

**Spokane County
Solid Waste Advisory Committee**

**Minutes of
July 18, 2018**

Members Present

Josh Kerns, Spokane County
Andy Hoye, CAL District #2
Kim Kreber, CAL District #1
Mike LaScuola, Health District
Tonilee Hanson, Public Interest
Erik Makinson, Recycling Industry
Kevin Anderson, City of Airway Heights

Members Absent

Rebecca Johnson, City of Spangle
Suzanne Tresko, CAL #3
Don Stevens, City of Deer Park
Mike Fagan, City of Spokane
Matthew Pederson, Waste Industry
Shaun Culler, City of Millwood
Philip Small, Ag Interest

Vacant Positions

Business

Approval of Minutes – May 16, 2018 – Andy Hoye

The May 16, 2018 minutes were approved by all members present with a correction regarding the Spokane Aquifer Joint Board’s HHW Flip Book.

China Impact on Recyclables – Steven Gimpel

Steven Gimpel, Education/Outreach Coordinator for Waste Management – Spokane, provided an update on the impact of China’s legislation on recyclables including global market changes, new import policies and contamination thresholds. Prior to China’s changed legislation, 60% of the nation’s recyclables were accepted and now it’s down to 20%. Steven reported that recycling is not likely to go back to the way it was and it will probably get worse before it gets better.

Steven stated residents need to be educated about the single stream recycle system. Many residents practice “wish-cycling” by disposing items that are not accepted into the bin because they want them to be recycled. Waste Management has a campaign called “Recycle Often, Recycle Right” and Spokane County has launched the “Recycle Right, Spokane!” campaign to help educate residents and reduce contamination.

2019 Solid Waste Preliminary Budget – Deb Geiger

The estimated budget for 2019 was presented. A request for a 2% rate increase will be revisited in September 2018. Deb stated a minimum 2-3 month Emergency Operating Fund is essential. She added that the North Transfer Station (NTS) would require a new compactor soon, along with additional upgrades in the future.

Legislative/Product Stewardship Update – Lindsay Chapman

Lindsay reported an increased emphasis on producer responsibility in packaging materials due to the impact of China's legislation. She stated discussion continues regarding compostable products since many products marked as compostable are not.

It was mentioned that the Washington Association of County Solid Waste Managers (WACSWM) has developed a best management practice guide for local governments to use when addressing the current impacts to the recycling industry. In September, the WACSWM will write a letter of support to our legislators requesting funding for local solid waste programs. The Spokane County Regional Solid Waste System will request the Board of County Commissioners sign a letter of support again this year.

Spokane/Kootenai Waste Directory Presentation – Tonilee Hanson

Tonilee shared the updated Spokane/Kootenai Waste Directory, which was created by the Spokane Aquifer Joint Board and the Spokane River Forum. She added that Suzanne Tresko worked with Kootenai County to bring their info on board with the Spokane Waste Directory. In June 2017, there were 182 vendors and after Suzanne's work, it increased to 345 vendors. From 2017 to 2018 the Waste Directory saw a 34.11% increase in website traffic. Each year it continues to grow, as more people visit the website to find out how to properly dispose of their waste.

Tonilee requested the SWAC review the Waste Directory and send comments through the "Help Us Improve Our Site" link if any inconsistencies or missing information is found.

Other Business/Staff Updates

Kris Major, Education/Outreach Coordinator for the City of Spokane & Spokane County, announced that the America Recycles Day poster contest was approaching. The presentation would be held during the November meeting. She requested the SWAC present certificates to the finalists and have photos taken during the presentation.

Deb Geiger mentioned Spokane County is currently working on a bin tagging program to bring attention to contamination in curbside recycling carts. At the end of the tagging project, a waste audit would be performed to determine if the campaign helped reduce contamination.

Julia McHugh, a concerned resident of the Indian Canyon Area spoke to the SWAC regarding the increase in illegal dumping and litter along the Sunset Hill and Palisades area. She was concerned that the problem would increase, especially if recycling programs reduce what types of commodities they will accept. Deb stated the Geiger Litter Crew could help pick up the litter. She also stated she is working on a plan to address illegal dumping in the county.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.