Spokane County  
Solid Waste Advisory Committee

Minutes  
March 20, 2024

Members Present  
Isaiah Paine, CAL District #3  
John Dietzman, CAL District #5  
Andy Hoye, CAL District #2  
Jim Simon, CAL District #1  
Tonilee Hanson, Public Interest  
Joel Kohlstedt, Recycling Industry  
Chris Jordan, Spokane County  
Vince Barthels, City of Cheney

Members Absent  
Kevin Anderson, City of Airway Hts  
Rebecca Johnson, City of Spangle  
Brian Burrow, Business  
Karen Stratton, City of Spokane  
Shaun Culler, City of Millwood  
Philip Small, AG Interest  
Ken Gimpel, Waste Industry

Vacant Positions  
Health District  
CAL District #4

Approval of Minutes – January 17, 2024 – Joel Kohlstedt
All members moved to approve minutes for the January 17th meeting.

Transfer Stations Update – Deb Geiger
The current transfer station operations contract with Waste Connections will expire fall of 2024. Deb released a request for proposal and received 2 back. Upon reviewing, it was determined the County can save an estimated $18 million dollars over 10 years if the transfer stations are operated in house. This change was presented to the Board of County Commissioners and approved. Elisabeth asked if the cost savings will be used for improving equipment. Deb responded that the savings would result in expanded services and savings will be passed onto rate payers by disposal fees not increasing for the next few years.

Illegal Dumping/Litter Letter – Tonilee Hanson
Tonilee shared she started looking at what other cities are doing to resolve illegal dumping issues. Philadelphia uses surveillance cameras to discourage and punish offenders because cleaning up over and over does not work. Since the cameras went online, they have prosecuted 31 illegal dumping cases resulting in fines and about 302 hours of community service. One of the issues in Spokane is that no one department is responsible for handling illegal dumping. The health district often deals with the complaints, but has been overloaded with the amount of calls due to the massive influx of population and the large number of homeless in the area. Mike LaScuola also shared the health district does not have the power to prosecute or ticket offenders and it is very hard to find the offender. Code enforcement has regulations in place for illegal dumping, but they are understaffed and have such a hard time keeping up that they tend to focus on other violations that are easier to prosecute. In his opinion, a litter control fund needs to be created and staff should have the power to investigate, ticket, and prosecute. SWAC discussed drafting a letter with recommendations to the County Commissioners.
With no further business, meeting adjourned at 3:54 pm