

ISLAND COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY (SWAC) COMMITTEE

OCTOBER 16, 2023

Members Present:

George Place, Joe Grogan, Randi Perry, Dar Christopherson, Sarah Bergquist, Scott Sebelsky, Andrew Riggs, and Niles McCann

Staff Present:

Matt Farr, Jeff Hegedus, and Gynon Nash

Others Present:

Carolyn Bowie (Dept of Ecology)

Call to Order:

The regular meeting of the Island County SWAC was called to order on Monday, October 16, 2023, 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 the correct amount of a quorum. The minutes for the July 17, 2023, SWAC meeting were approved as written. The motion for approval was made by Scott Sebelsky, 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 3%. Septage tonnage year to date has increased 6% over 2022.
- Coupeville Transfer Station electrical panel has been retrofitted to accommodate a generator.
- Additional outdoor lighting added to the North Whidbey site.
- Solid Waste is involved in helping the community with homeless encampment cleanups and removing abandoned vehicles.
- The MRW grant with DOE has been approved for the next biennium.
- SCS Engineers working on study for the Camano site.
- No rail strike or container issues this year.
- DTG transition is proceeding nicely, DTG was sold to the investment company MacQuarie Asset Management
- Reported on recent break-ins at the Camano site, we have installed 2 monitored cameras and a security system.

Sarah Bergquist added:

- She has notice at the Solid Waste staff meetings a strong team involvement with all the upgrades and changes in Solid Waste.

- Current Waste Wise event/projects: 4 tableing events, 6 or 7 recycle support events, 4 presentations on waste, Zero Waste audit for a local business, working with City of Langley on organic composting, working with Fish and Wildlife regarding shotgun wadding on local beaches.
- CROP update: Dar, Liz, and Sarah recently meet, Sarah will email a list of questions to SWAC members today.

Coupeville Transfer Station Compactor Purchase:

Jeff Hegedus reported to the committee that at the last SWAC meeting members approved the purchase of a compactor and that tomorrow the purchase of an SSI Model 2500SPH Compactor will go before the BOCC. Solid Waste is piggybacking on a King County's contract for the purchase. The purchase requires 770K down from the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund and a 5-year loan from the Road Department. Solid Waste stands to save 250K a year with the new compactor in transportation costs. Projected delivery is July 2024.

Dar Christopherson motioned to approve the purchase of the SSI Model 2500 SPH Compactor and George Place 2nd the motion. Motion was approved, Randi Perry abstained.

2024 Administrative Items:

- Jeff Hegedus:
 - On Jan 1, 2024, as per resolution the tipping fee will increase by the April CPI solid waste index 6.9%, with will be offset by the contractual calculated Republic Services CPI increase.
 - Contracts with Republic Services and Waste Management both expire on Dec 31, 2024.
 - RFP will be issued for completion of the next required 5-year comprehensive solid waste and MRW management plan.
 - RFP will be issued for landfill monitoring and maintenance.
 - SCS Engineers Camano transfer station study will be completed, and the Coupeville transfer station upgrade or replacement will be developed.
 - MRW sheds at all sites have been replaced.
- Carolyn Bowie:
 - King County has an upcoming webinar regarding tonnage rates/fixed fees, Carolyn will email Sarah details.
- Andrew Riggs:
 - Discussed the 42% increase to Skagit County's new contract with Waste Management and area tipping rates.

SB 5144 Battery Management:

Jeff Hegedus and Dar Christopherson discussed the needs, costs, feasibility, and challenges of battery management along with the new battery stewardship program.

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:

Carolyn Bowie announced a couple of upcoming events, a technical session by SWANA and the WSRA Conference in May 2024 is seeking proposals for presentations. She will email Sarah the details along with an organic materials management resource.

Adjournment:

Sarah adjourned the meeting at 11:31 a.m. Due to Martin Luther King Jr. Day holiday, the next regular scheduled SWAC meeting will be January 22, 2024, beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Approved this 22nd day of January 2024



Sarah Bergquist, SWAC Chair