



Management Coordination Committee (MCC)

MEETING MINUTES

February 20, 2024

ATTENDANCE

MCC Members:

- Susan Fife-Ferris, SPU, MCC Chair
- Dylan Orr, PH SKC
- Ashley Evans, KC WLRD—alternate for Josh Baldi, KC WLRD
- Kim-Khánh Văn, SCA, Renton Councilmember
- Marin Burnett, KC DNRP

Other Attendees:

Alice Chapman, KC WLRD	Kathy Thompson, KC WLRD	Minty LongEarth, PH SKC
Amanda Miller, KC WLRD	Katie Fellows, PH SKC	Mohamed Ali, PH SKC
Andi Parnell, SCA	Kristin Pace, KC WLRD	Pam Johnson,
Andy Smith, KC SWD	Lakshmi Panikkar, KC WLRD	Ryan Cunningham, KC WLRD
Celina Kareiva, KC WLRD	Linda Van Hooser, PH SKC	Ryan Kellogg, PH SKC
Dave Ward, KC WLRD	Madelaine Yun, KC WLRD	Tracee Mayfield, PH SKC
Emmanuel Rivera, KC WLRD	Maythia Airhart, KC WLRD	Trevor Peckham, KC WLRD
Enrique Gonzalez, KC WLRD	Michell Mouton, KC WLRD	

GENERAL BUSINESS

Introductions

- Pam Johnson, Seattle Public Utilities (SPU), as a new member of our Policy and Planning Team and Susan Fife-Ferris' new liaison.
- Dylan Orr, Division Director, Public Health Environmental Health Services Division - Seattle & King County (PH SKC), and the PH SKC liaison, Linda Van Hooser.
- Ashley Evans, Project/Program Manager IV, King County Water and Land Resources Division (WLRD), as alternate for Josh Baldi, and WLRD liaison, Kristin Pace.
- Councilmember Kim-Khánh Văn, Renton, Sound Cities Association (SCA), and her liaison, Andi Parnell.
- Marin Burnett, Chief Administrative Officer, Department of Natural Resources & Parks (DNRP), and her liaison, Andy Smith.

Announcements

- Maythia Airhart, Program Director, informed new MCC members that meetings are recorded, and they can contact her or Amanda Miller for access.

- Susan Fife-Ferris announced the MCC Board will return to the pre-Covid meeting structure in March. Non-MCC members will have their microphone, camera, and chat option disabled but will be able to listen in on the conversation. MCC meeting invites will only be sent to MCC members, liaisons, and agenda presenters. MCC members can forward invites to guests from their agency or team.
- Due to business commitments, Susan Fife-Ferris will be absent from the March meeting, and Dylan Orr will chair the session.

MCC Meeting Minutes

MCC reviewed the January 19, 2023, minutes and requested revisions to include Mo McBroom in the attendance and the MCC questions regarding the Program's Decision Memo on plastic and operating domain before approval. These minutes will be modified and submitted for review and approval again next month.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

MCC Officer Elections

Susan Fife-Ferris, SPU, volunteered to continue as Chair for another year due to board transitions. Dylan Orr, Division Director, Public Health Environmental Health Services Division, was nominated for Vice Chair. Despite an invitation for other nominations, no additional names were put forward. A vote resulted in Susan being re-elected as Chair and Dylan as Vice Chair.

Plastics Decision Memo Follow-Up

Policy and Planning Manager, Dave Ward, gave a follow-up presentation focusing on questions raised at the January meeting regarding the Plastics Decision Memo. He stressed that the Program did not initiate this memo based on the WRAP Act, but instead it was initiated because of our operating domain. Based on the operating domain as defined by code, the Program has not been actively engaged in the plastics realm. Plastics, in and of themselves, are not hazardous, though they do carry toxic materials. The intent of the decision memo is to not shift our work or reallocate resources, but to have a written record of our decision that supports future work in plastics. Susan stated that having the Decision Memo tailored to the WRAP Act is not needed at this time, as it did not make it out of its house of origin, and it will now move into next year.

Given the lack of clarity and additional questions on the Plastics Decision Memo, MCC asked that the Program provide an overview of the Program's operating domain as part of the follow up conversation. Susan requested that any decisions to follow up with the PAO should reflect shared questions by MCC members and that the Program should not go to the PAO before MCC members have further discussions on domain and identify questions needing legal advice (if needed). Maythia offered to include this topic as one of the agenda items in the Executive Session.

Q4 Performance Report

Performance Manager, Kristin Pace, covered two topics in her Q4 Performance Report presentation: (1) a reminder of results-based accountability metrics that the Program is working towards reporting in the quarterly report and (2) a few highlights in how we are improving our performance management. Results-based accountability is looking at two levels of work—population accountability (what is happening in our region) and performance accountability (what is happening as a result of our work). She provided a reminder of what the Program's performance measures are, where they are appearing in the quarterly report, and where you can expect to see them in the annual report. For performance measure, the Program is looking at the people served and our reach, the quality of our work and investments, and both the internal and external direct impact of our work/outcomes.

Kristin walked the MCC through the Q4 dashboard in SharePoint and presented some highlights, including the new maps showing collections customers and customers receiving direct services. Disposal costs was one risk

that was highlighted. King County SWD has reached an agreement with Clean Earth for the cost increases related to disposal. Disposal costs will continue to increase and will have a long-term impact on collections costs in the future. The Program knows that contractor costs will go up, and we will need to keep this in mind, as we have to bid for a new collection contract in a couple years. As this develops, the Program will need MCC support.

Long-Term Planning Priorities and Actions

Maythia explained that long-term planning was discussed among line of business managers and MCC members in two workshops to determine ideas for future investments. The Program has not had a rate increase since 2023. The long-term priorities and what we want to invest in will inform the rate planning for 2026-2029. Six themes that emerged from the planning process were shared: (1) ensuring fidelity to the Management Plan; (2) prioritizing upstream approaches; (3) the future of collections – facilities, EPR for all HHW, PFAS; (4) cultivating strategic relationships – influencing our operating environment; (5) clarity/enhancement of community partnership approaches; and (6) balancing county-wide reach, equity in service delivery, and measurable impact. Our analysis of these themes and the work activities behind them suggest that the first four priorities are already in progress at various stages of work. Additional assessment and analysis are needed for #5 and #6. The Program intends to address both how these priorities will inform future rate planning and how to draw down the local Hazardous Waste fund balance in its three-year action plan. In April, the planning team will share with MCC its three-year action plan for the long-term priorities.

Dave presented two fund balance scenarios: (1) fund balance assuming theoretical status quo rate of spending through 2029; and (2) fund balance assuming additional costs above status quo and no rate increase. He stressed that our labor, non-labor, and contracting costs to handle the items we collect are all increasing. Based on this, the Program is looking at a March date to decide if we will do a rate increase. Recent news from legal may impact our rate planning conversation. The Program received an opinion from County legal that resources in a special revenue fund may not be used, by code, to pay for capital projects and debt service. Maythia will include this topic in the upcoming MCC executive session.

PFAS Interstate Coordination Work Plan

Dave gave a heads-up that the policy and research teams have been working extensively on PFAS strategy over the past year. They are developing a work plan to stimulate interstate coordination to develop common infrastructure to support PFAS regulation. Several states have either passed broad regulations banning PFAS or are converging on similar regulatory approaches. We hope that by collaborating to develop the massive infrastructure needed, we can share the cost burden across states and set a foundation for future regulatory approaches.

Environmental Scientist, Trevor Peckham, noted that, as our King County-wide PFAS strategy was being developed and as we are thinking of upstream policies, we realized that this body of work will not only be beneficial in Washington State but will help other states implement similar policy approaches. Many states are trying to implement policy, so our goal is to organize at interstate level to develop an infrastructure to prevent duplication of work and to provide consistency in regulation. Dave added this approach could easily go a long way to relieving the cost and workload for a broad ban in the state of Washington.

Dylan Orr asked if this strategy and approach will be shared with the King County PFAS leadership and work group. Maythia responded that, as part of Program process, we needed to share this with the MCC first and to answer any questions or concerns that our board may have. If there are no concerns with MCC members, Trevor and Dave will bring it to the King County PFAS leadership and work group. No further questions or concerns were shared by MCC members.

UPDATES

Director's Report and Look-Ahead Calendar

Maythia gave quick Director Report highlights, due to time constraints, and requested that MCC members review the Director's Report for more information. Susan also encourage MCC members to review the Look-Ahead Calendar in their packet, since there was not time to review it during the meeting.

Next Meeting: March 19, 2024, 10 a.m. – 12 noon, Zoom teleconference