

## STATE SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Summary – January 22, 2008

(Revised 4/10/08)

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Steve Wamback called the meeting to order. Polly Zehm, Ecology's Deputy Director, introduced Laurie Davies. Laurie is the new Solid Waste & Financial Assistance Program Manager. Following introductions, the November 27, 2007 minutes were approved.

### **Beyond Waste Overarching Indicators: Chris Chapman, Gretchen Newman, Cristiana Figueroa-Kaminsky**

In February 2007, The Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction and Solid Waste & Financial Assistance Program jointly published the first Beyond Waste progress report. It included 8 indicators and placeholders for additional overarching indicators. Eight new indicators (listed below) will be added to the existing indicators and will be shown under the three new categories.

Eight new indicators:

- Economic value of recyclables disposed (or lost value of recyclables)
- Hazardous waste produced in manufacturing sector per dollar generated
- Solid waste produced per dollar generated
- Ecosystem toxicity from consumer purchases
- Climate change from consumer purchases
- Human toxicity from consumer purchases
- Paint recycling
- Pesticide purchases and toxicity

The three new categories are:

- Eliminating wastes/toxics and using wastes as resources;
- Economic, environmental and social vitality
- Reducing risks.

### **Beyond Waste Financing Report – Steve Wamback, Suellen Mele**

Beyond Waste Financing Report - Suellen Mele, Steve Wamback (the SWAC Financing Subcommittee) is continuing its work following the publication of the report titled "Solid Waste Management Cost Flows in Washington State." The Subcommittee met following the previous SWAC meeting, November 22, and fill in gaps identified, and answer questions raised, in that report. Specifically, the subcommittee is proposing to look in more detail as to how specific programs, services, and sectors are funded now. They are also proposing to evaluate the extent to which existing financial mechanisms recover costs for specific solid waste services.

The subcommittee came up with a basic proposal and next steps. 1) Verify the data and assumptions used in the report in key areas. 2) Project "what if" scenarios to see how different parts of the solid waste system respond to tonnage and financial shifts. 3) Relating to the previous two steps, verify and elaborate on the Beyond Waste Plan's descriptions of existing funding mechanisms.

The Subcommittee recommended that Ecology proceed with filling the vacancy created when Cheryl Smith left the agency. Lorie Hewitt commented that the Department's plan is that the new hire would commit 40 to 50 % time to this project. The Subcommittee also recommended that Ecology identify resources to acquire the services of a consultant or economist to help the project reach the next level.

SWAC, without vote, appeared to reach consensus that the subcommittee should reconvene once Ecology fills the vacancy and allows the new employee to formalize a workplan.

### **SHB 1761 MTCA 10-year Financial Plan: Laurie Davies**

HB 1761, known by many as the Port Cleanup Bill, passed in the 2007 Legislative Session. This bill requires a 10-year financial plan for the Model Toxics Control Account (MTCA). The goal of the plan is to ensure there are sufficient financial resources to cleanup all known sites eligible for Remedial Action Grants (RAG). In addition to RAG, MTCA is the funding source for state and local waste and toxics prevention programs. MTCA funds the Coordinated Prevention Grants program. Managing and preventing waste and toxics were other key elements of the voter approved initiative which set up MTCA.

Ecology's Solid Waste Program is working to ensure that prevention programs remain part of the funding mix. It is important to prevent the next generation of cleanup sites. A draft plan is due to the legislature by December 2008. A two-year plan is due by April 2008. The Solid Waste Program will conduct meetings with stakeholders, including SWAC, prior to finalizing the draft plan. At a Department level, there is also a MTCA stakeholders group which includes the Ports, non-governmental environmental organizations, the association of cities and the association of counties. The SWAC Chair was invited to sit on the stakeholder group prior to the 2007 legislative session, but there were no meetings last year.

### **5788 – Transporting recyclables – Randy Martin**

SB 5788 passed in the 2006 Legislative Session. Ecology is working the rule and will be holding public workshops in Spokane, Bellevue and Lacey around the second week of February. The notice of these meetings will be sent out via e-mail and post cards to the folks who don't use e-mail around 10 days in advance of each meeting. We will file the rule adoption in March, hold one hearing near the end of March or the first week in April. Formal adoption of the rule will be June 2008.

Recycling Rate Report – Gretchen Newman - MSW Recycling rate for 2006 is down by less than half a percentage point at 43.35 percent. Diversion rate is up by two percentage points, from 47 to 49 percent in 2006. Last year the diversion rate was reported as 48%, but was adjusted to 47% with the decision to remove soils/soil blends category. The only significant increases in recycling materials collected were in ferrous metals, newspaper and food waste. The tons of wood waste collected for recycling dropped significantly. There were no other significant decreases in materials collected for recycling. The biggest contributor to the increase in the diversion rate was the category of asphalt & concrete, going up by over 500 thousand tons. In 2006 Ecology began ask for information on how much yard debris was burned for energy recovery instead of composted or recycled, placing that in with diversion, adding up to a significant increase, and slight dip on the MSW side.

Per capita, we generated more waste than ever in 2006 in Washington (7.97 pounds per person per day). Washington per capita figures are comparable to those of Oregon (they showed just over 8 pounds per person per day in 2006), and generally higher than other areas of the country that generate less organic wastes. Total waste generation continues to increase. National statistics for 2004 show Washington has the 5th highest recycling rate

### **Commingled Recycling Systems Initiative – Shannon McClelland**

EPA Region 10 convened a stakeholder meeting in July 2007 to look at the entire commingled recycling system – from the curb to mill. The overall vision and mission of the group is to develop standards and guidelines for commingled recycling systems that reduced cross-contamination, increase the quality and quantity of recycled materials, and to ensure that a high percentage of materials intended to be recycled are captured.

A subgroup has been meeting since July and focusing on drafting a standard and guidelines for MRFs and collection systems. The leads for the subgroup are Alex Cuyler (City of Eugene), Janet Malloch (Blue Heron Paper Company), and Peter Spendelow (Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality). Issues that have been identified are the difference between WA and OR in how glass is collected at the curb; agreement that glass, shredded paper, and plastic bags are problematic for the system as a whole when collected in a mixed stream; the important role of public education in collection programs; and the clarification between what defines a 'standard' and a 'guideline.' Draft collection guidelines are available and continue to be refined. The MRF standards and guidelines are still in development and will be presented at the next general stakeholder meeting on February 27, all day, location TBA (near the border of OR and WA).

After the Feb 27 meeting, the Evaluation subgroup (led by Lee Barrett, Metro & AOR) and Market Value (led by Shannon McClelland, Ecology) subgroups will begin to meet to develop plans on how to evaluate the standards and guidelines and to ensure the standards are incorporated into contracts, purchasing, policy and permitting. If you are interested in joining a subgroup or would like to stay informed on the work by accessing the online workspace, please contact Melissa Winters at (206) 553-5180 or [Winters.Melissa@epa.gov](mailto:Winters.Melissa@epa.gov).

### **Coordinated Prevention Grants – Shelly McMurry**

The legislature awarded \$19.5 million for CPG's 08-09 cycle. Eighty percent (\$15.6 million) is divided among planning authorities using a base-plus formula and 20 percent (\$3.9 million) is allotted for solid waste enforcement.

The Legislature appropriated up to two million dollars for local governments to provide an alternative to burning for organic material. Ecology convened "listening sessions" around the state to come up with ways (other than burning) for managing vegetative solid waste. The report was due to the Legislature by December 2007.

### **Possible agenda items for March meeting:**

- 5788 – Randy Martin will report what happened at the public meetings
- Overarching Indicators – Chris Chapman, Gretchen Newman, Cristiana Figueroa-Kaminsky
- Commingled Recycling – Shannon McClelland will report after the next stakeholder meeting

- Climate Change – who should be invited to speak?
- Landfill mapping – Art Starry (may need to be tabled until May)
- Recycling electronics – someone from the Financial Authority or Ecology

**Attendees:**

Baker, David – Mason Co. Solid Waste  
 Cantrell, Dan – WA State Recycling Assoc.  
 Chapman, Chris – Ecology presenter  
 Croll, Tim – City of Seattle  
 Davies, Laurie - Ecology  
 Durbin, Dennis – Stevens County  
 Eckhardt, Gene – WA Util. & Transp. Comm.  
 Elliott, Vicki – WA Util. & Transp. Comm.  
 Figueroa-Kaminsky, Cristiana – Ecology presenter  
 Hatch, Tiffany – Seattle Goodwill  
 Large, Dean – Waste Connections Inc.  
 Jackson, Sego – Snohomish County  
 Keller, Peter – Allied Waste

LeMay, Norm-Landfilling & Recycling Inc  
 Matsuyama, Jim – NE Tri-county Health  
 Mele, Suellen – WA Citizens for Resource Cons.  
 Newman, Gretchen – Ecology presenter  
 Reed, Bill – King County  
 Schille, Bob – Waste Management Inc.  
 Smedes, Jerry – Smedes & Assoc.  
 Snyder, Jody – Landfilling & Recycling Inc  
 Starry, Art – Thurston County  
 Wamback, Steve, SWAC Chair – Pierce Co  
 Westmoreland, Eddie – Waste Connections Inc.  
 Yeasting, John – Glacier Recycle  
 Young, Betty – WA Util & Transp. Comm.