



SCA Public Issues Committee Minutes

**August 8, 2012 – 7:00 P.M.
Renton City Hall Council Chambers
1055 S. Grady Way - Renton, WA 98057**

Welcome and Roll Call

Mia Gregerson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Twenty-two cities had representation. See Attachment A to these minutes. Guests included Councilmember Don Davidson, Bellevue; Joyce Nichols, Bellevue; Diane Carlson, King County Executive's Office.

Approval of the July 11, 2012 Minutes

Amy Ockerlander, Duvall, moved, seconded by Ross Loudonback, North Bend, to approve the July 11, 2012 meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair's Report

Mia Gregerson, PIC Chair, reported that the PIC typically does not meet in August, but there were important issues to cover some time sensitive action items. She thanked members for attending the meeting. Chair Gregerson also thanked members and staff for the numerous achievements through hard work including letter to Governor, emails concerning solid waste, Robinswood agreement, human trafficking, and others.

Executive Director's Report

Deanna Dawson, SCA Executive Director, reported that the SCA Membership Survey is ongoing. She thanked members who have already provided feedback and asked those who have not to contact Deanna, deanna@suburbancities.org, or Ella Williams, ella@suburbancities.org, as soon as possible. ED Dawson thanked Pete Lewis, Auburn, for bringing attention to the revised figures for the 2013 and 2014 rates for Department of Retirement Systems PERS 2 and 3. These increases in 2013 and 2014 will greatly affect city budgets. PIC members were encouraged to discuss this issue with their Finance Directors, and fellow elected officials.

Solid Waste Interlocal Agreement

The cities and county have been in negotiations on an ILA regarding solid waste for two years. At the July 11, 2012 meeting of the PIC, SCA-RPC Caucus Chair Pete Lewis brought a motion regarding liability in the Solid Waste Interlocal Agreement (ILA). This motion was passed unanimously. The PIC asked SCA staff to provide background information and materials to assist PIC members with coming together on a policy position that reflects the common interests of SCA member cities. ED Dawson reported that after the two years of negotiations the cities and county came to an impasse. At the July 11, 2012 meeting of the PIC, the PIC also voted unanimously to ask SCA Board President Denis Law to send a letter to King County Executive Dow Constantine, asking that the county work with SCA cities in order to address the reasonable concerns regarding liability that the cities have raised. Mayor Law sent such a letter to Executive Constantine on July 12, 2012. ED Dawson has

been working closely with Executive Constantine's staff to achieve this goal. ED Dawson has received positive feedback that the county is prepared to accept proposed principals regarding liability and add language into the Solid Waste ILA.

Amy Walen, Kirkland, moved, seconded by Jim Haggerton, Tukwila, to submit the following policy position to the SCA Board of Directors for adoption:

- *SCA believes that solid waste system costs, which includes liability, should be funded by the utility;*
- *The solid waste interlocal agreement (ILA) between King County and participating cities should fairly allocate risk between both the cities and the county and should, to the greatest extent possible, protect both the county's general fund and cities' general funds against liability for cleanup claims arising at Cedar Hills Landfill;*
- *Neither party should receive priority in terms of the use of grant funds, insurance proceeds, reserve funds, or disposal rates to satisfy environmental liability;*
- *The ILA should establish that grant funding, if available, and disposal rates shall be used to set up a line of first defense to protect both the county's general fund, and the cities' general fund. The ILA should provide that:*
 - *The county will purchase and maintain liability insurance using disposal rates to cover liability arising out of the Cedar Hills Landfill, if such insurance is available under commercially reasonable terms and conditions. Said insurance shall cover both the county, and the cities;*
 - *The county will establish and maintain a reserve fund from disposal rates to cover both the city and the county for liability not covered by insurance. The county shall consult with the Metropolitan Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee (MSWMAC) as to the amount of the reserve fund;*
 - *In the event that liability for cleanup exceeds the funds available through the insurance and reserve fund, disposal rates should be used to cover both county and city liability to the fullest extent legal and feasible.*

Lynda Osborn, Algona, provided a letter from Algona Mayor Dave Hill regarding their city's concerns with the lack of mitigation for cities that host transfer stations in King County. See Attachment B to these minutes. ED Dawson thanked Councilmember Osborn for bringing this issue to the table.

Chair Gregerson thanked SCA members, both electeds and staff, as well as SCA staff for their information and efforts on this issue. Hank Margeson, PIC Vice Chair, thanked PIC members and SCA staff for taking the lead on this issue regarding the Solid Waste ILA.

The motion passed. Lynda Osborn, Algona, voted no. Amy Ockerlander, Duvall, abstained from voting.

SCA King Conservation District (KCD) Funding Subcommittee – Future Funding for KCD

At the July 11, 2012 meeting of the PIC, the PIC voted unanimously to bring the issue of future funding for the King Conservation District (KCD) forward to this meeting for possible recommendation of a policy position to the SCA Board of Directors. This item was brought forward

by Algona Mayor Dave Hill, Chair of the KCD Funding Subcommittee, with members Snoqualmie Mayor Matt Larson and Shoreline Deputy Mayor Chris Eggen.

Tola Marts, Issaquah, moved, seconded by Melissa Musser, Des Moines, to submit the following policy position to the SCA Board of Directors for adoption:

Principles re KCD:

- 1) *SCA recognizes the value of the King Conservation District (KCD), and supports continued funding of the KCD;*
- 2) *SCA supports the continuation of WRIA funding through the KCD in 2013, and the future;*
- 3) *Given the current economic climate and the heavy tax burdens on property owners in our communities, SCA supports a revenue neutral direction for the KCD at this time. Should future funding for programs currently funded through KCD come through an alternative source, SCA would support a proportional decrease in revenues collected by KCD. For example, if the King County Flood Control District were to fund the WRIAs in the future, SCA would support a corresponding decrease in revenue collection for the KCD;*
- 4) *SCA supports continued funding of the KCD Jurisdictional Grant Program. The current processes for grant application and compliance may place unduly onerous burdens on cities. SCA supports reducing these administrative burdens in order to maximize the value of grants to cities;*
- 5) *SCA supports the creation of a formal advisory committee to provide direction to the KCD in the future. Such a body would ensure that KCD expenditures provide value to taxpayers throughout the County- from rural, urban, and suburban communities alike. Representation on this advisory committee should include proportional representation from elected officials in the Suburban Cities.*

Councilmember Amy Ockerlander, Duvall, announced that Duvall will abstain from voting on this issue due to the Snoqualmie Valley Governments Association not yet having a position on this issue. Council President Tola Marts, Issaquah, is in favor of these guiding principles as it touches on the elements of concern for funding for habitat restoration.

Bill Peloza, Auburn, moved, seconded by Shawn McEvoy, Normandy Park, to amend section 3 of the motion to read (see bolded language):

- 3) Given the current economic climate and the heavy tax burdens on property owners in our communities, SCA supports a revenue neutral direction for the KCD at this time. Should future funding for programs currently funded through KCD come through an alternative source, SCA would support a proportional decrease in revenues collected by KCD. For example, if the King County Flood Control District **or other water based investment strategy, such as, a state wide Water District concept** were to fund the WRIAs in the future, SCA would support a corresponding decrease in revenue collection for the KCD;

During the discussion, Councilmember Bill Peloza, Auburn, brought forward the need for consistent and stable future funding for the WRIAs. WRIA 9 has been working with WRIA's 7 and 8 to actively pursue a statewide initiative to form a Water Investment District (WID). Councilmember Andy

Rheaume, Bothell, suggested that other alternative funding sources such as the Puget Sound Partnership could be added as well. Mayor Pro Tem Doug Osterman, Normandy Park, provided background information on the WRIAs in King County. He explained that the WRIA funding is a cost share amongst cities to provide a regional focus on salmon recovery efforts to address the Endangered Species Act. There are strong ties with the Flood Control District. For the past two years, WRIA 9 has been actively involved in looking for new funding mechanisms. PIC members agreed that further discussion is needed to address future stable funding for the WRIAs.

Vice Chair Margeson supported the concept of Water Investment Districts; however, he cautioned that this is new information. He supports taking a position on WID on its own merits at a future meeting. Councilmember Layne Barnes, Maple Valley, and Councilmember Tom Vance, Sammamish were in agreement, they would like to have an opportunity to bring this information back to their council before taking a vote. Councilmember Jamie Perry, Kent, commented that adding the proposed language was not necessary as a Water Investment District would be considered an alternative funding source, which is covered by the original position statement.

The motion to amend failed 17-5. Lynda Osborn, Algona, Bill Peloza, Auburn, Andy Rheaume, Bothell, Jim Scott, Covington, and Shawn McEvoy, Normandy Park, voted in favor of the amendment, the remaining members voted against the amendment.

Chair Gregerson asked if there was any further discussion on the main motion to submit the following policy position to the SCA Board of Directors for adoption:

Principles re KCD:

- 1) SCA recognizes the value of the King Conservation District (KCD), and supports continued funding of the KCD;*
- 2) SCA supports the continuation of WRIA funding through the KCD in 2013, and the future;*
- 3) Given the current economic climate and the heavy tax burdens on property owners in our communities, SCA supports a revenue neutral direction for the KCD at this time. Should future funding for programs currently funded through KCD come through an alternative source, SCA would support a proportional decrease in revenues collected by KCD. For example, if the King County Flood Control District were to fund the WRIAs in the future, SCA would support a corresponding decrease in revenue collection for the KCD;*
- 4) SCA supports continued funding of the KCD Jurisdictional Grant Program. The current processes for grant application and compliance may place unduly onerous burdens on cities. SCA supports reducing these administrative burdens in order to maximize the value of grants to cities;*
- 5) SCA supports the creation of a formal advisory committee to provide direction to the KCD in the future. Such a body would ensure that KCD expenditures provide value to taxpayers throughout the County- from rural, urban, and suburban communities alike. Representation on this advisory committee should include proportional representation from elected officials in the Suburban Cities.*

The motion passed. Amy Ockerlander, Duvall, abstained from voting.

Approval of PIC Nominating Committee Recommendations

Mayor Jim Haggerton, Tukwila, reported on the July 31, 2012 meeting of the PIC Nominating Committee. Kirkland's 2012 annexation brought its population to over 80,000. A city with population over 80,000 obtains its own seat on the PSRC Executive Board.

Jim Haggerton, Tukwila, moved, seconded by Ross Loudonback, North Bend, to accept the resignation of Councilmember Don Gerend as alternate to the PSRC Executive Board, and recommend appointment of Councilmember Gerend as second alternate to the PSRC Executive Board for the remainder of 2012.

There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Jim Haggerton, Tukwila, moved, seconded by Denis Law, Renton, to recommend the appointment of Mayor John Marchione of Redmond to the alternate seat on the PSRC Operations Committee for the remainder of 2012.

There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Upcoming Events

Chair Gregerson noted that prior to the September 12, 2012 meeting of the PIC, there will be a Study Session on PSAP Consolidation starting at 6:00 p.m. in the Conferencing Center on the seventh floor of Renton City Hall.

The next Public Issues Committee meeting will be Wednesday, September 12, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers on the seventh floor of Renton City Hall.

There is an upcoming SCA Networking Dinner on Wednesday, September 19, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. at the TPC Snoqualmie Ridge Golf Club, 36005 SE Ridge Street, Snoqualmie WA 98065. SCA is pleased to have University of Washington President Michael Young as the speaker for this event, and PSE as a sponsor.

For the Good of the Order

Councilmember Andy Rheume, Bothell, reported that new municipal stormwater permits have been released. There is an opportunity for cities to arrange mediation between the Department of Ecology and Environmental groups in a non-appeal setting by filing a joint appeal, saving cities thousands of dollars in legal expenses. A mediation hearing could communicate the concerns of cities and forgo legal action.

ED Dawson thanked Auburn Councilmember Bill Peloza for highlighting the need for consistent and stable future funding for the WRIAs. She reiterated that SCA staff will be working to bring forward a new item for possible action in support of creation of a Watershed Investment District.

Council President Tola Marts, Issaquah, shared that there was a ceremony for the officers involved in the incident in Issaquah late last summer. He thanked the many municipalities that were involved in helping keep everyone safe that day.

Chair Gregerson shared that on September 28, 2012, there is a PSRC Conference, regarding Growing Transit Communities. Growing Transit Communities is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program. For more information and to register for the PSRC Equity and Health in Transportation: Metrics and Best Practices Conference, visit <https://secure.psrc.org/event/24>.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Attachment A to the August 8, 2012 PIC Minutes

**2012 Roll Call –Public Issues Committee Meeting
August 8, 2012**

City	Representative	Alternate	Other	Staff
Algona	Dave Hill	Lynda Osborn		
Auburn	Pete Lewis	Nancy Backus	Bill Peloza	
Beaux Arts	Richard Leider			
Black Diamond	Rebecca Olness			
Bothell	Andy Rheaume	Tom Agnew		
Burien	Jerry Robison	Bob Edgar		
Clyde Hill	Barre Seibert	George Martin		
Covington	Marlla Mhoon	Margaret Harto	Jim Scott	
Des Moines	Matt Pina	Melissa Musser		
Duvall	Amy Ockerlander	Will Ibershof		
Enumclaw	Liz Reynolds			
Federal Way	Linda Kochmar	Jeanne Burbidge		
Hunts Point	Fred McConkey			
Issaquah	Tola Marts	Paul Winterstein		
Kenmore	David Baker	Allan Van Ness		
Kent	Jamie Perry	Suzette Cooke		
Kirkland	Amy Walen	Bob Sternoff		
Lake Forest Park	Sandy Koppenol	Tom French		
Maple Valley	Layne Barnes	Erin Weaver		
Milton	Jim Manley	Debra Perry		
Newcastle	Lisa Jensen	Rich Crispo		
Normandy Park	Shawn McEvoy	Susan West	Doug Osterman	
North Bend	Ross Loudenback	Ken Hearing		
Pacific	Leanne Guier	John Jones		
Redmond	Hank Margeson	John Stilin		
Renton	Rich Zwicker	Terri Briere	Denis Law	
Sammamish	Tom Vance	Tom Odell		
SeaTac	Mia Gregerson	Tony Anderson		
Shoreline	Chris Roberts	Chris Eggen		
Skykomish	Henry Sladek			
Snoqualmie	Matt Larson	Kingston Wall		
Tukwila	Jim Haggerton	Kate Kruller		
Woodinville	Bernie Talmas			
SCA				Deanna Dawson Monica Whitman Doreen Booth Kristy Burwell

Electeds present are highlighted in gray. Cities represented are **bolded**.