

# WHATCOM COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY (SWAC) COMMITTEE MINUTES September 2, 2021

## **Members Present:**

Lisa Friend, Carol Frazey, Rodd Pemble, Brandi Hutton, Michael Olinger

## **Members Absent:**

Larry McCarter, Kevin Moore, and Kevin Renz.

## **Staff Present:**

Jennifer Hayden, Sue Sullivan, and Jacque Hindman

## **Others Present:**

Erik Bakkom, Brian Tino, and Carolyn Bowie with ECY.

## **Call to Order:**

The meeting of the Whatcom County SWAC was called to order on Thursday, September 2, 2021 at 5:33 p.m. in a Zoom Meeting via the web by chair, Rodd Pemble.

## **Roll Call, Determination of Quorum, Approval of Minutes**

Roll call was taken first., Determination of Quorum, and minutes were approved. Agenda approved.

## **Public Comment Period**

Sue Sullivan was introduced as the new Whatcom County Environmental Health Manager. She replaced John Wolpers.

## **Review and approve the 2021 Whatcom County Comprehensive Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Plan**

Motion to move the plan forward. Michael Olinger made a motion to adopt the plan. Carol Frazey second the motion. Comments: Jennifer and Brian talked and decide they would go through the plan chapter by chapter, rather than going into each chapter and through all of the sections.

### Chapter 1 Introduction

#### Section 1.1 Purpose

Lisa Friend asked the entire plan is carefully proof read. She found a few spacing issues to be corrected. In paragraph 3 Lisa suggested that the wording be changed from: Whatcom county originally developed and adopted the first revision of the (CSHWMP) to in 1974 to: it was the first version.

#### Section 1.83 Public Participation

Lisa Friend asked that there be a 60-day public review and comment period. Jennifer stated that there would be a 60-day public review and comment period.

## Chapter 2: Planning Area

### Section 2; Table 2-3 Whatcom County Employment Sectors, 2017

Lisa wanted to double check the number of employee population which is greater than 100% asked if that included part-time employees working more than one sector.

### Section 2.2 History of Solid Waste System

Lisa stated that in the second paragraph that one of the two incinerators was operated by Thermal Reduction Company which later became Recomp of Washington, Inc. She asked to check the accuracy of that.

### Section 2.3.2 Waste Disposal

Lisa thought the figures were very confusing. She said the figures should be clearer. She believes that the 417,338 tons of solid waste collected inclusive etc. She believes what was buried should be 155,922 tons disposed.

## Chapter 3 Waste Reduction and Public Education

Brandi Hutton noticed some of the numbers and stats for sustainable connections were updated but their funding sources were not. Brian has the information and will add it. He just didn't get it added prior to the draft going out.

### **Motion to move plan forward:**

Michael Olinger changed his motion to include the discussion from the September 2, 2021 meeting to: The Preliminary Draft Plan with Comments from the September 2, 2021 meeting included, and to go on to the next step in the approval process.

All voted in favor

### **Motion passed**

Rodd Pemble asked Jennifer for dates on the plan approval process. Jennifer Hayden gave approximate dates:

Jennifer Hayden will get this plan from Maul, Foster and Alongi next week, then open up the 60-day public comment period next week, this will also include the SEPA public comment period.

Early November is when we should receive it back. Then it will go to Ecology for the preliminary draft.

Ecology has 120 days to provide comments and once and is expected back by mid-March. We will incorporate their comments.

In April we will have another SWAC meeting and hopefully approve the plan with all the Ecology comments.

Once SWAC approves the plan they can meet again hopefully in July if approved it will go back to Ecology for final approval.

Then it goes to council for Final approval.

**Other Business, Open Session, Announcements:**

Carol welcomed Sue Sullivan. She also wanted to know how many open seats there were for the SWAC committee. Jennifer said we are three people short on SWAC and need more to join the group.

The need is for one private citizen, one person from agriculture, and one person from the business sector.

Jennifer is reaching out in many ways to get those positions filled. Example social media. Rodd Pemble is also brainstorming ways to get those positions filled.

Carolyn said they were one month away from the implementation of the “state-wide plastic bag” ban. She has resources to send to the SWAC. DOE produced an outreach tool kit for counties and cities to distribute.

Ecology is also seeking feedback on their “Use Food Well Washington Plan” ban to help make it a stronger ban. They have until September 10, 2021.

Lisa Friend asked to encourage presentations on the plastic bag ban in future SWAC meetings and how the county can help promote the paint care project.

Carolyn has a colleague Shannon Jones who has done many presentations on the plastic bag ban and would be available to present to our SWAC committee.

**Adjournment:**

Rodd Pemble adjourned the meeting at 5:59 p.m. All agreed.

**CERTIFICATION**

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jacque Hindman, Clerk III  
Whatcom County Health Department

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Rodd Pemble, Chair  
Whatcom County Solid Waste  
Advisory Committee