

Presentations and Documents

Meeting Summary

Summary is a draft until it is approved at the next SWAC meeting.

Approved Minutes

Documents:

20230913 SWAC Minutes Approved.pdf

Meeting Agenda

5:30PM

SWAC Agenda

Documents:

20230913 SWAC Agenda.docx

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Pierce County Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC)

Summary of Meeting

September 13, 2023, 5:30pm – 7:00 pm

Tacoma Mall Plaza and Zoom

2702 S 42nd St, Tacoma, WA 98409

*Meeting was [recorded](#) (First 15 minutes were not recorded.)

CALL TO ORDER

Louis Griffith called the September 13th, 2023 SWAC meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

Committee members present: Alex Kenesson, Aminah Othman, Dave Powers, Dave Stookey, David Artis, El Rose, Jessica James, Josh Christy, Lewis Griffith, Ron Backman

Excused: Josh Metcalf resigned August 9, 2023

Unexcused: Anneliese Feld, Ellen Knowlen

There was quorum.

Non-voting members present: Kevin Green, Tom Swanson, Ryan Dicks,

Non-voting members absent: Keith Johnston, Chris Brown

Staff present: Kari Ann Elling for Pierce County

The SWAC unanimously approved the February 8, 2023 meeting summary. This could not be done at the March or April meeting, due to no quorum. Alex Kenesson motioned to approve, Ron Backman seconded.

FIRST ITEM ON AGENDA

Elections for vice-chair, Kari Ann Elling motioned for election to begin.

Alex Kenesson motioned for himself to be vice-chair. David Artis seconded the motion. There were no other candidates offered. There was unanimous approval of Alex Kenesson to be vice-chair.

Alex Kenesson requested nominations for chair.

El Rose motioned for Lewis to continue, David Artis seconded that motion. There were no other candidates offered and there was a motion to close nominations. Dave Stookey seconded to close. Lewis was elected unaminously to continue as chair.

_____ made comments/asked questions

_____ made comments/asked questions

SECOND ITEM ON AGENDA

Motion and Vote to remove Annaliese Feld from SWAC due to meeting the dismissal criteria of missing more than 50% of scheduled meetings in the past 12 months and have three or more unexcused absences in the past 12 months. David Artis motioned to vote to have her removed. Alex Kenesson seconded that motion and the

Alex Kenesson asked what district she was representing. Kari Ann Elling responded with business.

_____ made comments/asked questions

THIRD ITEM ON AGENDA

Community Cleanups

Kari Ann Elling shared details and data from a community cleanup done by Pierce County on July 15th, 2023.

- 6.7 tons of waste collected via rearloader, 20 yd dumpster, and 3 waste disposal vouchers.
- Over 2,000 lbs diverted from landfill by Uptekk, including 20 mattresses, a refrigerator, scrap metal, electronics, and other household goods.
- 2 truckloads of items donated to the Goodwill.

There was discussion around potential areas to do cleanups in the future. Josh Christy suggested the area around Hosmer and S. 96th Street. The city of Tacoma has an emphasis on supporting this area. This could be a good area for the city and county to collaborate. Lewis Griffith mentioned there are a lot of different efforts across the city to support cleanups.

Alex Kenesson asked if he can take this information back to his friends and report back. He would like to see as much emphasis as possible on impoverished, low-income areas. Wherever we don't have a lot of services. Kari Ann Elling responded that would be good to report out at the October SWAC.

David Powers asked if there was input from the residents before the cleanup. Kari Ann Elling responded that residents were contacted that the cleanup would be happening, but they were not engaged as to how or when the event would take place. David also asked if anyone had gone back to see if there was impact later. Kari Ann Elling answered that she had. Some areas were still improved, but others had illegal dumping again.

Ryan Dicks shared that we had data from roads crew that this area was high-impact and was a continual location for illegal dumping and that the county understood that one cleanup would not solve the problem.

Ron Backman asked about safety concerns of those involved with helping load the rearloader. Kari Ann Elling responded that there was a safety meeting with all involved before the event started.

David Artis talked about how he calls Pierce County Code Enforcement when he sees illegal dumping.

Kari Ann Elling shared about Pierce County's waste disposal voucher program for low-income, seniors, and those with disabilities. These vouchers are distributed through community partners. The program has grown since it was started in 2021. That first year there were 11 partners and 113 vouchers redeemed. In 2023 we have 31 partners and 740 vouchers have been redeemed from January-August 2023. The final round of vouchers for 2023 are out now and are valid until the end of November.

Kari Ann Elling shared that Pierce County Shred Events are starting up again and will continue on Saturdays through October. Information can be found on the County website.

Lewis Griffith shared about the Tidy Up Tacoma program. This program has a full-time litter crew, entails doing outreach events to get feedback from the public, supports volunteer litter groups, graffiti removal and trail maintenance. This program is funded through an excise tax on solid waste rates. The program is fully funded and the city is currently prioritizing projects. Tacoma also has a "see, click, fix" program (dial 311) similar to the County's code enforcement program.

Alex Kenesson asked about the criteria for the County waste disposal vouchers. Ryan Dicks mentioned this program replaced the open community cleanup program where anyone could come, and we ended up serving residents that didn't seem to be in-need of help with garbage disposal. The criteria for the vouchers are low-income, seniors, people with disabilities.

Ryan Dicks mentioned that the County Council is prioritizing cleanups.

Tom Swanson: Council will look at priorities....

Josh Christy asked if there is a "heat map" of where dumping is occurring? Ryan Dicks replied, yes, and he would be happy to bring that data to the next meeting.

Alex Kennesson commented that he likes hearing that the voucher program is growing and that the County and Executive are making this a priority.

FOURTH ITEM ON AGENDA

SWAC Fall Planning:

There was discussion around topics for the SWAC to discuss Fall. An activity facilitated by Kari Ann Elling found [here](#) captured what was discussed.

ROUND TABLE

David Artis commented that he would love to go down to the landfill and see the process. He has never seen the facilities. Kari Ann will work on organizing.

Alex Kennesson commented that the SWAC could have the vendors share their concerns and then the SWAC addresses? He has high interest in commercial recycling and knows this can be an avenue for us to improve. How can we provide support for this? He's very passionate about this topic.

Ron Backman commented that he has concerns from the haulers regarding the sustainability of Uptekk and Strategic Materials and hopes that the County can keep their eye on the potential of these businesses not being able to keep their doors open. What would our options be if these companies are no longer in business?

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

No members of the public present.

_____ addressed the SWAC/provided public comment.

_____ addressed the SWAC/provided public comment.

The Chair closed the public comment section of the agenda.

CLOSE MEETING

The meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

Alex Kennesson motioned to adjourn the meeting. David Artis seconded that motion.

Pierce County Solid Waste Advisory Committee

September 13, 2023, 5:30 p.m.

Zoom & TMP Conference Room 212

ITEM	APPROXIMATE DURATION	LEAD	DESCRIPTION
Call To Order	5 minutes	SWAC Chair-Lewis Griffith	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roll Call • Approve minutes from the February 8, 2023 meeting
Elections	10 minutes	Kari Ann Elling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Election for Vice-Chair • Election for Chair
Removal of SWAC member for unexcused absences	5 minutes	SWAC Chair	Vote to remove Annaliese Feld from SWAC The criteria for removal is 3 unexcused absences within 12 months or missing 50% of scheduled meetings within 12 months. Both criteria were met.
SHWMP Actions Update	15 minutes	Chris Brown Kari Ann Elling Lewis Griffith	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Cleanup 7.15.23 * <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sharing of data collected ○ Discussion on potential future cleanup locations • Waste Disposal Voucher Program ** <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Program updates • Paper Shredding Events • Tacoma program updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tidy-up Tacoma
SWAC Fall Planning	30 min	Kari Ann Elling	Potential items to be discussed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structure of SWAC meetings • Topics for fall meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Organics Management Law (HB1799) ○ Post landfill closure options ○ Equitable Outreach ○ Multi-family Recycling Access
Round Table	10 minutes	SWAC Chair	Members have an opportunity to share items of interest
Public Comments	10 minutes	SWAC Chair	Members of the public may briefly comment on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agenda topics covered in 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 piercecounitywa.gov/swac.

If the meeting is cancelled, Planning & Public Works staff will place an announcement on the SWAC website: piercecounitywa.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@piercecounitywa.gov.

SHWMP Sustainability Goal: implement economically feasible and sustainable waste management practices.

S1: Reduce waste and improve recycling effectiveness.

S2: Protect the environment and human health by reducing GHG emissions and delivering solid waste services.

S3: Make the solid and hazardous waste system more accessible and equitable for all Pierce County customers.

*Administrative Actions 6: Develop, recommend, and promote a discounted garbage rate or a more equitable community cleanup program by 2022

**Administrative Actions 7: The Pierce County PPW, Sheriffs Department, and other appropriate entities are to collaboratively develop a plan with strategies to help remove, prevent, and reduce illegal dumping and littering, and to improve current enforcement and clean-up efforts.

**Public Outreach Action 3: Engage with and invest in underrepresented and underserved communities. Partner with other public, private, and non-profit entities as appropriate to reach multicultural communities.