

Present: Mary Jean Hrbacek, Chair, Elrey Simon, Rik Fredrickson - Mason County Garbage and Recycling, Jeff Roberge, Marvin Roush, Wendy Ervin, Jan Ward, Don Stacy, Chery Sullivan – Department of Ecology, Robert Moody – Olympic Region Clean Air Agency, John Bolender – Mason Conservation District, Tracy Farrell – City of Shelton, David Baker - Mason County staff.

Following roll call, the minutes from last month and the February agenda were approved.

Based on the discussion of the previous month, Robert Moody from ORCAA was asked to speak to the committee about burning and air quality.

Air quality has become more of an issue in recent years. Outdoor burning has been linked to negative respiratory impacts, and is discouraged as a result. Legislation has banned burning in urban growth areas (UGAs), with specific UGAs added annually. In Mason County, three UGAs were added in January of this year: Allyn, Shelton, and Belfair.

He was pleased to report that Mason County has many options available as alternatives to burning. This is important because burning tends to negatively impact air quality. This is especially true in situations such as the recent storm, where there are a lot of debris over the entire region that are both green and wet.

Chipping or grinding up of woody debris is much easier on the air quality, and composting is preferred. There are several locations for material drop off, and all of them are less costly than disposal. It was also mentioned that there was a great deal of interest at the highest levels in "alternatives to burning" as a strategy. This means there could be additional grant funding available to support these types of programs.

The discussion was then geared towards the Solid Waste Management Plan and what it says that speaks to these alternatives. It was stated that the Plan does address the topic, and is worded so that these types of programs can be advanced and would qualify for funding from the Coordinated Prevention Grants (CPG), perhaps in addition to the current allocation.

John Bolender took a few minutes to outline the digester concept that will be presented to the SWAC next month. The digester also represents an alternative to burning for organic materials. The feasibility study they conducted should be completed and they will be ready to discuss the project in more detail in March.

The Solid Waste Management Plan was mentioned, and will go before the Planning Commission on February 12<sup>th</sup>. Tracy presented the letter of support from the City of Shelton. Following Planning Commission meeting, a recommendation of adoption will be brought to the Board of County Commissioners. It will then be sent to Ecology for final approval.

The 2006 Report illustrated that tonnage for garbage and recycling was up from the previous year. David stated that he was working to put together a more complete report that he would share next month.

**Next meeting will be on March 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM in the Public Works Building.**