

Mason County – Solid Waste Advisory Committee

SWAC MEETING NOTES

Thursday, September 19, 2013

- Attendance:
 - ✓ Members: Conley Watson, David Minor, Scott Wilson, Sheena Kaas, Chad White (for Rick Fredrickson)
 - ✓ Staff: Michelle Whittaker, Jess Mosley, Brian Matthews
 - ✓ Guests: Peter Lyon (for Julie Robertson), DOE; DelRoy Cox, JDel Consulting; Janet O'Connor, citizen
- Comments from the public/guests: none
- Business Agenda:
 - Reauthorization of By-Laws: By-Laws were approved as written.
 - Boards and Public Meetings: Michelle highlighted several items from the County's handbook on Boards and Commissions sent to all members in the meeting packet. Including that each member is selected to represent a specific point of view/interest group in order to represent the broadest possible views as issues are discussed and recommendations made. She also shared excerpts from Timothy D. Ford's (Open Government Ombudsman, Wa. State Attorney General's Office) powerpoint presentation "Open Public Meetings" outlining what constitutes a meeting and the requirements for disclosure under the Open Public Meetings legislation. There was a brief discussion about what types of personal records could be subject to disclosure and how correspondence by email is best handled under the regulations for disclosure. The powerpoint presentation identifies that meetings such as SWAC are subject to the Open Public Meetings Act and that personal email communications between members discussing SWAC issues are subject to the Act. It further notes that one-way communication is not considered a "meeting" so the best way to share ideas without compromising information on personal computers is to send anything for distribution to Michelle and she can disseminate it to the group.
 - Solid Waste Management Plan update: Michelle shared a presentation on the current status of the County's Solid Waste Management Plan including why the need for an update rather than amendment. In addition, she included information on the current cost of the overall program. She identified funding sources including user rates and Coordinated Prevention Grants (CPG) through Dept. of Ecology. The allocation of funding through CPG is based on a base \$ amount for all counties and an additional per capita amount based on County population. Ms Kaas asked if the Tribe population is

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included in Mason County's population calculation. Mr. Lyon was not sure and Michelle will work with Ecology to try get an answer by next meeting.

- Overview SWAC work plan: Michelle shared the two main objectives for SWAC in 2014 will be to complete a Plan update and work on a site plan for the Eells Hill transfer station focused on more efficient operations and opportunities for expanded recycling. Michelle will bring more information to the next meeting to start work on this item.
- 2013/2014 overview Solid Waste projects: Michelle shared information on the need for major renovations and repairs to the Eells Hill Transfer Station and Drop Box facilities. The current solid waste fund does not have a capital reserve, is working on a break-even basis and does not have the funds to complete these repairs without additional revenue. She is moving forward with Board briefings to request a \$3/ton rate increase in order to create a capital reserve that will generate additional revenue to complete repair and renovation projects. The rates would be effective January 1, 2014 but the process is starting now in order to give Mason County Garbage the time they're required to have for the process they go through with the State Utilities and Transportation Commission in order to pass these increases through to their customers. Michelle will bring more information on the proposed rate increase to the next meeting.
- Other items: none
- Next Meeting Agenda items: The SWAC asked for information on the waste reduction and recycling programs that are currently available in the County in order to begin discussions for the Plan update.

With business concluded, the SWAC adjourned at 2:30 pm.

NEXT MEETING – THURSDAY, OCT. 17, 1:00-2:30 pm, Training Rm A

all meetings are open to the public

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