

# ISLAND COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY (SWAC) COMMITTEE

## JANUARY 22, 2024

### Members Present:

Dar Christopherson, Sarah Bergquist, Liz Kennedy Ketcheson, Scott Sebelsky, and Commissioner Johnson (ex-officio)

### Staff Present:

Matt Farr, Jeff Hegedus, and Gynon Nash

### Others Present:

Audrey Taber (Dept of Ecology)

### Call to Order:

The regular meeting of the Island County SWAC was called to order on Monday, January 22, 2024, at 10:03 a.m. via Microsoft Teams meeting, by Sarah Bergquist, Chairperson.

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

Roll call determined there was not a quorum to approve the minutes for the October 16, 2023 meeting.

### 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 2% over 2022. Septage tonnage in 2023 has increased 21% over 2022.
- As per resolution, 2024 tipping fees were adjusted 6.9% due to inflation.
- Coupeville Transfer Station electrical panel has been retrofitted to accommodate a generator.
- North Whidbey drop box facility is being expanded for safety and more efficient operations, the ticket booth will be replaced, and a new employee break room & restroom will be added.
- Outdoor lighting added to all locations.
- New security system installed at the Camano Transfer Station.
- Camano site experienced a half day shutdown on Jan 7, 2024, due to a fire in the C bin, suspect the disposal of muriatic acid in the container was the cause.
- Landfill monitoring and maintenance proceeds routinely as required.
- Contracts for Republic Services and Waste Management expire at the end of 2024 and will soon require going to bid, along with extending current services for landfill monitoring and maintenance.
- Also, in 2024 we are beginning the five-year Comprehensive Solid Waste and Moderate Risk Waste Management Plan update process.

- Staff from Senator Patty Murray's office is scheduled to visit the Coupeville Transfer Station, in support of a \$2.8M federal grant application for a new transfer station.

Commissioner Johnson asked why we were still required to monitor the landfill 33 years after the closure when 20 years was required. Jeff replied that the requirement from the Department of Ecology is that landfills were required to be monitored for a minimum of 20 years after closure 'or until stabilized.' To reduce monitoring and financial assurance requirements the County would need to complete a study indicating stabilization and present findings to the Dept of Ecology. Commissioner Johnson voiced frustration over vague requirements for stabilization from the state.

Sarah Bergquist reported on current Waste Wise activities which include:

- A classroom series at a local high school that included a waste audit, she hopes to take the program to other local districts
- Sound Water University
- Meeting with community groups for hard to recycle items
- Would like to perform waste audit for the County

Audrey Taber informed the committee that the Dept of Ecology has a resource library available to SWAC members, contact her or Jeff for the link and to set up an account.

Commissioner Johnson asked about the curbside recycling article published in the local newspaper, Jeff responded that Island Disposal was looking into a recycling program and had conducted a survey to gather data, the BOICC would be informed of any developments.

Commissioner Johnson also wanted to ensure that long term waste and recycling needs were considered in the County's Comprehensive Plan process.

#### **Coupeville Transfer Station Compactor Purchase Update:**

Jeff Hegedus reported to the committee that a June 2024 delivery is anticipated for the new compactor, with an install timeframe of 4-6 weeks. The new compactor is capable of lading an additional 5 tons per container, which is estimated to save \$250K per year in transportation costs, this savings will be used to pay down the loan.

#### **Camano Island Transfer Station Assessment Report:**

Jeff Hegedus reported that the SCS Engineers draft assessment was delivered on January 11<sup>th</sup> and has been provided to the SWAC committee for review and comment.

#### **Compost Procurement Ordinance:**

Jeff Hegedus provided the committee with compost procurement ordinance and associated support documents for review and comment. The proposed amendment is scheduled for the BOICC January 23 consent agenda to schedule a public hearing, as required.

#### **Solid Waste Legislative Update:**

Jeff Hegedus shared links with SWAC members for state legislative items, see agenda packet for the links.

**Open Session, Announcements, Agenda Items:**

Jeff informed the committee that Solid Waste will be hiring an additional Operations Foreman, this position will replace the Operations Supervisor which has been vacant the last few years.

Dar, Sarah, Liz, and Jeff discussed challenges of alkaline battery and deli-tray recycling, included in the discussion was accepting same commodities at all recycle centers on Whidbey, DTG's contract with the County versus the services they offer as a private company, and if deli-trays are being recycled or landfilled when collected as recycling.

Liz asked if a SWAC sub committee would meet to work on the five-year Comprehensive Solid Waste and Moderate Risk Waste Management Plan, Jeff added that the consultant would work with SWAC and/or a subcommittee.

Sarah commented that Olivia Carros from the Dept of Ecology should be invited to attend a SWAC meeting to talk about organics.

Audrey said she would send Jeff some resources on organics recycling and other issues discussed.

**Adjournment:**

Sarah adjourned the meeting at 11:50 a.m., the next regular scheduled SWAC meeting will be April 15, 2024, beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Approved this 18th day of April 2024



Sarah Bergquist, SWAC Chair