

ISLAND COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY (SWAC) COMMITTEE

April 17, 2023

Members Present:

George Place, Joe Grogan, Randi Perry, Dar Christopherson, Sarah Bergquist, Liz Ketcheson, Scott Sebelsky, Andrew Riggs, Nick Harbert (Waste Management alternative), and Matt Dunyon (DTG Recycle alternative).

Staff Present:

Matt Farr, Jeff Hegedus, and Gynon Nash

Others Present:

Olivia Carros (Dept of Ecology) and Donald McDaniel (DTG Recycle)

Call to Order:

The regular meeting of the Island County SWAC was called to order on Monday, April 17, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. via Microsoft Teams meeting, by Sarah Bergquist, Chairperson.

Roll Call, Determination of Quorum, and Approval of Minutes:

Roll call determined the correct amount of a quorum. The minutes for the January 30, 2023 SWAC meeting were approved as written. The motion for approval was made by Scott Sebelsky and 2nd by Randi Perry. Motion approved - all in favor.

Public Comment Period:

None

Operations Update:

Jeff Hegedus updated the committee on operations:

- After a 4% increase in 2021, solid waste tonnage decreased by 2% in 2022. For 2023 year-to-date tonnage is down 5%
- Update on Bayview site expansion including new paving, fencing and lighting, site improvements are being implemented
- Similar expansion is in the planning stage for the North Whidbey site for next year
- Equipment replacement and repair is proceeding as planned
- Landfill monitoring and maintenance proceeding as required, no problems

DTG Recycle Program Update:

Don McDaniel updated the committee DTG Recycle's program.

- Today is the 440th calendar day of operations in Freeland
- Cleaned up Freeland site, including storm drains, to meet safety standards for employees and the public
- Mattress and Styrofoam recycling is being well received
- Accepting alkaline batteries for recycling at the Freeland location

Dar asked if alkaline batteries could be recycled through the County. Jeff explained the County does not currently recycle alkaline batteries due to the cost. The County had been accepting alkaline batteries under the MRW program and disposing them as solid waste, since alkaline batteries do not contain heavy metals and are not considered MRW. The change was made to honestly represent what happens to alkaline batteries accepted by the County. The discussion continued with Dar and Liz voicing concerns about mixed messaging regarding recycling on Whidbey Island such as some places taking Styrofoam and batteries and some not. Jeff noted that the difference is what the County accepts for recycling vs what private companies such as DTG accept. Don added that DTG has been putting out the message as well that they are independently owned. Future discussion between the County and DTG may result accepting alkaline batteries from the County for recycling.

Contamination Reduction Outreach Plan (CROP) Implementation:

CROP sub-committee members: Andrew Riggs, Dar Christopherson, Jeff Hegedus, Liz Ketcheson, Olivia Carros, and George Place. The sub-committee will support WSU with data/inventory of current services as WSU implements the Year 1 CROP schedule.

Olivia reported that other Counties are in various phased from starting out and beyond. Reach out to her for grant funding sources.

Coupeville Transfer Station Study:

Jeff Hegedus updated the committee:

- Study has been revised since last SWAC meeting
- County staff is looking at middle of the road solutions
- Driving factors include aging infrastructure, bringing the transfer station up to code, and two years of use life on main compactor
- Current recommendations is to build new transfer stations just north of current transfer station (recommendation 7.1 option 3), no frills such as it's not fully enclosed but has all regulatory features.
- Current estimate 7.1 million dollars down from 9.6 million in original study.

Camano Transfer Station Study:

Jeff Hegedus updated the committee.

The County will also do a study for the Camano site. This has many challenges it's currently a drop box location operating as a transfer station, in a small area on a sloped site.

Waste Organics Management:

Olivia Carros reported:

- A lot of Island County is exempt from the Waste Organics Management law, unless curbside collection is available to businesses.
- Island County and the City of Oak Harbor are required to adopt plans
- The focus looking to 2027 is on compost ordinance.
- The Dept of Ecology has resources to help with waste organics management and are looking at requirements to see where they apply or not.

The committee decided that County staff would manage requirements and report to SWAC, therefore an Organics sub-committee was not needed at this time.

Open Session, Announcements, Agenda Items:

Dar Christopherson asked Jeff Hegedus how Whatcom County managed reuse facilities and recycling for building materials. Jeff responded that in Whatcom non-profits answered the call along with Habit for Humanity, Goodwill, and Thrift stores. Jeff and Dar discussed some challenges for these types of operations such as the resources required and lack of profit.

Adjournment:

Sarah adjourned the meeting at 11:41 a.m. The next regular scheduled SWAC meet will be July 17, 2023, beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Approved this 17 day of July, 2023

Sarah Bergquist
Sarah Bergquist, SWAC Chair