

GREATER MAPLE VALLEY UNINCORPORATED AREA COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING – DECEMBER 2, 2019

The monthly regular meeting of the GMVUAC held at the Maple Valley Fire Station was called to order by Chair Hiester at approximately 7:00 PM on Monday, December 2, 2019.

Roll Call: Present: Hiester, Neuner, Rimbos, Harvey, Sterling, Hansen, Buchanan, Iverson, Haynes, and McDonald.

Absent, But with Designated Proxy: Blacklock (proxy to Sterling)

Absent: N/A

Note that the Council acknowledged and accepted the resignation of Rhys Sterling and Lorraine Blacklock effective 12/31/2019. A 'thank you' to Rhys and Lorraine for their service is noted for the record.

Logistics Note – N/A

Agenda Items

No changes. M (approve) - Rhys S - Iverson Approved - Unanimous

Public Comments

Val Paganelli (TSD Board Member) gave a brief update on new TSD board members Peter Miller and Malia Hollowell as well as a status update on interim Superintendent Mike Maryanski and how they will find a permanent Superintendent.

She also listed some accomplishments of various Tahoma High School sports teams.

Rick Hess (Manager of Inspection- Puget Sound Clean Air Agency)

By Rimbos:

"Rick Hess, PSCAA Inspection Manager stated that the PSCAA is a special-purpose four-county regional agency established by the State in 1967. Its vision is for "everyone, everywhere to breathe

clean, healthy air all the time – regardless of whom they are or where they live. In addition to reducing air pollution overall, we also focus on equity, so nobody is more at risk because of where they live or their socioeconomic status. No community in our region should bear disproportionate burdens and exposure from air pollution. To be relevant and serve all people in our four counties, we reach out and listen to community concerns and make room to work with issues new to us. Our commitment to equity and environmental justice means taking the time to build and invest in relationships with a range of constituents, from partner institutions to academic and grassroots organizations.”

Mr. Hess described air inspections at the Cedar Hills Landfill—a Title 5 facility under Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guidelines as established under the Federal Clean Air Act, which requires major sources of air pollutants to obtain and operate in compliance with a Title V Operating Permit.

The PSCAA ensures the conditions of such permits are followed.

Mr. Hess described how the Cedar Hills Landfill self monitors its emissions including methane.

The Air Permit requires best available control equipment. PSCAA ensures permit requirements are met and violators fined and can be subject to criminal prosecution. PSCAA acts as Federal representatives for the EPA and State representatives for the Department of Ecology (DOE). There are Federal rules that must be met, especially when it comes to toxic emissions. PSCAA looks at temperature and gas concentration logs.”

Rick Hess took questions from GMVUAC and the public:

Q- How are inspections done (at Cedar Hills Landfill)?

A- By ensuring equipment is installed per permit and state law (best available control). Looking to see “90% flare destruction efficiency” (temperature logs, gas logs, 500ppm methane, 1% hydrogen sulfide).

Q- What can be done with the methane?

A- Bio Energy of Washington, collects, cleans and sends to pipeline.

Q- Do you measure gas in the area around the landfill?

A- Puget Sound Clean Air Agency does not measure outside the landfill.

Q- Do you monitor the old Hobart landfill?

A- Since the landfill is closed there may be a permit which would require the operator to monitor the landfill.

Q- How do we (public) report complaints?

A- Call or email the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency.

Q- Do they monitor open pits/ are there any regulations?

A- No answer, Rick stated he would have to get back to GMVUAC with an answer.

Q- Who do you report to?

A- Depends on which regulations Puget Sound Clean Air Agency is looking at, it could be Federal or State.

Q- How do you enforce/ can you revoke a permit?

A- Puget Sound Clean Air Agency cannot revoke a permit, but can issue tickets and fines.

Q- Where does Puget Sound Clean Air Agency's budget come from?

A- Some of it comes from Puget Sound Clean Air Agency billing cities based on their population, there are also fees that landfills have to pay.

Dane Scarimbolo (Four Horsemen Brewery) gave a brief update on the proposed ABO.

Guest Speaker

7:32 PM Richard Honour, PHD (a confessed alarmist), was to discuss the health issues of Cedar Hills Landfill.

By Rimbos:

“Cedar Hills Landfill Proposed Expansion

Dr. Richard C. Honour is a founder and principal of Save Our Soil (<https://saveoursoil.us>) and The Precautionary Group (TPG), which are environmental organizations dedicated to ending land disposal of toxic sewage sludge. Dr. Honour has a BS in Biology from San Diego State University and a PhD in Plant Pathology/Soil Microbiology from UC-Riverside.

Dr. Honour discussed his work which emphasizes sampling, analysis, and documenting adverse environmental impacts of Land-Disposed Toxic Sewage Sludge in western Washington, as well central Washington agricultural regions. His focus has been on the presence, concentration, and impacts of

many toxic chemicals, including PFAs, Dioxins/Furans, PCBs, Polybrominated Diphenyl Ether (PBDE) Flame Retardants, as well as several toxic Metals.

Dr. Honour also has investigated volatile toxic gasses generated and released into the environment by the Land-Disposal of Toxic Sewage Sludges. These volatile gasses contribute directly to air pollution, including the emission of identified Greenhouse Gasses (GHGs).

Land-Disposed Toxic Sewage Sludge is proving to be a major contributing source of toxic volatile GHG chemicals, i.e., toxic volatile chemicals of the Toxic Sewage Sludge Volatilome. His test results reveal high levels of carcinogenic and neurotoxic volatile chemicals in Land-Disposed Sludges. Dr. Honour seeks the abolition of land-disposed toxic waste such as non-recyclable plastics; toxic sewage sludges; municipal solid waste; and industrial waste.

Solutions presented by Dr. Honour include both green-waste solutions and thermal decomposition of solid wastes by clean and green Waste-to Energy (WTE) solutions. He provided examples from Spokane where they prioritized the waste stream cycle: 1. reduce, 2. recycle, 3. WTE, 4. Landfill (restricted to drywall glass and other non-hazardous or less hazardous waste). Spokane reduced its waste products, generated energy from landfills, and created byproducts such as valuable ash—all through the thermal decomposition of solid wastes. Such thermal decomposition facilities use extremely high heat to break down substances to their basic chemical compositions.

Unfortunately, much of what we recycle really isn't recyclable anymore due to reduced markets and mixed products that aren't just paper or just plastic. Dr. Honour also stated that the problem is growing, since 62% of America's GDP is consumption—which increases our waste streams. This percentage keeps increasing (i.e., grows faster than the GDP).

Dr. Honour also emphasized the externalities associated with decision making. Concluding that it is less costly to fix pollution today than to pay for the future Public Health consequences, but these latter costs are seldom considered when making discussions, especially on landfilling and toxic sewage sludge. He stated the savings in health care costs alone would pay for it all.

He also discussed King County's actions or inactions in this area. Currently, King County toxic sludge (Persistent Organic Pollutants; Chemical of Emerging Concerns; Persistent, Bio accumulative Toxics) from our municipal sewage plants is trucked to Eastern Washington--6,800 double dump trucks (170,000 tons) per year. However, King County and the State do not test for the most critical

pollutants. Dr. Honour indicated they need to test for Dioxins/Furans, PCBs, PDBEs, and PFAs, plus a large percentage of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) which contribute to GHG emissions. Concerned members of the Public can contact the Area Council at: info@gmvuac.org to connect with the Environment Committee on these issues.”

1. King County Comprehensive Plan- Docket request (9:00 PM)

Rimbos gave a brief recount of the two docket items GMVUAC would like to submit to King County for consideration in the 2020 King County Comprehensive Plan cycle.

1. Site- Specific Rezones:

Request: The KC Code should be amended so that any “site-specific land use amendment coupled with zone reclassification” cannot be reviewed and considered as part of the annual KCCP Docket Item process (or, for that matter, any other KCCP update process). Such site-specific applications must go through the Type 4 permit review process before the Hearing Examiner. Moreover, the Code amendment must expressly provide that such site-specific proposals cannot be added as a last-minute amendment made by the King County Council during its consideration of a KCCP Update

2. King County Council response to King County Comprehensive plan public comments:

Request: KC Council to prepare and publish responses to Public Comments it receives on the KC Executive’s proposed KCCP Update.

Motion to adopt and submit both Docket requests to king county:

M (approve) - Rhys S - Hendricks Approved - Unanimous

2. King County Council Hearing on ABO on 12/4/2019

Rimbos briefly reviewed planned oral comment to be presented by Nancy Merrill that the ABO should be rejected by the King County Council.

4. Committee Reports (9:00 PM)

Sterling reported for the Public Relations committee that as of 1/1/2020 the GMVUAC will be down to just 9 members.

5. Minutes of Prior Council Meetings

Meeting Minutes for November 4 regular meeting and November 18 special meeting were presented for approval:

M (Approve) - Sterling S - Rimbos Approved (Unanimous)

9:15 PM Council went into Executive Session at this time; public was excused.

Chair Hiester Adjourned the Meeting at approximately 9:35 PM.

Minutes by Hansen.

***** NOTE – FOLLOWING IS CONFIDENTIAL FOR COUNCIL MEMBERS ONLY AND IS NOT FOR PUBLICATION*****

9:15 PM Council Executive Session

1. Hiester expressed concern with the need to follow the Regular Meeting Agenda. Running over on time during public comments and guess speakers does not allow the council enough time to conduct business during the council business, committee reports, or executive council portions of the meeting. All agreed to support Hiester when he tries to keep the meeting on point and on time. At this time there is no need to implement a timekeeper position, just need to “stick to the agenda”.
2. Council vacancies were discussed, of which we at this time have 4 vacant positions. With Sterling and Blacklock resigning at the end of the year there may be 6 vacancies by 1/1/2020. The possibility of expanding GMVUAC boundaries was discussed.
3. Hiester addressed the need from our bylaws to form a “committee” to nominate Executive Committee members. Sterling will serve as the nominating committee.
4. Sterling stated that the Executive Committee needed to meet, Hansen was invited since he is now the Recording Secretary. Executive Committee meeting tentatively called for December 11 at 7 PM at the Hobart Community Church.

9:35 PM Executive Session concluded and meeting adjourned.