

Spokane County
Solid Waste Advisory Committee

Minutes of
March 21, 2018

Members Present

Mike Fagan, City of Spokane
Andy Hoyer, CAL District #2
Philip Small, Agricultural Interest
Shaun Culler, City of Millwood
Kim Kreber, CAL District #1
Erik Makinson, Recycling Industry
Mike LaScuola, Health District
Tonilee Hanson, Public Interest
Kevin Anderson, City of Airway Heights
Matthew Pederson, Waste Industry
Josh Kerns, Spokane County

Members Absent

Rebecca Johnson, City of Spangle
Suzanne Tresko, CAL #3
Don Stevens, City of Deer Park

Vacant Positions

Business

Approval of Minutes – January 17, 2018 – Mike Fagan

January 17, 2018 minutes were approved by all members present, aside from Kevin Anderson who was not present for the January meeting.

2017 Year in Review – Deb Geiger

Deb reported that both municipal solid waste (MSW) and clean green (CG) increased in 2016 and 2017. The increase in 2016 was expected due to the windstorm in November of 2016. The North County Transfer Station is receiving more MSW than the County's Valley Transfer Station. In 2017, 77% of volume received was MSW and 23% was CG.

The North County Transfer Station maintenance included an overhead door replacement and scale indicators. Both transfer stations renewed their permits with the Spokane Regional Health District.

Legislative Updates – Kris Major

House Bill 1571 regarding paint take-back programs did not pass. House Bill 4226 for mercury take back programs ends in 2025. A pharmaceutical take back program House Bill is expected to be filed in 2019.

Ecology finished updating and amending WAC 173-350 which covers waste management issues such as used tires, surface impoundments, and incineration. These rules govern how individuals, businesses and governments can handle solid waste, what materials can be recycled, when permits are required, and other issues.

Staff Updates

Tonilee Hanson announced that representatives from Kootenai County will do a presentation on their participation with the Waste Directory, date and time has yet to be determined.

Deb Geiger mentioned the county has rolled out three campaigns:

1. Recycle Right Spokane! – Radio PSAs encouraging residents to reduce contamination and only put accepted recyclables in their blue bins.
2. Litter Campaign – Website and social media posts connecting volunteers with resources for litter clean-ups and acknowledging groups that help with community litter clean-ups.
3. Be A Load Warrior – Website, social media and shared marketing campaign for replication in other counties to encourage self-hauling customers to “cover their loads” to prevent accident, injury and roadside litter to and from transfer stations.

Erik Makinson reported on the national impact of China’s National Sword legislation on the recycling industry.

- Commodity prices continue to fall
- Mixed paper used to “pay the bills” however, its value has dropped from \$110/ton to \$18/ton
- Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) are incurring additional costs and increasing their tipping fees
- China used to purchase 50% of the world’s recyclables. Other countries and domestic markets cannot make up the difference now that China is refusing to accept most recyclables.
- Transportation to other countries is much more expensive than shipping it to China, causing MRFs to stockpile recyclables and some governments to start landfilling recyclables.

Mike LaScuola mentioned the Spokane Regional Health District is forming a taskforce to identify the impact of PCBs on the river and fish. Inland Empire Paper is having difficulty complying with PCB regulations in the Clean Water Act due to the use of recycled paper. Some inks, such as yellow, contain high levels of PCBs and when they recycle these papers it impacts their waste water discharge. They have improved their waste water treatment; however, it is still not enough to meet acceptable standards.

The City of Spokane put out a bid for composting and only received one bid from Barr-Tech. This may be a result of the apple-maggot quarantine issue.

Meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm