



SCA Public Issues Committee MINUTES

November 13, 2019 – 7:00 PM
Renton City Hall
1055 S Grady Way, Renton WA 98057

1. Welcome and Roll Call

PIC Chair Council President Ed Prince, Renton, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. 27 cities had representation ([Attachment A](#)). Guests present included Erin Stout, Black Diamond councilmember; Kent Treen, Sammamish councilmember-elect; Diana Hart, Woodinville staff; Shannon Braddock, King County staff; Doug Levy, Renton consultant; Lyman Howard, Clyde Hill staff; Bill Vadino, Federal Way staff; Philipp Schmidt-Pathmann, Newcastle resident; Hannah Smith, Seattle staff; Erin Arya, King County staff; Joyce Nichols, Bellevue staff; Susan Oxholm, King County staff.

2. Public Comment

Chair Prince asked if any member of the public would like to provide public comment. Newcastle resident Philipp Schmidt-Pathmann provided public comment relating to landfilling of solid waste. He said that it is critical to stop landfilling waste for environmental and economic reasons and that the region needs to evaluate an integrated waste management system. He provided a letter to the PIC with his comments ([Attachment B](#)).

3. Approval of the October 9, 2019 PIC Minutes

Chair Prince asked if there were any amendments to the October 9, 2019 PIC minutes. **Councilmember Hank Margeson, Redmond, moved, seconded by Councilmember Ross Loudenback, North Bend, to approve the October 9, 2019 minutes. The motion passed unanimously.**

4. Chair's Report

Chair Prince said that his report consisted of comments that he would provide under agenda item 6.

5. Executive Director's Report

SCA Executive Director Deanna Dawson noted that PIC members Hank Margeson, Redmond, and Catherine Stanford, Lake Forest Park, as well as former PIC Chair Marlla Mhoon, Covington, were among those members who were unsuccessful in their reelection bids. PIC members thanked those members for their service. Dawson noted that nominations for 2020 board and committee appointments were closing. She reminded members of the SCA Annual Meeting, to be held on December 4, 2019. She offered to come visit city councils in 2020 to introduce new members to SCA.

6. Proposed King County Regional Homelessness Authority

SCA Executive Director Deanna Dawson provided a report to the PIC. She noted that the Regional Policy Committee (RPC) may be taking a vote on the proposed Regional Homelessness Authority in the coming weeks. Councilmember John Stokes, Bellevue, who serves as Vice Chair of the RPC, stated that RPC Chair Pete Von Reichbauer had indicated that a Special Meeting of the RPC would be held on December 2, 2019.

Dawson noted that two new proposals to amend the proposed Regional Homelessness Authority legislation had been introduced. The first, a proposed striker amendment from County Councilmember Jeanne Kohl-Welles, had been introduced and sent to PIC members earlier in the week. The second, an “alternative concept” prepared by County Council Chair Rod Dembowski, had been provided to PIC members earlier in the day. Dawson provided members with three handouts on the two proposals:

- County [Councilmember Kohl-Welles's conceptual striker](#);
- [Councilmember Dembowski's alternative concept](#); and
- A [graphic](#) describing the Dembowski alternative concept

Dawson walked members through the two proposals.

Dawson noted that the PIC materials contained a draft statement of guiding principles, which PIC had voted in October to bring back for potential action. Because there were new proposals on the table that had not yet been vetted by SCA member cities, ED Dawson and Chair Prince noted that members may not feel comfortable taking action at the meeting.

Chair Prince turned to PIC members for questions, comments, and feedback.

Mayor David Baker, Kenmore, noted that a significant change in the Kohl-Welles proposal was to clarify that the entity would have no taxing authority. While the Kenmore council liked the original proposal, he felt that his council would support this change.

Councilmember Kate Kruller, Tukwila, stated that she had received a call from a County Councilmember prior to the meeting indicating that there was no consensus from the council on any proposal at this time. She sought clarification on the aspect of the Dembowski proposal to have an Interlocal Agreement (ILA) without forming a Public Development Authority (PDA). She noted that time would be needed to better understand the differences between a PDA and an ILA. Tukwila is interested in getting to yes on a proposal. Tukwila is supportive of the SCA draft guiding principles.

Mayor Elaine Cook, Woodinville, noted that her council had a number of questions about the original proposal, and did not yet have consensus on the original proposal. She had not understood that an option other than a PDA was a possibility. The majority of the Woodinville Council had expressed concerns about forming a PDA. Woodinville also had general concerns about partnering on this issue with Seattle and King County. They had questions about the impact of signing (or not signing) an ILA under the original proposal. She noted that both new proposals had reframed the Governing Board as having elected officials in that role, with non-elected members in an advisory capacity. She noted that this was a more familiar structure.

Deputy Mayor Catherine Stanford, Lake Forest Park, noted that her city's biggest concern was in establishing a PDA. The Dembowski proposal addressed Lake Forest Park's concerns in that regard. She expressed concern over the fact that the Regional Action Plan (RAP) had still not been released, and concern over being asked to approve something without a plan. She noted that the two new proposals still lacked specificity on goals. Lake Forest Park wants this effort to be successful, and sees the need for it.

Councilmember John Stokes, Bellevue, noted that SCA discussions and feedback had had a positive effect on the proposals coming forward. He expressed support for the changes to the organizational structure to provide governance from elected officials. But, as noted by Stanford, the proposals still did not address the lack of a plan. He noted a strong push by Seattle and King County to get this matter resolved by end of year. Stokes expressed the need to see the RAP before moving forward.

Councilmember Traci Buxton, Des Moines, noted that the Kohl-Welles proposal contained a variety of new terms and proposed committees, which raised new questions. She still has questions about implications of signing on to an ILA under the original proposal. She has new questions about the differences between the proposed PDA, and the new proposal for an ILA without PDA. Buxton also expressed concerns about the focus on crisis response versus prevention, recalling the earlier work of One Table. She expressed concerns about enabling versus addressing root causes. She wondered why the process was being rushed, and whether it was due to pressures from the business community. She questioned whether the proposal would only address the needs of those who were unsheltered, versus all people experiencing homelessness. Dawson clarified her understanding that the various proposals would address the entire crisis response system. Buxton questioned the aspect of the Kohl-Welles proposal to have a single liaison to the various other systems impacting homelessness, noting that this may not be sufficient. Buxton made note of numbers from the Point in Time Count, noted disparities in the concentrations of people experiencing homelessness across different areas of the County, and noted that there may not truly be a "crisis" in all areas of the County. She wondered, "Do we have a crisis, or does Seattle have a crisis?"

Councilmember Chris Roberts, Shoreline, indicated that Shoreline sees the need to make a change to the current system, and that it would be preferable to take action that is imperfect rather than maintaining the current system. Shoreline would prefer not to see a PDA and in that respect would have a preference for the Dembowski proposal, but would be amenable to the other proposals as well, as they would represent an improvement over the current system.

Council President Tola Marts, Issaquah, stated that the process felt very rushed, noting the two new proposals that had not been vetted by cities. He noted that this is a hugely important issue, which should not be rushed.

Councilmember John Holman, Auburn, noted that his city had a study session on the issue, and he had reviewed with his Mayor. Auburn was generally supportive of the Kohl-Welles proposal with a few concerns. He felt that those limited concerns seemed to be addressed by the Dembowski proposal, noting that the proposals seemed to be moving in a positive direction. He expressed support for the inclusion in the Dembowski proposal requiring that matters be

approved by at least one vote from each caucus. Auburn wants equity addressed. Still missing from both proposals was the need to see the RAP. Holman made reference to the Good Eggs breakfast held that morning, where Seattle Mayor Jenny Durkan spoke to the theme of working regionally. He noted that the current system is not working, and we need to get past our inertia.

Councilmember Lydia Assefa-Dawson, Federal Way, questioned why the matter was being rushed, and why the newly elected Seattle and County Councilmembers should not be involved. She questioned what the role and expectations would be for cities, whether or not they signed onto an ILA. She noted concerns from Federal Way about creating a PDA that would exist in perpetuity, and questioned whether the Kohl-Welles proposal adequately addressed this concern.

Councilmember Hank Margeson, Redmond, expressed support for taking action on the proposed guiding principles, noting that they would provide a lens to evaluate the various proposals, and a tool for RPC members to evaluate any new proposals. He noted a significant lack of objectives with any of the proposals, but noted that the Dembowski proposal was getting closer.

Councilmember Chance LaFleur, Enumclaw, reiterated earlier concerns raised by Enumclaw, but noted that aspects of the proposals removing taxing authority and increasing the role for elected officials addressed some of his city's concerns. He agreed that the current system is not working, but wanted to see that a new structure would actually improve upon the current system. The proposals still feel half-baked.

Council President Bill Boyce, Kent, expressed support for the proposed SCA guiding principles. He expressed strong preference for an ILA without forming a PDA. He expressed concerns over reference in the Kohl-Welles proposal over siting authority, noting issues of King County siting other types of facilities in Kent.

PIC Chair Ed Prince, Councilmember for Renton, stated that both proposals are closer to what SCA has wanted. He cautioned members to not let perfect be the enemy of the good, and noted that there were positive elements in both the two new proposals.

Councilmember Kate Kruller, Tukwila, moved, seconded by Councilmember Hank Margeson, Redmond, to recommend that the SCA Board adopt the following guiding principles:

The Sound Cities Association (SCA) recognizes that homelessness is a regional crisis

- People are experiencing homelessness throughout the region
- The acute crisis in Seattle affects the rest of the region
- There are differences in the challenges, and solutions, in subregions of the county that need to be addressed sub-regionally

Sub-regional planning is key to the success of a region-wide effort

- Cities need better clarity on how sub-regional plans would be developed and how sub-regional planning efforts and subsequent implementation of

recommended programs and actions would be supported by a proposed regional entity

- Cities and other entities already working on homelessness in the sub-regions must be integrally involved in the development of sub-regional plans
- There must be a commitment that staff and resources will be disbursed equitably throughout the county to develop and implement sub-regional plans as well as the Regional Action Plan and Five-Year Plan(s)
- Cities have been told that funds will be distributed without regard to whether a jurisdiction agrees to sign onto an ILA or service agreement; this must be formalized in the legislation

Cities must be involved in the development of a Regional Action Plan and Five-Year Plan(s)

- Cities must be involved in the development of the Regional Action Plan and Five-Year Plan(s) and these should be based on sub-regional plans
- King County's funding to address homelessness is due in large part from city populations
- As such, cities are not the same as other interested stakeholders, and have a distinct interest in the development of sub-regional and regional plans and the expenditure of resources to address homelessness occurring within their borders
- Cities and entities already working on homelessness in the sub-regions must be integrally involved in the development of the Regional Action Plan and Five-Year Plan(s) to address homelessness

SCA members have significant questions about the value of forming a new government (PDA) to tackle the challenges of a fractured system

- There are questions about whether the new proposal would be more efficient, or simply more bureaucracy; the County must explain how efficiencies would be realized
- SCA cities have requested details on current administrative costs, and anticipated administrative costs under the new proposal
- Questions remain about how signatories would extricate themselves from the structure if it does not work, and/or if future council budgets do not fund, and whether a sunset clause should be built into the legislation
- We must ensure that the new entity is not creating additional silos (with behavioral health, affordable housing, and other systems)

There needs to be high level agreement among policy makers across the County on the objectives for a new entity before a new entity is formed

- A common shared understanding of goals and outcomes is required, at a minimum. These goals and outcomes must include reducing the number of unsheltered people throughout King County and increasing permanent supportive housing for these people. More detail on a plan for how to achieve these goals will likely be necessary for many elected officials to decide whether to participate in the new entity

If a new governance structure is established, policy makers (elected officials) should set policy

- A board of experts to oversee day to day operations may make sense but large regional policy decisions, and major budgetary decisions, need to be made by elected officials, who are accountable to the public

Any board/committee of elected officials should have equitable distribution of power between King County, Seattle, and SCA cities

- A minimum of two seats (north/east and south) for SCA members would be necessary to reflect sub-regional planning efforts
- Appointments to subcommittees and working board should be made jointly by SCA/County/Seattle
- Approval of any major decision (budget, regional plan, etc.) should have approval from at least one representative from each of the three (SCA/Seattle/King County) to ensure that there is regional buy in

Councilmember Austin Bell, Burien, noted that one of the bullets was not in the form of a principle.

Councilmember John Stokes, Bellevue, felt that in light of the new proposals being on the table, the principles were no longer up to date. He was not sure that voting on the principles would have an impact.

Councilmember Chris Roberts, Shoreline, agreed with the rationale stated by Margeson in support of voting on the principles. He took issue with calling out Seattle specifically in the second bullet, noting that normally SCA would not call out another city, but stated that he would not be moving to amend given the lateness of the hour and the length of the discussion.

The motion passed 25-2, with Kenmore and Bellevue voting no.

7. 2020 SCA Legislative Agenda

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry reported the SCA Legislative Committee is working to develop the 2020 Legislative Agenda to recommend to PIC. At the most recent PIC meeting, members provided feedback in support of priorities focusing on local control; local infrastructure projects and the importance of fully funding the Public Works Trust Fund; providing cities with sustainable local funding tools; addressing the affordable housing crisis; and, increasing tools for funding transportation and mobility projects. Parry said the Legislative Committee met to review potential priorities and he provided a handout of a proposed [draft 2020 Legislative Agenda](#).

Parry provided an overview of the priorities included in the draft agenda, and the specific requests under each priority. Priorities identified in the draft agenda include:

- Address the Affordable Housing and Homelessness Crisis;
- Invest in Transportation Infrastructure and Mobility
- Fully Fund the Public Works Trust Fund and Provide Options for Local Infrastructure Needs;
- Preserve Local Decision-Making Authority;
- Provide the tools for Cities to Address Local Priorities.

Parry asked members for their feedback. He noted that the Legislative Committee would be meeting again prior to the December PIC meeting and asked members to consult with their councils and provide any feedback for the Committee to consider prior to the end of the month. He noted discussion and amendments could also take place at the full PIC meeting.

8. Metro's Mobility Framework

SCA Policy Analyst Cynthia Foley reported on the [Mobility Framework](#), co-created by Metro Transit and the King County Metro Mobility Cabinet. The Framework provides guidance on the equitable implementation of mobility services and traditional transit. It was requested by the King County Council one year ago and was transmitted to the Council at the end of October. The Regional Transit Committee (RTC) will review and possibly act a summary version of this document in November and December.

Foley reported that the Mobility Framework is expected to guide future updates to Metro's adopted policies, including Metro Connects, the Service Guidelines, and Metro's 2021/2022 biennial budget proposal.

Foley said that mobility can include an array of private and public transportation options including rental e-bikes and ride hailing services. Mobility services are changing travel patterns and providing more transportation options. These services can also compete with public transit for riders and right-of-way and impact job opportunities. For some individuals, these services may be unaffordable or inaccessible.

Foley noted that stated vision in the Mobility Framework is "a regional network of traditional and new transportation services that gets people where they want to go, when they want to get there, while contributing to healthy communities, a thriving economy, and a sustainable environment."

She said that Metro partnered with an Equity Cabinet made up of 23 community leaders to develop recommendations.

The Mobility Framework recommends additional transit investment in geographic areas with a high proportion of priority populations (defined as low and no-income people, people of color and indigenous people, immigrants and refugees, people with disabilities, and members of limited-English speaking communities). A [composite map](#) of dense areas with unmet transit need and high proportions of priority populations is shown on page 63 in the PIC packet.

Foley reported that the SCA Caucus of the Regional Transit Committee provided initial feedback on a draft report. She noted that caucus members expressed support for increased focus on improving equity in the transit system. Caucus members also emphasized that distribution of transit service throughout the region is an important consideration.

The Mobility Framework recommends working with jurisdictions to provide incentives that promote increased density and/or affordable housing. The Mobility Framework also recommends that Metro work with jurisdictions to develop and adopt policies to minimize displacement near transit.

Foley said that on the theme of innovation, the Mobility Framework recommendations include: adopting policies that address new services, developing guidelines for private providers, and facilitating integrated trip payment and planning.

She noted that the Framework recommends strengthening engagement and marketing efforts to ensure that priority populations are aware of existing mobility services, innovative new pilots, service changes, affordability programs, and other efforts. Foley said that continuation of the Equity Cabinet is also recommended in the Mobility Framework.

Councilmember Ross Loudbeck, North Bend, commented that a map of unmet need shows very few areas in east King County as high areas of unmet need, but that many people there live on very low incomes.

Councilmember Kate Kruller, Tukwila, said that the map of unmet need does not show enough detail to see where service is most needed.

Councilmember Chris Roberts, Shoreline, questioned how the passage of I-976 passing will impact future transit service and planning.

Councilmember Traci Buxton, Des Moines, said that Metro gave a presentation to Des Moines and noted that the agency was struggling to meet demand before the passage of I-976 and that the problem would only grow.

Council President Tola Marts, Issaquah, said that he is concerned that no areas of high unmet need are shown on the I-90 corridor according to the composite map.

Councilmember Hank Margeson, Redmond, noted that the map of unmet need includes density as a factor. He said that the Equity Cabinet is a fantastic idea and mentioned that he has suggested minor changes to the motion accepting the report. The intent of these changes is to keep the Equity Cabinet involved going forward and while ensuring the Framework is integrated with Metro Connects, the Strategic Plan and Service Guidelines.

PIC Chair Prince and ED Dawson requested that the PIC revisit item 7, the 2020 SCA Legislative Agenda.

7. 2020 SCA Legislative Agenda (continued)

Dawson noted that if SCA wanted to adopt the legislative agenda before end of year, PIC should take initial action at this meeting to bring the item back in December for potential action.

Councilmember Hank Margeson, Redmond, moved, seconded by Councilmember John Stokes, Bellevue, to bring back the draft 2020 Legislative Agenda ([Attachment C](#)) for possible action at the next PIC meeting on December 11, 2019. The motion passed unanimously.

9. King Conservation District Rates and Charges

SCA Policy Analyst Alexis Mercedes Rinck provided an update on the King Conservation District Rates and Charges process. Rinck noted there was a hearing on the proposed rates and charges earlier in the day at the Local Services, Regional Roads & Bridges Committee meeting and provided a [handout](#) highlighting the latest information on the proposal. *(Note – the [handout](#) provided at the meeting contained an error. The corrected [handout](#) is attached.)*

Rinck provided a review of the King Conservation District, stating they are a natural resources assistance agency that promotes the sustainable use of natural resources through responsible stewardship. They offer services to 34 cities in King County to help jurisdictions maintain and improve their water sources, soil, forests, and agriculture. KCD is funded primarily by a per-parcel assessment fee.

KCD is in the fifth and final year of its 2015- 2019 work plan. Over the past year, the KCD has worked with its Advisory Committee to develop a new 2020-2024 work plan and an accompanying rates and charges budget to support it.

PIC was last updated in July when the proposed rates and charges were sent from KCD to the King County Council. The KCD proposal requested an average increase of 38% across all parcel categories for an average rate of \$13.01 per parcel. In early October, the County Executive put forward a proposed ordinance with approximately a 3% inflationary adjustment for 2020 and each year thereafter through 2024. The average per parcel rate for the County Executive's proposal was \$9.96. The County Executive's proposal also recommended increasing budgeted funding from grants and other sources by \$1.3 million from what was originally proposed by KCD.

During County Council review of the proposed ordinance, the Executive Office acknowledged mistakenly underestimating the budget for KCD's Riparian Improvement Program by \$775,000 in 2020. The striking amendment brought forward in November includes restoring the funding requested for the Riparian Improvement Program, and funding this program through an increase to the proposed rates and charges. In addition, the striking amendment maintains the increased budget from grants and other sources proposed by the Executive. In total, the striking amendment would increase rates and charges by 19.98% and provide for yearly inflationary increases. The total KCD budget for 2020 would be \$8.88 million, a 10.3% increase over KCD's 2019 budget of \$8.05 million.

One other change included in the striking amendment is requiring elections as a work area. The Board of Supervisors just approved using Democracy Live in collaboration with King County elections, which will allow 2020 election constituents to be able to vote for the KCD Board of Supervisors using the platform. The striking amendment was adopted and forwarded to full council with a do-pass recommendation to be heard on December 4th and the Regional Policy Committee may also be briefed on the proposal.

Councilmember Chris Roberts, Shoreline, noted that there is only \$100,000 difference between the total budget from KCD's original proposal and that contained in the striking amendment, despite the total collected from per parcel rates and charges being significantly different.

Rinck answered that the original KCD requested budget was changed to include additional assumed funding from outside funds, such as grants that they have relied upon in the past.

Councilmember Chris Roberts, Shoreline, added that Council should not approve of an election system for the KCD Board of Supervisors where people must go outside of our normal elections process or to another system to vote.

Councilmember Hank Margeson, Redmond, agreed with Roberts' comments about elections. He said KCD should budget to live within their means and that he prefers the inflationary increases what is proposed.

Councilmember Toby Nixon, Kirkland said that he recently spoke with State Representative Pollet, and that there is interest in comprehensive reform of election procedures for special purpose districts and encouraged members to reach out to their legislators.

Councilmember John Stokes, Bellevue, said that the KCD Advisory Committee is supportive of redesigning election procedures.

Deputy Mayor Catherine Stanford, Lake Forest Park, asked staff to provide additional information on grants and where the dollars will be spent.

10. King County Waste to Energy and Waste Export Feasibility Study

Agenda item deferred to a future PIC meeting due to time constraints.

11. Levies and Ballot Measures in King County

SCA Policy Director Brian Parry reported on the results of the November 2019 general election. Parry provided a [handout](#) with results as of November 13, 2019, and members were encouraged to share news about election results impacts on their cities. Members shared updates on council elections and measures on the ballot in their cities.

12. Potential Upcoming SCA Issues

SCA Executive Director Deanna Dawson reported that SCA Board Elections will be held at 6:00 PM on December 11, prior to the December PIC meeting. She said that there will also be a discussion at that meeting for members to provide input on SCA priorities for 2020.

13. Upcoming Events

- a. SCA Annual Meeting (guest speaker University of Washington President Ana Mari Cauce, sponsor Comcast) – Wednesday, December 4, 2019 – 5:30 to 8:00 PM – Renton Pavilion and Event Center
- b. SCA Public Issues Committee – Wednesday, December 11, 2019 – 7:00 to 9:00 PM (6:00 PM SCA Board Elections) – Renton City Hall

14. For the Good of the Order

15. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9:23 PM.

**Public Issues Committee Meeting
November 13, 2019**

City	Representative	Alternate
Algona	Dave Hill	Bill Thomas
Auburn	Nancy Backus	John Holman
Beaux Arts Village	Tom Stowe	Aletha Howes
Bellevue	John Stokes	Janice Zahn
Black Diamond	Janie Edelman	Tamie Deady
Bothell	James McNeal	Davina Duerr
Burien	Austin Bell	Nancy Tosta
Carnation	Dustin Green	Kim Lisk
Clyde Hill	Barre Seibert	George Martin
Covington	Fran Hollums	Joseph Cimaomo, Jr.
Des Moines	Traci Buxton	Matt Mahoney
Duvall	Michelle Hogg	Jennifer Knaplund
Enumclaw	Chance LaFleur	Mike Sando
Federal Way	Lydia Assefa-Dawson	Martin Moore
Hunts Point	Joseph Sabey	
Issaquah	Tola Marts	Chris Reh
Kenmore	David Baker	Nigel Herbig
Kent	Bill Boyce	Toni Troutner
Kirkland	Toby Nixon	Jay Arnold
Lake Forest Park	Catherine Stanford	Tom French
Maple Valley	Sean Kelly	Linda Johnson
Medina	Sheree Wen	Alex Morcos
Mercer Island	Benson Wong	Tom Acker
Milton	Shanna Styron Sherrell	Mary Tompkins
Newcastle	Allen Dauterman	Carol Simpson
Normandy Park	Sue-Ann Hohimer	Jonathan Chicquette
North Bend	Ross Loudenback	Ken Hearing
Pacific	Leanne Guier	David Storaasli
Redmond	Hank Margeson	Angela Birney
Renton	Ed Prince	Armondo Pavone
Sammamish	Christie Malchow	Karen Moran
SeaTac	Erin Sitterley	Pam Fernald
Shoreline	Chris Roberts	Keith Scully
Skykomish	Henry Sladek	
Snoqualmie	Katherine Ross	Matt Larson
Tukwila	Kate Kruller	Zac Idan
Woodinville	Elaine Cook	
Yarrow Point	Dicker Cahill	
SCA	Deanna Dawson Brian Parry	Cynthia Foley Alexis Mercedes Rinck Leah Willoughby

Voting members are highlighted. Cities represented are **bolded**.