

Meeting Agenda 2/8/2023

2/28/23 SWAC meeting agenda

Documents:

2082023 SWAC Meeting Agenda.pdf

February Meeting Summary Final

Documents:

20230208 SWAC Minutes Approved.pdf

Draft Minutes

11/9/22 SWAC meeting minutes

Documents:

20221109_SWAC_MeetingSummary.pdf

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Pierce County Solid Waste Advisory Committee

February 8, 2023, 5:30 p.m.

Tacoma Mall Plaza
2702 S 42nd Street, Conference Room 210
Tacoma WA 98409

ITEM	APPROXIMATE DURATION	LEAD	DESCRIPTION
Call To Order	10 minutes	Louis Griffith, SWAC Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Roll Call• Approve minutes from the November 9, 2022 meeting• Introduce new SWAC Liaison – Kari Ann Elling
SHWMP	55 Minutes	Ryan Dicks & Chris Brown, Pierce County	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stakeholder Roundtable• HB 1311 – EPR Legislation• SHWMP Actions Review• 2023 Completed Actions Goal
Round Table	10 minutes	Louis Griffith, SWAC Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Members have an opportunity to share items of interest
Preview of next meeting	5 minutes	Chris Brown, Pierce County	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Food Waste Reduction & Compost Ordinance• Presentation by Dep't of Ecology
Public Comments	10 minutes	Louis Griffith, SWAC Chair	Members of the public may briefly comment on: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Agenda topics covered this meeting, unless the Chair allowed for public comment at the time the agenda item was discussed• Other SWAC-related issues not already discussed• Please direct all comments & questions to the SWAC Chair

All SWAC meetings are open public meetings and conducted in compliance with the Open Public Meeting Act. A map and directions to the meeting are available on the SWAC website at piercecountywa.gov/swac.

If the meeting is cancelled, Planning & Public Works staff will place an announcement on the SWAC website: piercecountywa.gov/swac by 3 p.m. on the day of the meeting.

For more information about the Solid Waste Advisory Committee or this agenda, please contact Pierce County Planning & Public Works at (253) 798-2179 or by e-mail at pcrecycle@piercecountywa.gov.

Pierce County Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC)

Summary of Meeting

February 8, 2023 , 5:30 – 7 p.m.

Tacoma Mall Plaza and Zoom

2702 S 42nd St, Tacoma, WA 98409

(Note: *Meeting was not recorded.)

CALL TO ORDER

Louis Griffith called the Date SWAC meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

Committee members present: Alex Kenesson, Aminah Othman, Dave Powers, Dave Stookey, David Artis, Ellen Knowlen, Jessica James, Josh Metcalf, Josh Christy, Louis Griffith. Excused: Ron Backman, Annaliese Feld, El Rose.

There was a quorum.

Non-voting members present: Keith Johnson, Kevin Green, Tom Swanson;

Non-voting members absent: Ryan Dicks

Staff present: Chris Brown and Kari Ann Elling for Pierce County

Dave Stookey made a motion to approve the November SWAC meeting summary, seconded by Alex Kenesson

The SWAC unanimously approved the November 9, 2022 meeting summary.

New SWAC liaison for Pierce County, Kari Ann Elling, was introduced.

PRESENTATION FROM CHRIS BROWN

Chris Brown provided updates on the following:

- SHWMP (Solid Hazardous Waste Management Plan) Actions Review
- Stakeholder Roundtable
- HB 1311 – EPR Legislation

(See attached slides)

SHWMP, this is a robust plan spanning over 300 pages including appendices. Chris encouraged all present to read the SHWMP and focus on the main 33 chapters. There are 32 action items identified in the SHWMP. The action items are being looked at for equitable outcomes (i.e. make sure everybody has access, vouchers, discounted garbage rate). The County is supporting legislation that supports the lowest GHG reduction and is looking at how to work with the commercial sector on recycling and figuring out how to start a program.

The County is also looking at supporting C&D recycling and addressing issues with multi-family recycling. Currently, recycling trucks can't get in to collect recycling with the design of some of the buildings.

To lengthen the life of the landfill, looking at long-hauling some waste.

The SHWMP will need an update in 5 years.

Update on actions completed:

- 2023 Goal is to have 6-7 of 33 Actions completed (*Chris mentioned it is likely we will complete more, possibly 12-13 actions.)
- Currently 3 Actions are Complete and Ongoing
 - AA3, P05, MRW3
- 17 Actions are in Process

- 13 Actions have not started
 - 8 are mid term set for 2022 to 2026
- Plan link: [SHWMP-FINAL \(piercecountywa.gov\)](https://www.piercecountywa.gov/shwmp-final)

Our SHWMP is set-up to be on-going, complete means we've established what we intended, but we will continue to meet/address the action moving forward.

Josh Christy made comments/asked questions. How does this plan relate to the Sus2030 plan? Response from Chris Brown: There are 12 actions that overlap with that plan, we are working with our Sustainability Team to work towards their goals as well. Some of the actions and goals are informed by the Sus2030 plan and were used to inform the sustainability portion of this plan.

Alex Kenesson made comments/asked questions. Alex had overall praise for the plan, especially with equity being at the forefront, but also noted that many have been unserved or underserved for a long time and it will be important to ask for what they need/want, we should not make assumptions. Chris Brown responded: On our Sustainability Team we have Nicole and her entire position is focused on equitable outcomes and in addition the Sustainable Resources Division has 3 equity teams, each with a different focus (Internal learning, community engagement, data assessment). The County has also created an equity note that is required for anything that goes before council.

Dave Stookey made comments/asked questions. For the near and mid-term action items, is there an office that is responsible for getting them done in that timeframe? Response from Chris Brown-All of that is being handled in-house by us. We have systems to track what is done, and once those actions are done, they are not forgotten. We still evaluate each of those actions to make sure nothing falls through the cracks.

Stakeholder Roundtable Update:

- Started in December of 2022
 - Pierce County, Tacoma, TPCHD, LRI LeMay, Murrey
 - Reviewed Actions, Talked about the Litter Task Force, HB 1799 and Winter Weather Updates.
 - Offered a great chance for communication among all SW partners
- Next meeting is 2/15/23
 - HB 1799 Compost Ordinance & Compost Facility Upgrades for Food Waste, Recycling Markets (Pioneer), and EPR Legislation
- Waste Trends Analysis data supports action of capturing materials with the greatest GHG, 180, 200lb samples are sorted in 64 categories and HHW makes up 16 of those categories. We can use this data to educate the public.
 - Very few other jurisdictions sort annually. Most hire a company to perform a sort about once every 10-15 years. Our data allows us to see trends and we have a more accurate assessment of waste habits in Pierce County.

The SWAC can provide feedback either before or after the roundtable meets.

Discussion on litter: Chris Brown explained that extra-hires will be picking up litter in the summer and that he would like to eventually offer this year-round in the future. There is a lot of concern over the amount of litter throughout Pierce County. It's good to be out in the community and seen doing this work. In 6-months they can collect several hundred tons of loose trash!

Update on HB1799: This was a long-term bill to get through and has the goal to reduce food waste going to landfills by 75%. It will take improvements and infrastructure changes for us to collect food waste residentially and commercially in Pierce County. This bill will probably affect haulers and LRI the most. We need to keep talking about this and getting the opinions from those most involved. Implementing this bill will be expensive. RCW's spur this and create change, but these programs are very expensive. Next Stakeholder Roundtable meeting is 2/15 at the TMP.

Chris Brown would like Pioneer to talk with SWAC, they are coming to speak to the roundtable, EPR will likely affect the haulers the most. We will work to help. Stakeholders will make sure all are represented. We are meeting quarterly moving forward and this is planned for indefinitely.

Jessica James made comments/asked questions. Is picking up litter in homeless encampments a separate issue? Response from Chris Brown: The litter task-force will try to address this. Jessica-How could efforts be made to reduce that ongoing? Chris-The task force will try to determine what can be done to move forward so we were not recreating the same issue. This will be part of the conversation when we start that task force. Jessica had a question regarding the reduction of food waste...Is it more effective to reduce food waste in landfills or increase the composting option? Chris- Ideally, we'd like to do both, I'm not sure what is better. Response from Lewis-It should be looked at it from a GHG perspective. Which option reduces GHG the most.

David Powers made comments/asked questions. My wife volunteers at a food bank and the leftovers go to a pig farm. I hope the County is looking into these options. I will send Kari Ann information for another contact for the landfill voucher program.

Tom Swanson made comments/asked questions. I have an update on the litter reduction task force. It has been approved. Currently, it is a core of just County employees and then we invite others. 9/30 is deadline for items going before the Council. Homeless encampments will not go before Council this round, too big of an issue to address in the timeframe.

Graphic of HB1799 (see attached slides): All local governments are in need of passing a compost procurement ordinance. Jurisdiction of 25,000 or more have to do their own ordinance and if you offer curbside collection you have to do an ordinance. This means everyone in P.C. has to create their own ordinance. The original thinking was that cities and town could sign onto the County's plan. Currently, Pierce County's ordinance is with Committee. The graphic shows there are many steps along the way and as we move towards next due dates we will give updates to this group.

Tom Swanson made comments/asked questions. At the end of the month Pierce County's ordinance should go before the economic committee, targeting April 1st for final passage of County's ordinance.

Chris Brown: The point of the ordinance is to make sure compost is being bought and used. We don't have that issue, our compost is in demand, but other jurisdictions are having trouble. The point is to make sure compost is being purchased back. This puts the onus back on govt and if their compost doesn't sell, they have to buy it.

WRAP Act Update (see attached slides): It is in committee in both the house and senate. There are many questions around how this bill will affect how we do things. It will likely pass in the future if it doesn't pass now. This will have high costs associated with it. Benefits are there, but just getting there.

Alex Kenesson made comments/asked questions. It will be good overall, but hard to get through.

ROUND TABLE

Members had an opportunity to share items of interest.

_____ made comments/asked questions

_____ made comments/asked questions

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Members of the public had the opportunity to comment on SWAC related issues.

Alex Kenneson addressed the SWAC/provided public comment. Thank you, Chris, for the presentation, well done! I'm interested more about pfas and forever chemicals. Is there anything we can be doing on the solid waste side? I'm tracking, in my personal work, HB124, documentation of rates being relational to costs? Are our rates already published on the website? Response from Chris Brown-Yes. Response from Alex-Looking at multi-family vs single family, should they all be paying the same? Maybe multi-family should be cheaper because there are more people in the space, more efficient? Just something to think about.

Lewis Griffith addressed the SWAC/provided public comment. We are looking to address illegal dumping. It is a central program in our Division. I would like to connect to the County's summer litter crew. In regards to food waste, we've been working with a company called Mill. They have designed an in-home food waste digester /dehydrator. We are doing a pilot in Tacoma and are in the process of getting participants. It is a subscription service \$30/month, so we understand it's not for everyone. The dehydrated waste gets shipped back to the company and made into chicken feed. The collection digester/bin should only have to be emptied every couple of weeks.

Dave Stookey addressed the SWAC/provided public comment. Dave asked a question about yard waste being processed at compost facilities in Pierce County. The response is "yes".

The Chair closed the public comment section of the agenda.

CLOSE MEETING

The meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

Pierce County Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC)

MEETING SUMMARY

November 9, 2022, 5:30 – 7 p.m.

Tacoma Mall Plaza and Zoom

2702 S 42nd St, Tacoma, WA 98409 - <https://piercecountywa.zoom.us/j/92865651579>

CALL TO ORDER

SWAC chair Lewis Griffith called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

SWAC voting members present: Alex Kenesson, Aminah Othman, David Artis, Dave Powers, Dave Stookey, El Rose, Ellen Knowlen, Jessica James, Josh Christy, Josh Metcalf, Lewis Griffith, Ron Backman

SWAC voting members absent: Anneliese Feld

There was a quorum.

SWAC non-voting members present: Kevin Green, Tom Swanson

Pierce County staff present: Chris Brown, Karen Hultgren, Meara Heubach, Rusty Cole

There were 0 members of the public and 1 outside agency staff present (David Pater from Ecology).

The SWAC unanimously approved the September 14, 2022 meeting summary.

DISCUSSIONS UNDER ROBERT'S RULES

Meara Heubach shared the main takeaways from Robert's Rules training that she, the chair, and vice chair had taken:

- The chair controls process so group can make decisions.
- All members have equal rights, privileges, and obligations. To ensure this, no one may speak a second time until everyone who wishes to do so has spoken once.
- The chair controls who speaks when. Members must be recognized before speaking.

Members then discussed what process to use to take turns talking. There was concern that people joining online may be getting ignored, so the group decided that the chair will first check with online participants to see if they have something to say. Online participants will use the "raise hand" function to indicate they want to speak. The chair will then recognize anyone attending in-person who wants to speak. In-person participants will stand their name cards up to show they want to speak. The chair will not call on someone to speak a second time until everyone has had the chance to speak.

David Artis will share a 2-page review of Robert's Rules for Meara to email to all members.

SHWMP UPDATE

Chris Brown provided an update on the County's *Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Plan*. The final review finished about two weeks ago. The plan will need an amendment for a compost procurement ordinance. The County and City of Tacoma will prepare ordinances, and the cities and towns in the county will be able to use these. Around 2026, the County will start the process to update the plan. The County will bring forth pieces of the plan at each SWAC meeting so that members can review and discuss them.

David Pater recognized the hard work from County staff (Karen Hultgren, Ryan Dicks, Chris Brown) in preparing a great, forward-looking plan

Alex Kenesson had a question about which RCW guides the compost procurement ordinance—Meara will follow up with the group by email. Alex also encouraged breaking up the review coming in five years into parts over the coming years so that the work is spread out.

Chris reiterated that preparing the plan was a long process and thanked everyone for their involvement.

CROP & RECYCLING COLLECTION SERVICES IN PIERCE COUNTY

PIERCE COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

11/9/2022

Karen Hultgren presented on the County's CROP (Contamination Reduction and Outreach Plan). CROPs are now required by the Sustainable Recycling Act. The goal is to clean up the recycling stream. The County's CROP is an appendix in the recently finalized solid waste plan, and Karen encouraged SWAC members to read the CROP. The CROP will need to be updated when the solid waste plan is updated in five years.

In Pierce County, single-family recycling is provided by three waste haulers: LeMay, Murrey's, and University Place Refuse & Recycling. Where you live determines your hauler. The County sets minimum service levels, but rights to collect in certain areas are determined by municipal contracts or permits from the WUTC (Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission). Recycling cart colors range from gray to blue, but there is much more inconsistency in the color of yard waste carts. The County has looked at changing the color, but there are 100,000 yard waste carts in the county.

The same haulers provide recycling service to multifamily properties. The County does not have a minimum service level requirement for multifamily recycling, but the SWAC will discuss creating one in the future. Following a large effort, multifamily recycling containers have consistent colors and labeling.

Items can also be recycled at drop boxes throughout the County. Karen shared a chart of the recyclables accepted at all the transfer stations and haulers' offices.

In Washington commercial recycling is an open market system. It is up to a business if it wants to recycle anything beyond mandatory items such as mercury light bulbs or motor oil.

The County does several things to educate about reducing contamination. The list of what is recyclable throughout the county is coordinated and consistent, which is a "real coup" for the County. Residents are informed via the EarthMatters newsletter, web content such as a contamination video, direct classes, and social media. The County is working on better signage at the Purdy Transfer Station's recycling center and will be working on signage at other transfer stations.

Ron Backman is concerned about the marketability of recycling and the quality of glass, for instance. Haulers take a loss on transportation costs.

Jessica James wanted to know if glass is just being thrown away.

Ron Backman shared that there have been discussions about grinding glass into roadway material.

Dave Powers had a question about plastic recycling, as he'd been reading in *The Atlantic* and other places about how hard it is to recycle, and he wants to know if that is an issue here and what we're going to do about it. Karen responded that the County has been careful to only have recyclables with markets on the recycling list. Dave wanted to know how often the County checks with what's recyclable, and Chris Brown responded that it's checked several times a year. El Rose added that the Recycling Development Center is working on this issue. David Pater added that the plastics collected in the county are the plastics with the most value.

David Pater shared that what happens with glass varies statewide because it's so heavy. For instance, in Lacey it's ground into roadside projects, but in eastern WA it's not collected. Work is being done on putting ground glass into cement as a composite that, from a carbon footprint standpoint, may be the best use for glass.

Alex suggested that communication about what can't be recycled locally would be beneficial. Flyers may be helpful and the information should be easy to access and ever present.

El asked if we can get consistency among the transfer stations so that people know that any transfer station they go to will accept the same things.

Josh Christy shared that the most popular social media posts from Tacoma Environmental Services are the "what goes where" posts and wanted to know if Pierce County does the same. Karen shared that the County makes those posts on its Waste Less Wednesdays campaign.

PIERCE COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

11/9/2022

David Artis suggested that it would be nice to have cards regularly sent out to residents saying what is recyclable.

Ellen Knowlen saw on the website where glass can be taken and wanted to know if we are ever going to recycle foam packaging. Lewis Griffith gave an update on the City of Tacoma’s polystyrene condenser.

Alex wanted to know what the SWAC and individual SWAC members can do to help push the commercial recycling envelope.

Dave Powers thought it would be helpful for small businesses to have a place to go for info on business recycling.

Alex asked if the SWAC can issue a recommendation to the County Council about requiring commercial recycling. Chris suggested that there could be some value in this.

Ellen had a question about plastic bags and if they’re being recycled now.

GARBAGE VOUCHER PROGRAM

Meara presented on the County’s garbage voucher program. The voucher program is supported by objectives and actions in the new solid waste plan. The voucher program came out of the collection events hosted by the County from 2015-2019. The events were discontinued because they were essentially very expensive transfer stations, and many customers had the financial means to pay for disposal. Now vouchers are provided to internal and external partners (such as the juvenile court and SafeStreets) for partners to distribute to clients facing financial burdens in transporting their excess garbage to a transfer station. The voucher covers disposal for one load of garbage at the Purdy or Hidden Valley Transfer Stations. In fall/winter 2022-2023, vouchers are being distributed in three batches. The first batch of vouchers was shared among 15 partners. The second and third batches will be in both English and Spanish.

Chris added that the voucher program is being done with LRI and recognizes that this is a dynamic process. The County will reach out to haulers about improving the reach of the program.

Josh Metcalf suggested reaching out to food banks and will provide Meara with introductory emails.

Alex suggested reaching out to WorkSource and environmental justice/advocacy groups. He would like there to be a larger-scale income-based program.

Josh Christy suggested reaching out to a Spanish-language radio station, Buddhist temple on Portland Ave, and the Asian Pacific Cultural Center. He suggested having someone check that the Spanish translation of the voucher was done correctly.

Jessica suggested that Rotary clubs might be a good partner (she is a member). She suggested starting with lists of low-income seniors.

Dave Powers suggested working with homeless groups--Dave will suggest names to Meara.

Ellen wanted to know what to do when you find dumped waste. Meara will email a link on the County website for this.

ROUND ROBIN

The SWAC may send a recommendation to County Council to adopt a commercial recycling ordinance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

PREVIEW OF NEXT MEETING

PIERCE COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

11/9/2022

The next meeting will be on January 11 at the Tacoma Mall Plaza (TMP). The TMP was the most popular choice for in-person meetings on the survey shared with SWAC members.

CLOSE MEETING

Chair Lewis Griffith adjourned the meeting at 7:08 p.m.