregon DEQ) study on mailing (cardboard vs. nonrecyclable envelopes).

Jody Snyder asked how much money is available for these projects. Janine said about \$150,000 to \$200,000.

Troy Lautenbach asked if #3 and #4 are similar. Janine said #3 is a bigger, overall look (e.g. the WARM model). #4 is researching what we should look at if we want to drive good products and packaging to have the biggest environmental impact.

Regarding #4, Suellen Mele wonders if there are enough lifecycle analyses out there to look at. Janine said Oregon DEQ told her there were.

Jody Snyder asked how we will determine which project(s) to pursue. Janine said it will be up to W2R's Program Management Team. All four projects are worthwhile. However, \$200,000 won't be enough to do all four.

Kevin Kiernan said that King County is doing some work on financing. It would be worth looking at what new authorities may be needed.

Suellen Mele commented that they are all interesting ideas. She isn't sure where she'd land on prioritizing them. A financing mechanism was one of the original pieces in the Beyond Waste Plan. She thinks it's critical. She wonders if it would be worth more upfront conversation. One benefit to the glass item would be to take the work that the northwest commingled workgroup has done and move to the next step.

Regarding #3, Rick Hlavka said Clark County did similar work and the report could partly be a model. *Note: Following the meeting, Rick sent Susanne McLemore a link to the report which she shared with W2RAC.*

Troy Lautenbach said the subject of funding comes up at WSRA quite often.

Janine asked W2RAC to send any comments to her by the beginning of February, although comments after that time are welcome.

Agenda Items for Future Meetings

- Biosolids Research – TBD
- Solid Waste Management Planning Guidelines Update - TBD
- Efforts to Encourage C&D Recycling - TBD

Meeting adjourned at 11:08 a.m.

Submitted by: Susanne McLemore