

# GMVUAC February 12, 2018

## Meeting Minutes

### **Meeting Called to Order – 7:00 pm**

#### **Members Present:**

Steve Hiester	Hank Haynes
Peter Rimbo	Rhys Sterling
Adam Sterling	Susan Harvey
Lorraine Blacklock	Sue Neuner
Warren Iverson	Stephen Deutschman (Dutch)

#### **Members Absent:**

#### **Agenda:**

Steve: Move swearing in to before public comments.

Peter: Add 2050 Vision to committee reports.

Rhys moved to approve agenda, Peter seconded.

#### **Motion passed**

#### **New Member Swearing In:**

(New members introduced selves: Luke Hansen, LarKen Buchanan, Paul Schultz, Celia Parker)

Steve: (Administered oath)

#### **Public Comment Period:**

Larry Baumgart: I'm the president of the Maple Valley (MV) Farmers' Market Association, we changed to a community stakeholders organization board, there are 11 stakeholders, we're looking to invite someone from GMVUAC to become a member on the board, we do various activities in the community, the association is about promoting education, farming, and working with kids.

Steve: We're interested, please bring a presentation next month, on March 5.

#### **Guest Speakers:**

King County (KC) Solid Waste Comprehensive Plan Review  
Pat McLaughlin, Director of KC Solid Waste Division

Pat McLaughlin: People are fascinated with garbage, I will be talking about recycling. The comprehensive plan is a 6-20 year guidance document for the solid waste system in KC, the unincorporated area (UA), and 37 cities (not Seattle or Milton), required by state law. Milton is part of Pierce County, and Seattle transitioned to its own solid waste system. There are different components, haulers pick up garbage, recyclables go to the market place, garbage goes to transfer stations and landfills. We meet with advisory committees and do outreach to make sure we're effective in achieving our goal, the plan provides guidance, we want to waste no resources. We took in 1 million tons of garbage last year, 70% could have been recycled, recycling rates still one of the best in the nation at 52%. This presentation will be made available. We are a regional service provider, 6 urban transfer stations, 4 in the rural area, and we have 9 closed landfills. Laura Belt is a senior engineer specializing in landfill management, we still have custodial responsibility to the environment after they're closed, our 1 open landfill is in MV, we have regular meetings and tours, you can contact us for info.

Laura Belt: One tour in fall is open to the community, but we're happy to do it whenever.

Pat McLaughlin: There's an active area, but most of the 1000 acres is nature preserve essentially.

Peter: How long is your responsibility for managing the landfills?

Pat McLaughlin: It might never end, but activities simplify over time, gas collection in earlier stages, leachate control, monitoring, State Department of Ecology (DOE) has criteria for when a landfill is "stabilized," the landfill in Enumclaw is years away from that. Our comprehensive plan has 6 major chapters, but will focus on recycling & sustainable materials management and transfer & processing. Underlying themes are equity & social justice, climate protection, we take into account vulnerable populations, outreach and education includes translation and trans-creation, we consult graphic artists and cultural experts, provide info in multiple languages.

Susan: Is there a financial component to equity initiatives? Assistance? Routes?

Pat McLaughlin: In addition to understanding and access, we're working on a proposal for a low-income rate, will send to KC Executive, to make it easier to dispose of garbage in a responsible way, should be ready next year. Our other theme is climate protection, we have a responsibility to make it better, that's reflected in our practices, facility design, etc. Our goal is to be carbon neutral by 2025, taking into account driving, heavy equipment, other elements, and recycling will more than offset.

On sustainable materials, refer to us as treasure hunters, we've begun harvesting them out of trash, our goal is 70% recycling but now at 52%, among the best in the nation, but food waste is the largest category being thrown away, composting or harvesting energy from it would be a better option.

LarKen: We don't compost because we live in the woods, would like other options, but then there's an extra charge.

Pat McLaughlin: We have services available, yard waste service, etc., recycling is not free, one challenge is to make it convenient and understandable, the third ingredient is to help people understand the impact they have when recycling, cost and energy use is substantial when making virgin materials.

Peter: Is there a problem with dirty recyclables?

Pat McLaughlin: If something contaminates the resource stream, "China sword" problem, must throw out the whole pile. The real question is if everything can be made recyclable, our plan is to lay out activities, work with producers to change the materials in packaging, convince consumers to choose to buy recyclable goods, waste prevention and product stewardship, would require education, incentives, and mandates, our comprehensive plan lays out a menu of options how to raise the bar.

???: Why do you use potable water to clean recyclables? Conserve water?

Pat McLaughlin: Just making sure things are empty helps. Regarding transfer and processing, to make haul routes efficient, we have 8 total plants and drop boxes, our busiest is in Bow Lake. It's open 7 days a week, 24 hours of 5 days, located off of I-5. It doesn't look great but it's environmentally sustainable, we have rain harvesting systems, the netting is art, 1% of construction cost is dedicated to art, it has some Chihuly glass. Facilities in Houghton and Algona are the oldest, past their useful lives, one part of our plan is how to serve the northeast part of KC, maybe need to build a new facility. Our newest station is in Factoria, full access to a suite of recycling options, can compact waste there, which can reduce outbound truckloads by one third.

Warren: What about the Enumclaw plant?

Pat McLaughlin: It's not in danger of closing, it was rebuilt, has compaction services, and is here to stay. Map shows regional service areas, Enumclaw is a big area but fewer people. Disposal is the biggest decision in the comprehensive plan, we've been operating the landfill in MV since 1965, the active area will last until 2028, dependent on recycling and the economy, after that we don't know where garbage will go, even though our contracts with cities are until 2040. It's designed like a swimming pool, lined with a plumbing system to collect leachate, which is pretreated then sent to a wastewater plant, we capture all gasses, and it operates under a vacuum. We partnered with Bio Energy Washington (BEW) to transmit methane, natural gas enough to heat 19,000 homes per year, largest of this type in the nation.

Peter: The presentation has a linear graph, but does it factor in population growth? How much of the 52% of recycled materials is contaminated?

Pat McLaughlin: We have modest assumptions around recycling, taking into account population growth and implementing policies that might affect recycling, it's still relatively linear, last year it grew by 4% but some years none. Most important thing is waste prevention, contamination is a system problem, waste management discovers the contaminants, affects around 10% of the garbage, not affecting the landfill but affecting our processing partners. Should we be looking at waste generation per capita?

Hank: Graveyards in Europe, can you recycle garbage from landfills after broken down?

Pat McLaughlin: We tried landfill mining, dug up some older parts because some parts of the old landfill is not sealed, in the process we looked at pulling resources, but back in the day it was as much dirt as garbage, but now the dirt is contaminated, so it's difficult to do much. There are three options, extend life of landfill, could build another cell, which might expand life to 2040-2050. Or export waste by rail to out of KC to a landfill, that's how Seattle and Snohomish handle their trash. Or build a waste energy facility, incinerate garbage and create energy, no assumptions as to location. Financial picture, the plan will be available online, the blue line is our current disposal cost, not including transfer, outreach, etc., at \$39 per ton, it would increase to \$43 per ton with a new landfill cell. For rail car, initially \$53 per ton and it would increase to \$77, just outsourcing to another party. Waste energy plant would be more expensive, starting at \$126 per ton, but cost decreases over time, large initial capital investment, but it goes down with revenue. The graph ends in 2048, but we would need to continue adding capacity.

???: Does the county have any such facilities now?

Pat McLaughlin: No, it would be a new venture, we're experienced with landfills and waste export, but not waste energy, but some recent experience in Florida.

Rhys: Spokane also put in an incinerator.

Pat McLaughlin: It's still going, it works, it's safe, energy is not that expensive out here so it doesn't offset costs as much, could increase recycling percentage, can sort through burned trash to find metals. This also does not take into account any proposed carbon tax.

Susan: The recycling plant in Enumclaw, what is your business relationship? The proposal is to build it in the rural area.

Pat McLaughlin: we work closely with Waste Management, Republic, and Recology. They take blue carts to their own transfer facilities, sell recyclables on the open market. We ensure they have common recycling practices, cities can do different things, they hold contracts, we only have contracts in the UA, service agreements.

Alan Painter: That facility is a private company moving from Auburn.

Pat McLaughlin: They're a private business interested in operating in Enumclaw, intention of being a collection point for organic materials, not a service provider to us, they go through permitting with the Department of Permitting and Environmental Review (DPER), it's just another source of where to take organic materials.

Other chapters describe the existing system, we find great value in our partnerships with local governments and private businesses, in Cedar Grove as well. Another chapter is on forecasting, only paid when garbage comes to us, so we must live within our means. Finance, we are careful and have conservative financial policies, reserve fund to offset inflation rates. Timeline, we released our comprehensive plan for public comment in January, 60-day period, we want to hear from people, DOE is also reviewing, we will take all of the feedback to change the draft, KC Executive will submit recommendations to KC Council in summer, then need cities to adopt, and

final state approval is expected by 2019. Public comment is happening now, so please go to our website, just Google KC Solid Waste, increased social media, Facebook page, via Peak Democracy citizens can provide comments and see what others are saying. We've also held public open houses.

Rhys: We have a link to your website on ours.

???: What is the annual budget? What is your source of funding?

Pat McLaughlin: We have a budget of \$170 million, primarily from tipping fees, from scales in transfer stations, we also do bonds for capital expenditures, most of our tipping fees come to \$110 million.

LarKen: Taco Time made all of their stuff compostable, have you approached businesses? Tax breaks? Seattle recycling separates compostables.

Pat McLaughlin: Taco Time is a great example, everything is compostable. One option is to mandate recycling, but it would not be free, options are laid out in our comprehensive plan.

Peter: I want to get to 70%, mandating would be good idea, what are the other options? Education? Could save money by not doing collection every month.

Pat McLaughlin: KC Council has the authority to decide for the UA, but cities have independent authority, we're encouraging everyone to adopt a roadmap to 70%, no single action that's a homerun, except organics, one third of tonnage is going to a landfill, if people can compost or recycle that would have a big impact, some strategies would be every-other week garbage collection.

???: At Tahoma, kids learn how to recycle.

Pat McLaughlin: Tahoma school district received a green award for their efforts.

Warren: There's a model airplane club at the MV landfill.

Pat McLaughlin: There's that in Hobart, in Houghton there are little league ball fields, can build after landfills reach stability.

Hank: Who is researching ways of separating recyclables, more than 90% of materials are recovered when recycling aircraft. Do you have an R&D department?

Pat McLaughlin: We have teams looking at ways to offer up waste streams to anyone who can do better, we issue \$1 million grants to help with recycling, also 50-100 thousand for R&D on anaerobic digestion, done by private enterprises, more planned for next year.

???: Could we have a mandate for companies who create materials, incentive to change, make them pay?

Pat McLaughlin: We had some success with light bulbs, Light Recycle Washington, some efforts now working with paint, it's called product stewardship, asking producers to take ownership over the lifecycle of their products, it takes some work, carpeting is also in the works, it's complicated, involving regional solutions. We're likely to see paint stewardship in the next few years, would benefit the whole region.

???: Have you studied working waste energy plants across the nation? What is the most durable type?

Pat McLaughlin: We hired a consultant firm, they solicited the international perspective, technology has advanced, waste energy plants do work, they're expensive to set up but have a long life, maintenance costs are factored into

the graph, one thing is capacity, might need to build more later, that's true for transfer stations as well.

Susan: You have grants to cities, but what about rural areas? Does more affluence bring more waste?

Pat McLaughlin: We direct funds to benefit the UA, we host recycling events for the UA, cities do those too. No data on connection between wealth and garbage.

Celia: Low-income areas have bad garbage management too.

Pat McLaughlin: Multi-family facilities were not designed for recycling, those are harder to change.

Steve: You mentioned recycling events, will there be any more of them? There's an occasional one in Rock Creek, but not very frequent.

Pat McLaughlin: We do, your suggestion is noted.

???: For the menu of choices, what about infrastructure improvement?

Pat McLaughlin: For example, the Algona plant has zero recycling opportunity, no infrastructure to host recycling at all, we will be replacing the third business station, will add that ability and resource recovery. Please participate in surveys, thanks for recycling.

### **Council Business: 8:20**

#### **PSRC Regional Transportation Plan:**

Susan: The Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) recently published their Vision 2040, the council responded in a joint transportation initiative (JTI), had to do it quickly, met twice, submitted a 17-page response to Kelly McGourty senior program manager, heard it was well received and met the necessary detail. PSRC provides policy to KC and the four-county area. Our letter was sent on January 31, only got Executive Committee approval, signed by the four chairs of the Unincorporated Area Councils (UACs) in our JTI, the PSRC board will meet on March 8, review public responses, make changes in April, and the final document will be released at the end of May. Everything is on our website.

Peter: Our letter was pre-approved last month.

#### **PSRC Economic Development Board:**

Steve: The Executive Committee voted to approve a reply letter, any motion to rescind? (None) Any updates on the meeting?

Hank: I briefly with Terry Ryan (PSRC Economic Development Board Chair), a former real-estate agent, also talked to Josh Brown (PSRC Executive Director), Peter has notes on the PSRC focus, I will be going in May 5 for the next meeting, hopefully with a presentation or comment reflecting our mission statement, keeping rural areas economically viable, urban areas not conflicting with our values.

Peter: We found out the application we submitted for a board position was rejected, the PSRC selected six others not from the rural area, part of our comments

offered an addition to their bylaws to look at more diverse geography of representation, one new member resigned at the meeting, so in theory a board position has opened up, we are asking for approval to contact the president to once again offer our application.

Steve: What is the process for rejection? Did we just not get selected?

Hank: I was told to reapply in the future.

Susan: One reason they hesitated was we're not seen as a unified entity?

Alan Painter: The council need not be on the board, it's not a formally elected group, but that's not necessary for the advisory committee.

Peter: We applied for a board position not committee, we tried to explain.

Hank: I emphasized in our letter, there are economic clusters not represented on the board, farmers, mines, etc., separate from cities, no one there is representing small businesses at all now.

Peter: We covered what we needed to on our speech, Hank presented it well, what we're suggesting now is to submit a letter to the new president of the board, have Hank draft a letter, the Executive Committee can vote on it, the next meeting is May 5.

Steve: Any info on how it'll be filled?

Hank: We don't know.

Steve: Make a phone call, find out their plans to fill any open positions.

Peter: Then draft a letter, we can review and submit it.

Rhys/Steve: (Explaining to attendees what PSRC is)

???: Who else was rejected?

Warren: There's never been anyone from the rural area on PSRC.

Peter: We have no idea who else applied and who was not accepted.

Susan: Somewhat political statement, but we're what you've got. There is Reagan Dunn on KC Council, but we are the only other means of support for UA, although no legal force.

???: Why is GMVUAC interested in a board position on PSRC?

Hank: Possibly to make policy influence, encourage partners in the regional economic strategy (RES).

Rhys: (Explaining what council positions are available, what the committees do)

Warren: We've had a great relationship with the KC Executive, HB 2420 passed with a strong preference for repairing septic systems over replacements, would do away with easements, passed the House 96-1.

### **Committee Reports:**

#### **Growth Management:** Peter Rimbo

Peter: PSRC's Vision 2050 will replace 2040, about sustainable growth in the four-county region, 1.8 million residents by 2050, most will be in KC, been put out in scoping document, it's a multi-year, high-level policy document, I suggest the four major committee chairs work on this first, will be released on March 19. I sent out draft comments, we can review at our next meeting on March 5,

first of many steps. The document is only 10 pages long, tonight we heard about their plan, comments are due March 8, do we want to submit comments? Also solid waste and environment have plans. PSRC is putting out a draft open space plan, also due in a month, also dealing with environment. Do we want to address those plans?

Steve: Which is a priority?

Peter: Both are, but haven't read them yet.

Rhys: It falls under environment, so is anyone else interested in joining the Environmental Committee?

Peter: I also sent out a Growth Management report, will put it on our website, found out from Ivan Miller at KC Executive that DPER and the Executive agreed to draft a new KC code on NB (neighborhood business) zones, KC agreed we found a fatal flaw not differentiating in density between rural and urban areas, DPER will be drafting it in the next few weeks, it will be sent to KC Council in spring. This is a victory, we found out about it from the proposed town houses in the Cedar Grove Road area, although they're vested.

Susan: Normally we don't win that easily. Ivan is willing to listen.

PR/Bylaws: Rhys Sterling

Rhys: We met, sent out a summary, the first two pages is a report, the third page is our service area map, we need to resolve problems with our community areas, we have four but there's a surplus of people in Hobart and River Heights, with 16 members we should have four representatives each, but not everyone is living in each area, although we all represent the whole area. One thing we need to decide is where to assign each member.

Steve: Maybe another meeting is in order?

Rhys: I also circled some areas, will need to figure out how to join these together, originally lines were drawn by voting precinct and equivalent population because we used to be a government organization under KC Code, but that was discontinued in 2011, now just a UAC, but still have the same service area, UA in the Tahoma school district. We're also looking at maybe expanding and changing our charter, just food for thought, also need to decide other stuff. Page 4 is a primer on what we do, page 5 is our focal point/committee matrix, we have five officers, we sometimes meet, focal points are in the middle, the next page explains the Executive Committee and focal points, they go to meetings and report back to the full council any interesting info. The last page is an explanation of our committees. Just an overview, not doing anything tonight, just who we are and what we do, where we need help, we can change committees, I also want to post member biographies.

Steve: Every member must be on one of four major committees, think about it, will look at this more next meeting.

Peter: Do any new members know what they want to do?

Steve: Would like to get two for Economics, one for other.

Paul: I'm interested in Environment and Growth Management.



Celia: Environment.

Luke: Economics?

Larkin: Environment, can also help on Economics, but wouldn't know what I'm doing.

Peter: We also serve on several committees, as we fill up roster we might see people move off.

Lorraine: There are also times where everyone joins in to help one committee.

Peter: Also any member of the public can go to a committee meeting even if not a member, almost all meetings are at the Hobart Community Church at 7:00 on weeknights, usually not on Mondays, just down the block from Warren's store. We also have Community Service Area (CSA) meetings.

Rhys: All info is on our website, Peter and I are managing it, looking for people to get familiar with the website, our general e-mail address is also on the website.

???: Is there a standard schedule for committee meetings? How does the public find out?

Peter: No way to find out now, but we will e-mail.

Lorraine: If committee chairs e-mail me, I can send out notices via our MailChimp newsletter.

Ellie Hooman: I would like to be contacted about the Environment Committee.

???: I'm also interested in Environment, but what is the septic stuff? Where does that fall? Also, I'm not in Tahoma.

Peter: Environment.

Rhys: We're looking at revising our boundaries.

Peter: If you're interested in committees, you can go to meetings, some have members from other UACs.

Rhys: Also, Linda created laminated posters for the PR Committee, if anyone wants to take some and put them up in a local store, let me know if you want one.

Warren: Last week the fire department contacted me after we already rescheduled our meeting room. I went to the fire department meeting last Wednesday, they had three presentations, about a working consortium with neighboring groups, next Thursday they will have a public meeting here at 6:00, planning to see what recommendations there are, if a consortium with Eastside is formed, they have volunteers, other areas such as Kent do not allow volunteers, not as much experience in rural areas, Issaquah is more knowledgeable about rural areas, not sure if anything is happening yet. HB 2420, I wanted to propose a motion to have our Executive Committee endorse the bill in the Senate, doing away with monitoring of septic tanks, easements, allowing repairs instead of replacement. Move to have Executive Committee take action.

Warren moved to allow the Executive Committee to submit comments in support of HB 2420, Hank seconded.

**Motion passed**

Warren: COOMWA also contacted me.

Rhys: We're tracking that and the Hirst decision in the Environmental Committee.

Warren: Alan also had some announcements?

Alan Painter: Regarding government oversight, we're holding a briefing tomorrow about the proposed Local Services Department, would consist of DPER, Roads, the CSA program (that I'm a part of), also the airport, and part of the environmental services division of Public Health dealing with septic systems. Our goal is to send an ordinance to KC Council, would be implemented through the budget, would be in 2019 if approved. We also have a proposal to have Metro as its own department, pulled out of Transportation. Another part of our proposal would be to have contacts with corresponding local services from other parts of KC, Sheriff, etc., provide info about the level of services provided to KC. Would like next month to get more comments, Fred Garrett was here a few months ago, KC Executive accepted his report, putting together talking points and questions, looking to find what would be more helpful for rural residences.

Susan: Would you be getting rid of the silos?

Alan Painter: Yes, also attempting to get a higher profile, Harold Taniguchi was tasked with putting the department together over the next 10 months, proposal was to create it at the department level, so the head would be a part of the Executive's cabinet, would bring a higher profile to the 247,000 people living in urban and rural unincorporated KC.

Peter: Will someone be giving a presentation?

Alan Painter: It will take a little bit of time, March or April would work.

Rhys: Keep in touch with me, April sounds better.

Warren: What is the budget process?

Alan Painter: The Executive is putting together the budget now, will submit it before Thanksgiving, April is better than May, will work with Rhys.

Peter: Is Jim Chan still the director of DPER? Will that change?

Alan Painter: Yes, stay tuned.

Transportation: Susan Harvey

Susan: In Hobart, you might have noticed the electronic sign saying what speed cars are going, we did that, we get little victories from working with Roads.

Warren: I've gotten requests.

Susan: We have to work with government agencies, they control the roads, but we've omitted a key player and I would like to make contact with Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), our Transportation Committee will be trying to incorporate them into what we do. In September we got notice of the Issaquah study on the Front Street and Issaquah-Hobart Road corridor, going from SR-18 north to Issaquah, but we live south of SR-18 so we're feeling left out, they're looking at how to alleviate congestion on 8.2 miles of road, but it's a cumulative effect, 2.3 miles is in the city, while 5.9 miles is in the county, they will use the study to develop localized improvements. The study has been completed as far as

data collection, we don't know the results, I will contact project managers to get a sense of the results, try to get someone to come talk to us. Cumulative effect would include up to Black Diamond, the study is worthless without all of that. I called today, but we need to work with cities. One other thing, I heard from Parks about the trucks going by Ravensdale Post Office by the park, Parks has indicated they will work with us, promised get rid of trucks by the end of the year, we'll give assistance, Parks and DPER are on our side. The trucks are going to Reserve Silica, off the Kent-Kangley Road, 18-wheelers driving by Ravensdale park is dangerous, so the proposal is to have them continue down SR-169, then come north on the Black Diamond/Ravensdale portion.

Peter: Regarding the asphalt plant, tomorrow we expect KC Executive to give its recommendation on zoning related to the plant, it's the end of its 3-month study, we will try to monitor and put it on our website, we're hoping the Executive will recommend a rezone.

Train Show: Steve Hiester

Steve: Our Train Show grant was approved.

Chair adjourned.

**Meeting Adjourned - 9:32 pm**