

Southeast Alaska Solid Waste Authority – An Update and Invitation to Participate

Presentation Prepared for Annual Meeting
of Southeast Conference
September 14 – 16, 2010



Southeast Conference



Recycled Paper

Introduction and Welcome

- **Karl Hagerman, Public Works Director**
- **City of Petersburg**
- **Chairperson, Board of Directors, Southeast Alaska Solid Waste Authority (SEASWA, the Authority)**
- **Purpose of presentation**

Solid Waste as Regional Issue in Southeast Alaska

- Many studies, reports have concluded regional consolidation / cooperation / coordination for solid waste management is a good idea – yet no formal implementation until now
- SE Conference has supported consideration of Authority
- However, Authority is not part of SE Conference
- May 2006 – state legislation passed to facilitate formation of regional solid waste authorities

Summary of Authorizing Legislation

- House Bill 392 enacted May 2006; leadership from Rep. Peggy Wilson, Wrangell (House District 2) and Senator Bert Stedman, Sitka (Senate District A)
- Action by one or more jurisdictions / entities can create the Authority
- Governing bodies of jurisdictions / entities must adopt “substantially identical ordinances” for membership
- Voters must then approve ordinance for jurisdiction / entity to actually join SEASWA
- Authority can engage in wide range of solid waste activities – not limited to disposal

Summary of Authorizing Legislation (continued)

- Members not liable for finances or actions of SEASWA
- SEASWA = separate, independent legal entity from its members
- Authority can: evaluate technologies, strategies, sites; develop projects; issue bonds, obtain loans, grants, other financing; buy land; build infrastructure; charge fees for services; contract for services and facility operations; hire staff
- Authority governed by Board of Directors – 1 representative from each member jurisdiction / entity
- Board hires Chief Executive Officer

The Authority Has Been Formed

- Craig
- Petersburg
- Thorne Bay
- Wrangell
- Board of Directors
- Every member has a seat on the Board
- Bylaws have been adopted, meetings held, there is forward movement

Action Plan for 2010 – 2011

- Expand membership
- Discussions / presentations with municipal staff, public officials, elected decision – makers, private sector, other stakeholders
- Community outreach and education
- Initial consideration of options, strategies by Authority Board of Directors

The Facts – Solid Waste in SE Alaska

- Approximately 25 – 30 jurisdictions / entities as potential participants in SEASWA
- Regional population between 70,000 and 80,000
- Community populations range from 100 to 31,000
- Disposed tons of waste vary from 100 tons / year to 31,100 tons / year
- Total annual disposed waste = about 70,000 to 80,000 tons
- Disposal methods include local incineration (“burn box”), local landfilling (lined and unlined), shipment to large privately operated landfill in Washington

The Facts – Solid Waste in SE Alaska (continued)

- Annual disposal costs vary between \$ 25 / ton to \$ 400 / ton
- Juneau – population = 31,000, annual disposed tons = 31,100
- Ketchikan – population = 15,000, annual disposed tons = 10,000
- Juneau + Ketchikan = around 60 – 65 % of regional population and about 55 % of region's annual disposed waste
- Economies / efficiencies of scale difficult to achieve with each jurisdiction / entity pursuing its own program
- Small, geographically isolated communities with limited access
- Energy / transportation costs high

Summary of Enabling Ordinance

- **Majority of total membership of Board of Directors constitutes a quorum**
- **Actions of Board are adopted by majority of total Board membership**
- **Proposed projects require a Development Plan**
- **Plan must be approved by member governing bodies and ratified by Authority Board**

What the Authority Can't or Won't Do

- Change the way waste / recyclables are currently collected / handled within your jurisdiction / entity
- Compel you to adopt or pursue a policy, method, initiative, technology or other course of action
- Give up or modify any element of your existing solid waste management program

Why Participate in the SEASWA?

- Pool resources
- Share and control costs
- Boost local economies
- Greater environmental care
- Has one mission – solid waste management
- Is a vehicle to deal with realities of marketplace conditions for waste and recyclables where volume rules

Possible Future Solid Waste Management Strategies, Approaches, Scenarios

- To be analyzed, determined by SEASWA Board of Directors
- Long – term master contractor (with subcontractors) for comprehensive, integrated set of “bundled” solid waste management services administered by Authority
- Services could include: refuse disposal; processing / marketing of recyclables through Materials Recovery Facility (MRF); recycling of scrap metals and auto bodies; household hazardous waste handling and treatment; promotion / education

Possible Future Solid Waste Management Strategies, Approaches, Scenarios (continued)

- Direct Authority ownership / operation of one or more disposal and recycling facilities in SE Alaska, or public / private partnership to own / operate
- Expansion / modification of existing facility / operation for disposal and recycling

Conclusions

- For the SEASWA to truly be a regional Authority, additional members are needed to provide their input and perspective to a common disposal solution.
- The more jurisdictions / entities that join the better – for political, economic, and institutional reasons

Conclusions (continued)

- The Authority offers what's needed in regional solid waste management – consolidation, cooperation and coordination.
- Working together can only improve our solid waste issues.

Baseline Resources Survey

- A 10 question survey is included in your SEC packets.
- Serves to update current information about solid waste in the region and helps SEASWA move forward with discussions and development of a project or projects.

Thank you

- SEASWA Board meetings are held every third Friday of the month at 10 am. Call the SEC teleconference number 1-888-550-5602 and use code 8249 4332 to join the meeting.
- Please call in to offer input, ask questions and make comments to the board.

Questions?

- Thank you.