Solid Waste Advisory Committee 6-4-09 MEETING

A regular meeting of the Pend Oreille County Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) was held on June 4, 2009 at the Commissioner's meeting room in the old County Courthouse building in Newport, WA.

The sign up sheet was passed around. Bob Nichols, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:10pm.

The meeting began with introductions of the 15 people present: 1) Dennis McLaughlin, Rabanco; 2) Ron Curren, Public Works Director; 3) Beth Gillespie, SW Coordinator; 4) Sheila Pachernegg, Consultant; 5) Roberta Rene Wehring, Citizen (works in County Mailroom); 6) Cindy Low, Excess Disposal; 7) Travis Low, Excess Disposal; 8) Rose Low, Excess Disposal; 9) Terri Ann Hedke, Citizen (works in County Building & Planning); 10) Harley Seger, County HHW/Recycling; 11) Bob Nichols, B&N Sanitary; 12) Scott Campbell, Ponderay Newspaper; 13) Jim Wavada, Department of Ecology; 14) Nancy Thompson, citizen (works at PUD); 15) Don Olson, citizen.

Six SWAC voting members were absent this month: Bob Spencer, Cusick Mayor; Charles Kress, citizen, Tara Leininger, Metaline Falls Mayor; Dave Alvarado, Northwest Industries; Kathy Grass, Selkirk Community Health Center; and Don Hutson, Kalispel Tribe.

A count of voting members present was 5 (Dennis, Cindy, Travis, Bob, and Scott) with six absent; so no quorum. Discussion about changing the SWAC By-Laws to maybe allow absent voting members to give a proxy to another voting member if they can't attend a meeting was discussed.

Bob said since no quorum, approval of the May 7th minutes would be tabled until next month.

Old Business: POVA & rail shipments—Dennis McLaughlin explained what his discussions with Kelly Driver were and said for Pend Oreille County to haul trash all by rail to the landfill is not feasible. Rail needs large volume, long distances and heavy frequency to make it cost effective. The County doesn't have any of these.

Pend Oreille County Flow Ordinance—due to the fact we had no quorum, a vote to adopt the Flow Ordinance was not taken. Some discussion followed regarding “Is restaurant vegetable oil moderate risk waste (MRW) or a recyclable when a company picks it up?” Jim Wavada explained that vegetable oil is considered more of a “special waste” and yes, in Spokane, Harbor Fuel does recycle the used oil by blending it with other fuel. Jim also said the County is not required to regulate MRW but to provide information and ways how to handle it. The County can help a business comply with the laws but it is the responsibility of the business to comply.

Bob then asked for discussion on Sections 5-6 of the Plan. On page 50 Section 6.2.1 Biosolids it was mentioned to add the word “municipal” to wastewater to differentiate it from industrial wastewater. In Section 6.2.2 Biomedical Waste it was mentioned that specific business names shouldn’t be used but rather the type of business. Also, on page 50 Section 6.2.3 Asbestos – add that the County helps in educating contractors what loads need to be tested for asbestos. On page 51 it was mentioned that Section 6.2.6 Auto Hulks paragraph needs to be removed completely. It was suggested to add auto “fluff” (the soft things like cushions, carpet, etc.) and auto hulks to the County recyclable list so perhaps a one day event in the future could be held to collect and recycle them. Someone asked if you need a permit to demolish a building. No.

New business: Jim announced a Department of Recycling Summit on Thursday, June 25th in Moses Lake at Big Bend College from 10 am to 3pm. The agenda will be mailed out. Don Olson mentioned he had visited Stevens County to see how they do recycling. He explained they use a private company and do quite well as Stevens County has a landfill so their incentive to recycle is high in order to prolong the use of the landfill. It was said that we really need to get people to “pay as they throw” whether it’s in the trash or into recycle bins because recycling is not “free”; many costs are associated with it. Someone said that certification and a permit are needed to transport recyclables in the state. Is there a service level ordinance for recycling here? No.

Next SWAC meeting in July is the second Thursday or July 9, 2009 in the Commissioner’s meeting room at the old County Courthouse in Newport (625 4th Street, Scott & 4th) from 3 to 5pm. Sheila handed out copies of the ALTERNATIVES pages from each Section of the Plan for us to review.

Meeting adjourned at about 4:52pm.

Approved by SWAC as is on 7-9-09.