



Spokane County – Comprehensive Solid Waste and Moderate Risk Waste Management Plan Update SWAC Subcommittee Meeting #3

PREPARED BY: Michelle Langdon/Great West
Travis Pyle/Great West

PROJECT NUMBER: 4-19128

MEETING DATE: April 22, 2020

MEETING TIME: 2:00 PM (Pacific Time)

LOCATION: Zoom Conference Call

ATTENDEES: Andy Hoye/SWAC Citizen at Large, District #2
Suzanne Tresko/SWAC Citizen at Large, District #3
Tonilee Hanson/SWAC Public Interest
Deb Geiger/Spokane County
Lindsay Chapman/Spokane County
Claudia Marsh/Spokane County
Kris Major/City of Spokane
Shaun Culler/City of Millwood
Austin Stewart/Spokane County
Erik Makinson/Resource Synergy
Matt Pederson/Republic Services
Henry Allen/City of Spokane Valley
Travis Pyle/Great West
Michelle Langdon/Great West

The meeting generally followed the agenda. Meeting notes are added in italics.

INTRODUCTION

The overall purpose of this meeting is to briefly review and discuss the reorganization of the Solid Waste and Moderate Risk Waste Management Plan, to review the finalized vision statement, and to review and discuss the current set of plan goals and actions.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

- 1) **Team Introductions** – *For anyone that may be new to the meeting*
 - *Introductions and roll call of everyone on the video call.*

SWAC Subcommittee:

- Andy Hoye - Citizen at Large, District #2
- Shaun Culler - City of Millwood
- Suzanne Tresko - Citizen at Large, District #3
- Tonilee Hanson - Public Interest
- Matthew Pederson – Solid Waste Industry

Spokane County:

- Deb Geiger – Regional Solid Waste Manager
- Lindsay Chapman – Project Manager

Great West Team:

- Travis Pyle – Project Manager
- Michelle Langdon – Lead Project Planner

2) Finalized Vision Statement

- *Made some changes including:*
 - *Changing acronym to “we” to make it feel warmer and more personal.*
 - *Changed “name” of bullet point to “guiding principles” to make the bullet points seem less like the list of goals.*
- *Changes were open for discussion.*
- *Affordable and fiscally responsible addresses costs to customers sufficiently.*
- *Question on sole source aquifer; the County sits on multiple aquifers. Should the vision statement allude to only the sole source aquifer? Erik added that the WTE is being done partly because of this sole source aquifer and adds a bit to the history of solid waste in Spokane County. Reference to sole source aquifer will remain in vision statement.*
- *Changes were approved and statement is final.*

3) Finalized Table of Contents for SWMP

- *Changes that were made to the Table of Contents (TOC) were discussed. It was noted that part of the struggle with the plan organization is trying to serve multiple audiences.*
- *The executive summary was added primarily for elected officials and others than want/need just the basics and major points of the plan.*
- *Moved the implementation plan to follow the prioritized the plan goals.*
- *Combined Programs and System Inventory. A lot of the plan is in the this very large section. We are going to try to convert portions of the text into tables and figures. This very large section may be broken out into 2 sections again as work on the plan continues.*
- *First section of appendix will be for Ecology as a check to where the regulations are met in the document.*
- *Goals and Actions section will include a comprehensive list of all goals and actions that were considered.*
- *Tonilee brought up the use of acronyms in general in the document, and in particular in the TOC, and how difficult the use of acronyms can be for some users. Acronyms will not be used in the TOC in the future and a list of acronyms will be added to the front of the document.*
- *Tonilee asked about the solid waste generation center of mass map. Travis explained that it is a tool that identifies where and how much waste is being generated in different area. This*

tool can then help to show where future collection areas or transfer stations may be beneficial.

- For organization of the document, it was noted that it would be good to have links in the pdf and TOC that take you to a particular section. This will absolutely be done. It may also be good to have a link that takes the user back to the table of contents in each section. This will also be added.
- The SWMP History was moved to the back in an appendix so it is available but not at the forefront of the document.

4) Goals

- A question was raised as to whether there will be benchmarks or metrics on how goals are progressing or being achieved. Deb mentioned that something like that could be added. The goals have different timelines with some being achievable in months and some may take many years. Andy had the idea to have an annual reporting of the status of the implementation plan. Lindsay liked this idea and stated it was very doable. It could be difficult to add benchmarks at this point since some goals/actions will be implemented as budgets are available and some goals/actions are always ongoing. Tonilee suggested possibly adding benchmarks to a select few prioritized goals. Travis agrees that having benchmarks to measure progress is a good idea as long as the benchmarks are reasonable and achievable. Lindsay posed the question if an annual report to SWAC was done for reporting on progress if that would be sufficient and would any bylaws need to be changed? After discussion it was decided bylaws would not need to be changed. Interlocal agreements already have language that the System has to report to SWAC annually.
- The goals were reviewed in order.
- The hierarchy of goals and actions in this plan follow the same hierarchy of listing goals first followed by recommended actions that was listed in the last plan.
- Andy asked if a transfer station was needed and if so, should this plan focus on that. Travis spoke to that point and said that is out of the scope of this plan but that this plan would be used to identify that a transfer station may possibly be needed or improvements/expansions to the existing ones, which could lead to a feasibility study.
- The list of goals along with Tonilee's comments (highlighted) and discussion around each goal is as follows:

SCRSWS Goals, 2021-2026

- 1. Collect localized climate and environmental impact data and apply it to the SCRSWS to be used as a tool for consideration in solid waste management decisions.**
 - a. Calculate and track annual greenhouse gas emissions and other environmental impacts of local operations and disposal.
 - b. Create recommendations to reduce impacts and where feasible, implement recommendations.
- Some of this data exists already. This goal is really about collecting data and the

environmental impacts the system has on the environment.

2. Create and promote actions that support the waste reduction hierarchy of 1) Reduce, 2) Reuse, and 3) Recycle, and ensure that waste reduction is the foremost preferred solution when it comes to solid waste choices.

- a. *Use information from solid waste life cycle assessments to change the mindset and behavior of consumers towards the least environmentally impactful choices surrounding solid waste. Share this information through various methods including but not limited to public and classroom presentations, social media, websites, radio, and television.*
- b. *Develop new partnerships and maintain existing ones that harmonize the solid waste message that is sent across the County while leveraging resources to expand the reach of education and outreach.*
- c. *Utilize surveys and other means to measure the effectiveness of education and outreach programs and to identify knowledge and/or behavior gaps for residents, businesses, and other stakeholders.*
- d. *Support prudent legislation and policies that reduce consumer and producer waste streams.*
- e. *Pursue local and regional material reuse partnerships and opportunities.*
- f. *Research and evaluate offering a re-use store/park prior to entry into transfer stations to reduce the number of reusable items in waste stream.*
- g. *Increase the diversion of organic material.*
 - i. *Provide education and outreach to residents about organics diversion information through various methods, including but not limited to, public and classroom presentations, social media, websites, radio, and television.*
 - ii. *Continue to provide reduced tipping fee rates for organic material at County-owned transfer stations to incentivize organics diversion.*
- h. *Evaluate options for large-scale anaerobic digestion of organic wastes, by coordinating with wastewater treatment plants and other relevant stakeholders.*
- i. *Evaluate options for disposal of biosolids in collaboration with wastewater treatment plants.*
- j. *Reduce recycling contamination through partnerships with local and regional stakeholders.*
- k. *Implement a "Stop Wishful-Recycling" media campaign to increase awareness about recycling contamination, what is accepted locally and to curb behavior that contributes to recycling contamination.*
- l. *Collaborate with stakeholders to develop and distribute messages that simplify recycling options for consumers.*

- *Most goals have an education component to it since it is such a major complement to all goals.*

3. Research, evaluate and implement transfer station activities to better serve customers, where feasible:

(I think that including "where feasible" above allows us remove redundant text below making the goals

more explicit. It also helps me to think about the goals in categories.)

- This change suggested by Tonilee is great and will be incorporated.

Services

- a. Expand transfer station hours of access.
- b. Add a construction and demolition (C&D) disposal operation.
- c. Expand HHW hours of access and remove limits of HHW quantities for non-business customers.
- d. Add HHW reuse table.

Fees

- a. Offer a low-income disposal rate at transfer stations.
 - b. Install a fully automated scale house lane at each transfer station.
 - c. Accept credit and debit card at transfer station scale houses with transaction fees paid by the customers.
 - d. Add a separate fee for construction and demolition (C&D) waste disposal.
 - e. Implement separate fees for tires, appliances, mattresses, and other special waste streams.
 - f. Cost saving measures for administration and operations.
- Add the word evaluate to “Cost saving measure...”.

Safety

- f. Maintain and/or increase the safety of transfer stations for those working at the site regularly or temporarily and all visitors.

Survey Customer Needs and Satisfaction

- g. Investigate a waste monitoring program that would measure waste characterization, customer demographics and satisfaction to determine changing customer needs and how the County can operate the transfer stations effectively.
 - h. Develop and conduct surveys at transfer stations and at outreach events to gather data on knowledge gaps, customer satisfaction, needs, and wants at transfer stations.
- These two sections may be redundant. Lindsay explained that there may be other types of surveys other than what is stated in “g”. This section will be reworded to make that clear.

Education & Awareness

- m. Consider purchasing useful promotional items and other incentives to increase awareness about SCRSWS programs and services (e.g., the Load Warrior Campaign).

4. Create a sustainable funding mechanism for capital Improvements (I don't know what the bullets should be, I just think it should be included in the goals.)

- a. Create a timeline for equipment replacement.

b. Budget for sustained services and capital improvements

- *This goal was added by Tonilee. This is a great goal and a good way to break out capital improvements from operations funds.*
- *This is a fairly simple goal. Lindsay inquired if there were ideas on how to further detail the bullets under this goal. Suzanne inquired if the County already had a plan for this. Although Public Works does have a CIP plan, the solid waste department is not part of that plan.*
- *Capital needs may come from future studies and those details can be added to this goal as they arise.*

5. Create an enforcement program for flow control, litter, unsecured loads, illegal dumping, nuisances, and other enforceable occurrences.

- Create a task force on enforcement between the County Sherriff's Dept, Regional Health District, SCRSWS, and others as appropriate.*
 - Share costs between task force members to allocate funding for an enforcement position.*
 - Create an outreach program for businesses and other relevant stakeholders explaining their disposal options and available solid waste programs (e.g., litter removal) as participants in the SCRSWS.*
- *An enforcement program currently does not exist.*

6. Create an equitable long-term funding mechanism for County-owned landfills.

- Investigate County-wide finance mechanisms that are equitable to all county residents and not just those jurisdictions in the SCRSWS.*
- *The county has 3 closed landfills and the city has 2. There is just one pot of money that is used that is spread out over the life of the landfills, which have a very long life for post closure care. Lots of places use tip fees to cover these costs. Since doing so would not be equitable to the system users, this cannot be done and other options are being looked at. Andy suggested a bond. Deb will add that as a possibility to her list.*

7. Advocate for the provision of solid waste services and programs through collaboration and coordination with state agencies and other organizations.

- Through the Washington Association of County Solid Waste Managers (WACSWM), evaluate the impact of legislation presented in Olympia on Spokane County solid waste programs and services.*
- Create a brochure and/or video for elected officials that explains how the Spokane County Regional Solid Waste System (SCRSWS) operates and the system's needs and capacities.*

c. Provide training for employees and partner organizations so that residents are well informed about SCRSWS services.

- *Item #7 is new since the last plan. It builds on the work of this new group (WACSWM) to ensure that solid waste organizations get the recognition they deserve at the state level. This goal also helps to educate people about what the SCRSWS is through development of a brochure or video, etc.*
- *Erik and Tonilee agree that creation of this video or brochure is a great idea and very forward thinking.*
- *Andy, Suzanne and Henry said they think the overall details and breadth of the goals and actions are very well done.*

5) Plan Update

- *Travis gave an overview of the status of the plan update. Great West is heavily into updating the existing conditions section and updating tables, charts, and figures. Great West is also in the middle of reorganizing and consolidating the data in the plan. From there, the draft plan writing will commence. Another Ecology meeting will occur in May and will focus on the compliance side of things and making sure the plan is hitting the mark on Ecology's requirements. The next steps will be to get feedback from the Subcommittee on the existing conditions update and plan rework.*
- *Travis meets with the County monthly to track project status. An overall schedule that was provide in January (baseline) is updated. Surprisingly, we are still on track even with the pandemic. The COVID 19 issues have not really had a huge impact on this project so far.*
- *Next steps: meeting notes will be sent out as a follow up to this meeting. A doodle poll will also be sent out by Lindsay to set a date for the next meeting.*