

DRAFT
STATE SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Summary – July 24, 2007

Steve Wamback called the meeting to order. Following introductions, the minutes from the March meeting were approved. The minutes from the June 12 meeting will be finalized soon and approved at the September meeting.

Retreat Followup – Cullen Stephenson, Steve Wamback and others

The SWAC convened a retreat on the afternoon of June 12 (after the regular SWAC meeting).
Discussions:

Direction of SWAC: General agreement that we have done much good work, and that we can be even more effective.

Process improvements: Get minutes out more quickly with more documentation and less detail (summarize). Add more information to the agendas; add a purpose/decision column. Build better future agenda items and put future topics at the bottom of agendas for the next few meetings. Send presentations out ahead of time, if possible (or at least a link on Ecology's website).

Meeting improvements: Less reports from Ecology, more interaction with stakeholder groups; more reports from SWAC members and others with good knowledge or information to share.

Role improvements: We will look for ways for SWAC to be more proactive and strategic - largely through better agenda planning. SWAC members should look for opportunities to bring important issues forward and follow up on them. SWAC should keep a running list of accomplishments (Lorie Hewitt has a start). Finalize this list of accomplishments and have available on the website at the end of the year.

Beyond Waste - National Paint Product Stewardship Initiative (PPSI) Briefing, Dave Nightingale

Dave Nightingale briefed the SWAC about a national Paint Product Stewardship Initiative with paint manufacturers that has resulted in an industry commitment to demonstrate a statewide leftover paint management system in Minnesota and then expand it nationwide over the next few years. A Memorandum of Understanding is currently being drafted between the paint industry and other participants in the PPSI.

The coordinated leftover paint management system:

- Will begin with a statewide demonstration project in Minnesota, then expand to a number of other states by 2009-2010 (including Washington)
- A plan and schedule with performance measures for a national system will be developed by 2009
- Collected paint will be managed according to the reduce, reuse, recycle waste management hierarchy

- Retailers will be able to serve as collection points, but it will not be mandatory
- Initial idea for funding the take-back system is through an eco-fee at retail level (modeling shows likely cost 50 cents/gallon or less depending on economies of scale and whether promotion and sale of recycled paint is included.)

SWAC members raised a number of interesting questions and points about this effort.

Eco-fees would be voluntary and hopefully, visible on a customer receipt. If this idea is not feasible, then the paint manufacturers could incorporate the eco-fee into their wholesale prices. Eco-fees based on toxicity of paint was not discussed at any length during the PPSI process. The idea of charging variable eco-fees as incentives to purchase less toxic varieties of paint products was not pursued because the market for oil-based paint for most applications is dying out on its own accord. Oil-based paints are typically 20% or less of the market and diminishing every year.

The leftover paint collection system will be designed to accept historical paints that are on-hand, not just new paints. A Northwest Product Stewardship Council study showed that the average age of paint currently being turned in to the MRW collection system is 7 ½-8 years. The new eco-fees will cover the costs of accepting older paints as well.

The system will be designed primarily for households, but small businesses and contractors will likely also be able to turn in paints. The leftover paint collection system is not currently being designed for larger businesses and contractors.

The vision for the leftover paint collection system is not necessarily that all paint retailers will become take-back centers. Rather, the vision is for all households to have reasonable access to the collection system. Because the program will be voluntary, not all paint retailers will want to participate. Other business and government sites (besides paint retailers) could also serve as collection sites, with the understanding that they should be fairly compensated. For a copy of second MOU, go to the SWAC website at www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/swac/sched.html.

Beyond Waste - Cost Accounting Project, - Cheryl Smith

Cheryl updated the SWAC on the cost accounting project, which was also discussed at the June meeting. Surveys of local governments are complete, and additional data has been collected. The contractors are currently analyzing data. The study results should be available at the end of the summer, and Cheryl asked if the SWAC would like a briefing at its September meeting. The results of this project should help lead us into the next phase of looking into how solid waste management is funded in Washington. Go to the SWAC website for Cheryl's attachment at www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/swac/sched.html.

Steve Wamback – Climate Change

This was a followup to Stu Clark's presentation at the June 12 SWAC meeting. Steve is a member of the Agricultural and Waste workgroup. An initial list of potential projects was given to the Climate Action Team. The group looked at 15 issues and decided to narrow the list down to seven. The goal is to reduce 50 million metric tons of carbon monoxide emissions within the next 20 years. A meeting will convene on August 7 at the Convention Center in Seattle to discuss issues spanning a 20-year period. It is estimated that this project will cost a billion dollars. Please go to the SWAC Website at www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/swac/sched.html for the draft mitigation options as they will be presented to the Climate Advisory Team on August 7.

On 7/25/07 Helen Fox sent out (via e-mail) to SWAC a list of weblinks (below) for folks to visit.

Climate Advisory Team

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/climatechange/cat_overview.htm

Online Comments

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/climatechange/cat_comments.htm

The Agriculture (and Waste) Technical Workgroup

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/climatechange/cat_twg_agr.htm

Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Reference Case Projections

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/climatechange/CATdocs/71907DraftWACATGHGReport.pdf>

Steve did not talk about this at our July SWAC meeting, but SWAC members may want to peruse Appendix G. My staff has brought a number of inaccuracies in this document to the attention of the State's consultants, to no avail. Perhaps the owners of facilities mentioned in this section may want to comment.

Climate Change and Waste (US EPA)

<http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/wycd/waste/index.html>

A Simple Graphic Showing How Waste Management Processes Relate to GHG Emissions, Sinks, and Offsets

<http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/wycd/waste/lifecycle.html>

EPA Workgroup on Best Management Practices for Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs)—Gretchen Newman and Shannon McClelland

In early January 2007, EPA convened a group of stakeholders (WA Beverage Container Recovery Initiative) that had been working in subgroups since the fall of 2006 to present their findings on how to increase beverage container recycling. One of the issues that was discussed was the role of MRF's and the levels of contamination coming in and leaving the MRFs and how that affects the overall recyclable commodities stream. From this meeting, a small planning committee was formed to arrange for a broader stakeholder meeting to determine what the issue is and to gauge the commitment level in working towards a solution in the form of a MRF materials standard. The "MRF Standards" meeting was held on July 11, 2007 in Seattle and was attended by 50 people representing a broad range of stakeholders. One outcome of this meeting was to look at the whole commingled recycling process--from curb to mill--and create guidelines and standards across the system.

EPA is the lead agency and are acting as conveners for this process--bringing the stakeholders to the table to find a workable standard. Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington are involved and I presented a list of issues as to why WA state feels this is an important issue:

- Accurate data for recycling rate

- Annual recycling reports from facilities are not working to capture contamination/residual levels
- A significant amount of local government time and resources (a portion of which are funded through the state) go into residential recycling program
- Waste to product issues--If our system is going to move away from waste as a concept, as is the vision of the Beyond Waste Plan, the sorting technology and infrastructure needs to be in place to support that shift
- Highest end use markets--Ensuring that materials are not downgraded solely as a result of moving through the collection or recovery system.
- Overall citizen confidence in the closed-loop system--If the public does their part by separating it at the curb, the system does its part by ensuring those materials stay in the recycled commodity stream.

For the two documents that Gretchen and Shannon referred to, please go to the SWAC website at www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/swac/sched.html

Attendees:

1. Cantrell, Dan - WSRA	15. Nightingale, David – Ecology presenter
2. Croll, Tim – City of Seattle	16. Olson, Gretchen – Kitsap Co.
3. Dennis, Linda – Smedes & Assoc.	17. Palmer, Cal
4. Durbin, Dennis – Stevens Co.	18. Reed, Bill – King Co.
5. Fox, Helen – Ecology	19. Schille, Bob - WMI
6. Hatch, Tiffany – Seattle Goodwill	20. Smedes, Jerry – Smedes & Assoc.
7. Hewitt, Lorie – Ecology	21. Smith, Cheryl – Ecology presenter
8. Ingram, Penny - UTC	22. Stephenson, Cullen – Ecology
9. Keller, Pete – Allied	23. Starry, Art – Thurston Co.
10. Lovaas, Brad - WRRRA	24. Thermos, Peter – Total Reclaim, Inc.
11. Matsuyama, Jim - NETCHD	25. Wamback, Steve – Pierce Co.
12. McClelland, Shannon – Ecology presenter	26. Westmoreland, Eddie – Waste Connections
13. Mele, Suellen - WCRC	27. Zybas, Matt – Snohomish Co.
14. Newman, Gretchen – Ecology presenter	