

ISLAND COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY (SWAC) COMMITTEE

January 27, 2025

Members Present:

George Place, Joe Grogan, Randi Perry, Dar Christopherson, Sarah Bergquist, and Andrew Riggs

Staff Present:

Jeff Hegedus (Public Works), James Sylvester (Public Works) and Gynon Nash (Public Works)

Others Present:

Katie Jerauld (Dept of Ecology)

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Island County SWAC was called to order on Monday, January 27, 2025, at 10:05 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 October 21, 2024, SWAC meeting were approved as written. The motion for approval was made by Dar Christopherson and 2nd by George Place. Motion approved - all in favor.

Public Comment Period:

Katie Jerauld informed the committee of the following and will email Jeff Hegedus links with more information.

- FundHubWA an online portal that shares available federal and state funding and incentives focused on for climate and clean energy opportunities
- The Federal Funds Grant Writing Assistance Program, a free consulting program that helps organizations apply for federal grants that support climate and clean energy
- The Organic Management Model Ordinances
- The Local Solid Waste Financial Assistance grant

Operations Update:

Jeff Hegedus updated the committee on operations:

- For 3rd year in a row solid waste tonnage has decreased 2%, in 2024 septage tonnage has increased 48%
- Coupeville transfer station continues to take abandoned/junk recreational vehicles as part of homeless cleanup
- Landfill monitoring and maintenance proceeds routinely.
- Updated the committee about regional glass recycling issues

Solid Waste Rate Structure:

Jeff Hegedus informed the committee Solid Waste had a 36% increase in shipping and disposal costs, this resulted in a rate increase 15.3% which has been approved by the BOICC and will be on the consent agenda at tomorrow's public meeting. This rate increase will only affect materials that are landfilled (not appliance, tires and yard waste) and is in addition to the annual CPI Index increase of 5.8% that went into effect on January 1, 2025. Septage rates stayed the same.

Project Updates:

Jeff Hegedus gave the committee project updates:

- Now that the compactor at Coupeville has been installed, working on designing and applying for building permit for a roof over the cylinder and a new operator control shack.
- Equipment: Vacuum sweeper acquired. Yard goats, loaders and backhoes repaired or replaced. Purchasing a backhoe this year
- At the Coupeville site a new furnace was installed in the shop/meeting room, exterior lights replaced and expanded, tipping floor repaired, MRW sheds replaced, Orca building upgraded, mural completed, landscaping expanded.
- The Bayview site was expanded, slopes stabilized, fully fenced, lighting expanded, and has new MRW sheds
- The North Whidbey site was expanded, new mobile office installed, and MRW sheds replaced
- At Camano the scale house was renovated, and fencing added. A security system, utility sheds were installed, and MRW sheds replaced. Fall protection mitigation is being installed.
- The Coupeville landfill Financial Assurance Plan is being updated

Amendment to SWAC Bylaws:

Following a SWAC recommendation to include youth representation on SWAC, staff drafted an amendment to the bylaws which was presented to the committee.

Randi Perry moved to amend the draft to include 2-year terms for sophomore thru senior youth, the motion was 2nd by Dar Christopherson. Motion approved - all in favor.

Next a motion to approve the amendment to the bylaws was made by Dar Christopherson and 2nd by George Place. Motion approved - all in favor.

Solid Waste and Moderate Risk Waste Management Plan:

Jeff Hegedus informed the committee that it is time for the required 5-year update to the Island County Solid Waste and Moderate Risk Waste Plan and asked committee members to review the plan, think about joining the subcommittee, and picking up this discussion at the next SWAC meeting.

Legislative Update:

Jeff Hegedus provided the committee with current solid waste related legislative proposals, bill status and upcoming events, see agenda packet for more information.

WSU Waste Wise Program:

Sarah Bergquist updated the committee on the WSU Waste Wise program:

- Waste Wise is planning training for this fall, focusing on plastics
- Working on grant applications
- Applying for NW Clean Energy grant for community organics program

Dar Christopherson gave an update on the Community Litter Cleanup Program which specially focuses on our shorelines. The group of citizen volunteers noticed a number of shotgun wads on local beaches and started to track where they were coming from with help from Department of Fish & Wildlife, community involvement, and collaboration with hunters. Recently 500 shotgun wads

were found, in approximately 45 minutes, on the beach at Windjammer Park. The group is applying for a grant to fund bio-wads to help prevent micro-plastics from shotgun wads in the environment.

Open Session, Announcements, Agenda Items:
None

Adjournment:

Sarah Bergquist adjourned the meeting at 11:31 a.m., the next regular scheduled SWAC meeting will be April 21, 2025, beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Approved this 21st day of July 2025



Sarah Bergquist, SWAC Chair