

## Pierce County Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC)

### MEETING SUMMARY

September 14, 2022, 5:30 – 7 p.m.

Environmental Services Building Training Room and Zoom

9850 64th St W, University Place, WA 98467 - <https://piercecountywa.zoom.us/j/92865651579>

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#### CALL TO ORDER

Meara Heubach called the September 14, 2022 SWAC meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

Committee members at ESB: Alex Kenesson, Dave Powers, Dave Stookey, El Rose, Josh Metcalf, Lewis Griffith

Committee members on Zoom: Aminah Othman, Dave Artis, Josh Christy, Ron Backman, Jessica James

Unexcused: Annaliese Feld, Ellen Knowlen

There was a quorum.

Non-voting members present: Ryan Dicks, Kevin Green, Keith Johnston

Staff present: Meara Heubach and Chris Brown for Pierce County

There were 0 members of the public and 0 outside agency staff present.

#### INTRODUCTIONS

Meara led the SWAC members through introductions with an icebreaker (“What’s in your recycle cart?”).

Cardboard, cans, and paper were the most frequent answers.

#### VOTE FOR CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Elections were held for chair and vice chair. The positions will last through March 2023.

Lewis Griffith, as longest tenured board member, held the vote for vice chair. Dave Powers volunteered and was unanimously elected.

Dave Powers, as the new vice chair, held the vote for chair. Dave nominated Lewis Griffith, who volunteered and was unanimously elected.

#### APPROVE MINUTES

Minutes for the March 16, 2022 meeting were unanimously passed after a motion from Alex and a second from Dave.

#### S&HWMP ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION 5

Meara introduced the action Administration Action 5 from the *Tacoma-Pierce County Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Plan: 2021-2040 (S&HWMP)*: “Actively recruit SWAC members to ensure broader representation, particularly from the Black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC), low-income, and other under-served communities.” She presented demographic info about Pierce County, shared draft strategies for improving SWAC recruitment, and opened up time for discussion.

Some suggestions that were discussed and agreed to follow up on were:

- Reaching out to communities (using the Health Dept’s Communities of Focus)
- Holding meetings in different communities for more visibility and participation from the public
- Advertising in the communities we want to recruit from
- Using strategies outside the box

- Making sure there is availability for written applications and resources for free WiFi (local libraries for example) as well as smart phone-compatible online applications
- Making the SWAC webpage more welcoming by focusing on member benefits and “what drew you to SWAC”, such as the opportunity to build relationships and connect with the solid waste leaders in Pierce County
- Having current SWAC members be available to speak about their experiences on SWAC to people interested in becoming members
- Telling applicants during the interview that they can leave the SWAC before their four-year commitment ends if it’s not a good fit for them
- Exploring the non-voting member positions

Dave Artis will reach out to Centro Latino and the Puyallup Tribe to share the SWAC vacancies.

### **SWAC WORKPLAN FOR 2022-2023**

Meara outlined topics for upcoming meetings and SWAC members shared the topics they would like to discuss, which include:

- Forever chemicals and the rules and regulations regarding them
- Illegal dumping and code enforcement
- Informing about Ecology’s Recycling Development Center
- Environmental justice
- Recreational cannabis waste
- Reviewing the S&HWMP on a quarterly or semi-annual basis to stay current and provide regular opportunities for feedback.

### **ROUND TABLE**

NextCycle Washington has Renew Seed grants for circular economy projects in Washington.

The Reusies awards honor leaders in the reuse movement.

There were questions about the single-use waste associated with recreational cannabis, toxics in vape pens, and whether any money from cannabis taxes goes into the waste the industry generates.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Members of the public had the opportunity to comment on SWAC related issues, but no members were present and no public comments were made.

### **CLOSE MEETING**

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.