

**SOLID WASTE
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting
September 9, 2025
Public Service Building Auditorium
3:00 p.m.**

Members Present:

**Aaron Lawhead- Chairman, Empire Disposal
Michele Beckmann, Colfax
Ron Redman, WSU Waste Management
Devon Felsted, Pullman Disposal
DonNell Ellsworth,- Garfield
Nathan Weller- Pullman (Zoom)
David Hoffman- Republic Services (Zoom)**

Staff: David Nalls, WC Landfill; Mark Storey, Public Works Director; Brandon Johnson, Public Works; David Werner, Clerk.

Zoom: Michelle Langdon, Great West Engineering:

Audience: Deb Olson, League of Women Voters

3:02p.m. – Aaron Lawhead called the meeting to order.

MOTION by Michele Beckmann and seconded by DonNell Ellsworth seconded to approve the minutes of June 10, 2025, meeting. Motion passed.

Aaron Lawhead introduced Mark Storey.

David passed the meeting to Michelle Langdon of Great West Engineering

Michelle Langdon- So I have just a very few slides. I just want to highlight a few items in the plan for you guys and then after this meeting I will be sending out the plans to everybody for review.

The first thing you will notice about the plan is that it looks very different. The things that we wanted to accomplish for the update are making it more modern looking and a little bit easier on the eyes. Removing some of the bulky text and replacing that with tables and graphics things like that. Removing some items or anything that is not in consideration, for example Whitman County is not going to build an incinerator in the next five years, so we don't need to talk about the fact that we looked at the possibility of building an incinerator. So, things

like that were removed from the plan. Ecology's really been updating what they want to see from the plans and what they don't need to see anymore that have historically been in the plans.

Removing that sort of fluff. Reorganizing the plan a little bit just to make it flow a little bit better and not jump around so much. Bringing all the new regulatory requirements. Those are all laid out in the beginning of the plan so you can see all the changes that have to do with Solid Waste since the last plan was updated.

We took the new crop requirements and got that incorporated. We really tried to base the plan in the real world. Things that were not going to be considered were not put in the plan.

Reorganization section one through three is the background of the Solid Waste system and the Solid Waste planning to date and an overview of the entire system. Four through seven are the programs that the Solid Waste Department runs so Recycling which also includes reuse and reduction. Education Outreach, Organics, Special Waste Program, MRW Facility, MRW Programs. Then sections eight and nine are about the future. What are we going to get done in this next planned period.

While you're reviewing the plan some things to home in on and pay special attention to because there is a lot in the plan and as much as you try you might not be able to give your full attention to every part of the plan. Even though we tried to reduce some of the volume it is quite lengthy. Pay particular attention to anything that is relevant to your facility or your operations. As much as we tried to capture everything correctly, I'm sure there's going to be things that we captured incorrectly. Please correct that if you would and please pay special attention to that and if you have questions just put them in the comments and we will write in the document and at the end we will compile all those questions and make sure everybody's questions get answered and then if you could use track changes. At the end we can take everybody's versions and compile them into one document, and it'll show everybody's versions and compile them into one document.

There will be grammatical errors. But we will have a final document read through a fresh set of eyes. You guys are experts in Solid Waste field you know these programs better than anybody. We want to focus your attention and use your time the best way we can and that's probably not picking out the poor grammar or spelling error that we will inevitably have.

Next steps from here will be for you guys to review the plan. We'll get it out to you guys right after the meeting. If you have questions during the plan at all you can reach out to David or you can reach out to me directly anytime, that's no problem. If you have a question that you would just like to answer at some point, put it in the comments. What I would like to do is give you a good chunk of time to review the plan.

I'm thinking of six weeks to review the plan and another couple of weeks for us to incorporate comments and then we will have them at your next SWAC meeting. We will have an opportunity for you to ask questions that you may need more information on then we could really give you an answer in a word document or in a reply to your comments within the plan. Then give you a final chance to do a final review before it goes to Ecology leading up to that next SWAC meeting. So, six weeks to do the preliminary review then we'll spend a couple of weeks cleaning things up and answering questions. Then we will get it to you guys at least a week or two before your next SWAC meeting. Again, you'll be able to come with questions, thoughts, concerns, anything like that.

After that we will be ready to incorporate any final comments that SWAC has and get it to Ecology which will start our initial 120-day review. So, one more SWAC meeting then you guys could be done with me for a couple more meetings.

If you have any questions for me, I'm all ears.

Aaron Lawhead- I made a few highlights. David had shared this plan with us. Just a point of comment. Anytime in 1.0 the introduction talks about populations and census. I know that's just like a table we bring in but anytime I see Colfax mentioned with population increases I laugh because our population elevation has stayed the same since they built the Snake River Dams.

Unless Devin changed his name of his company to Pullman Designs, I think it's supposed to say Pullman Disposal. We need to change Steve Gilmore to Mister Hoffman.

David Nails- Yes and I believe Dave is on there

Aaron Lawhead- I'm not sure if Mister Hansel is still a member of the board

Dave Nails- He is still a member. You may want to act on that.

Aaron Lawhead- I'm not sure what the process is on that, but we will address that one.

Miss Donnell next to me is the town of Garfield instead of the city of Tekoa

The other comment I had is on page eighteen on 2.0 Waste flow and composition, why do we have sunshine disposal at Adams County landfill in our graph for our Solid Waste Flow when we are Whitman County.

Dave Nails- We have a couple of people that are picking up trash that are in our County but outside.

Aaron Lawhead- Ok like the Port of Wilma

Dave Nails- Correct

Aaron Lawhead- That answers my question on that one. 3.0 Waste handling facilities again that was based on Naslund Disposal and Eda Lynn. 4.4.6 Colfax curbside recycling. The household we pick up isn't 42, it's 158 customers. I think that's all I have for comment.

Dave Nails-The biggest chore that we'll have is for each facility to make sure that our data is correct that you're seeing in that. I would really hone in on the data for WSU, Empire Disposal and Pullman Disposal. I will make sure all the information I have is getting to her and is accurate.

Devin Felsted- I was just curious. So, you talked about you're going to review the upcoming regulations, of course we have the organics law. What other laws or regulatory changes are you discussing?

Michelle Langton- The organics law is the big one we discussed very briefly. The new upcoming regulations on the EPR are Extended Producer Responsibility because we don't know how that's going to land yet. That is limited to discussion of what we do know so far. But how that's going to impact Whitman County is unknown right now. That's a brief section. Like I said, the Organic Section and how that's going to be implemented or potentially implemented is discussed robustly both in the upfront regulations overview section and in that Organic Section. The other thing 's There have been several regulations in the past five years that have come to fruition. A lot of those are especially in comparison to the organics bill have been a lot more minor. Those regulations are limited to just the overview of what the regulation is about in that first section. Any sort of programs or things that those regulations have required changes so far are or have been implemented already.

Dave Nails- In the introduction or page seven it looks like it starts. You'll see some of these house bills that have impacted the Solid Waste industry. I'll be going through those with Michelle and Travis and those guys to make sure we incorporate all of those. We have an Organics Procurement Policy that is on the books. I'm not sure where that is at. I gave Mark the draft and I think that it's still moving through the Commissioners to get that procurement ordinance done. But some of that stuff will be in here and Steven Gimple reviews this. I'm sure That he will also have some comments as far as what they'd like to see in that.

Again, I think it was a good choice Michele to put the bills in here that affect Solid Waste. I like the addition of that.

Michell Langton- I'm glad. We're working with Steven Gimple on Spokane Valley's plan, and he's been involved in that talk and so it's nice to have his input along the way. We've learned some things and we're able to incorporate those into this plan.

Dave Nails- Some of the stuff missing in this plan at this point is some of the and I don't know if they deleted the UTC stuff

Michell Langton- The UTC stuff is one that is going to be in one of the appendices that's something I didn't touch on. The plan doesn't include the appendices at this point only because they're like David said they're the SEPA form the WTC form an appendix glossary and a lot of just attachments basically, like the ordinances and evidence as what participation thing lie that won't require you guys to review.

Dave Nails- Also in one of those there will probably be all the interlocal agreements with all the small towns that want to sign on to this Solid Waste Management Plan or do their own. I can't imagine anybody who would want to do it themselves but there might be somebody out there.

Thanks Michelle, this is looking good so far and we have got our homework. You are going to give us about. You're going to give us about Six weeks or eight weeks and then when we reconvene December 9th. I think it is. I don't know if we want to have a little longer meeting or if we've been pretty quick about these meetings. I think about two hours might still be ok.

Any other questions for Michelle at this point?

We have our homework cut out for us. To all least review the sections that are

Aaron Lawhead- Pertinent to you

Dave Nails- Yeah for sure

Devn Felsted- Looking forward to it.

Dave Nails- It might be a little slower because it'll be kind of toward the fall. So hopefully that's the case.

Aaron Lawhead- Any other business

Dave Nails- Just wanted to report that we have a fair booth that had quite a few people come through and had lots of questions recycling wise. Secure your load campaign we were able to give out I think it was close to 500 straps and nets that was a great thing that we did. We got the data to Ecology, and we'll see a follow up from that, I'm sure.

Other that that it's been business as normal.

Had a bailer breakdown just recently but we got it back up and running last night

Aaron Lawhead- I know you had a handful of younger adults in vans going out and picking up litter throughout the County. It seemed like everywhere I traveled I would come across them, and those areas all look great, but how much did they pick up?

Dave Nails- I haven't compiled that, but I will. That's usually in my year end report we do track how much garbage we pick up, how many miles we walk, all of that and it all pertains to the grant. We get a litter grant and we're able to hire people. It used to be the inmates now that it has gone away, we still use the corrections van which they tend to get flack over when they stop and have lunch and there's kids around here all the kids go running and their parents are gabbing them and they think it's the corrections people right anyway.

I told Mark the other day I think maybe I should look at that grant and see because you can get tools and trucks and I'm thinking maybe we can pick up a new van and get rid of that one.

They were out doing lot of County Roads this year, and I will get. I must write down every road that they do and how much garbage and recycling as well. They pick up aluminum cans and then we compile those and then bail them at the end. I will get you those numbers.

Aaron Lawhead- Does anybody have anything else for Mr. Nails or Mr. Storey while they are here

Nathan Weller- I just want to say it was a cool setup at the fair and I seen a lot of kids going in and grabbing treats.

Dave Nails- The LSFWA Grant does not allow me to buy chocolates, so I usually buy that down at Costco it's usually cheaper,

Thanks Nathan

That's about the only event that I do. We do have our contracted people that go into school and do those types of things. This is one where I get to meet face to face with the public and it is amazing how many people have questions about Empire Disposals recycling area, Pullman Disposals recycling area.

Why don't we accept glass? We do accept glass, this is how we do it. Just all those questions and it's a very valuable tool. I think to be able to meet people face to face and give them answers to their questions.

Aaron Lawhead- But for the sake of the County, where there are means to have you in your world where you wear many hats as opposed to having an educational individual right.

Dave Nails- Very much so Aaron I agree that it would be hard to put somebody there that can't answer those questions. Not that I know everything but at least I can get them on the right track and If I don't know it then I can get them to you or Devin or to whoever it may be. As much as I love doing it, hopefully somebody else will do it.

We will be going out for a scale attendant because Willo will be retiring. She'll have twenty years in which she's been a great employee. I don't know how we'll do it without here to be honest. She's good and I'm just hoping that we find somebody just as good.

Aaron Lawhead- Agreed. Any other new business anyone would like to share. Devin, you look like you're chomping at the bit over there.

Devin Felsted- I got nothing

Aaron Lawhead- Anyone on Zoom

Devin Felsted- We got a new school year and new students so the process of training them how to get garbage into the garbage can

Aaron Lawhead- And place it at the curb

Rob Redman- Our biggest problem is usually trying to get recycled in recycling everything usually goes to garbage. Yea we had two weekends of move in got through that. I think we did like 19 tons of cardboard, and it just keeps coming. There's Amazon boxes being shipped to the world like crazy so lots of cardboard out there.

Football started so we serviced all football games and that's been very busy too, so it's been a very busy time of the year for us.

Aaron Lawhead- We do know that Amazon will be opening soon. We don't know if we have a date yet. If you had a date to share but generally what happens in that corridor being that they are in the County it would be a recycling box we would have there as we would just do their garbage. They would haven't contacted us yet just so we're all on the same page transparent I know there are neighbors next door at the international case dealer. City of Moscow has kind of worked a deal where they could have a couple of reloads there. I would expect Amazon to have a roll off container for the cardboard with the mouse generation, but we don't know exactly what type of Amazon facility is going to be yet. We know it's going to have they have a level ABCD as far as sizing and what that process is go but it sounds like it's a delivery hub where two handoffs happen until it gets there and then the handoff into their UPS like trucks is what lead that origin facility so more to come but I would imagine we haul roll offs if we have that to you all.

What size and if it's bailer ready I don't know

Dave Nails- How often. We don't know any of that yet/

Aaron Lawhead- We don't know until they're designated what type of facility they are

Dave Nails- I was at a team's meeting right before this one with the Department of Ecology, it's called an Orca work group. It's Organic recycling, I can't remember all these acronyms But anyway. Pullman is affected by the organics law because of the population there and so the waiver work group is looking at this waiver it looks like it will be in February 2026, and you can start applying for a five-year waiver. It will have to be in by the end of October I think it said for this waiver and there's a lot of different parameters that would qualify you for getting that waiver we're still working them on getting this waiver out and what it will look like and how each jurisdiction will apply

Devin Felsted- So, you're saying now that the County is also applying for a waiver or just is it just for Pullman?

Dave Nails- I would be the jurisdiction that does the Solid Waste Management plan so it would be the County's responsibility to apply for that waiver for and on behalf of Pullman

Devin Felsted- I don't know if we can help but we would be happy to help in any way possible

Dave Nails- I appreciate that

Devin Felsted- I take it that it would probably be more the city as opposed to the County

Dave Nails- Since the city signs on to the Solid Waste Management Plan and I'm expecting them to do so for this next round it would be the Counties job to apply for that waiver on behalf of Pullman and any urban growth area that will be affected around Pullman which I believe they show how again which is Albion and we can also show a poverty level there as well that it would be a problem for them to pay for extra for Pullman to have actually it's Empire that takes care of them so again as we work through that I'll keep bringing you that.

We have three more meetings before the end of this year when that work group WACSWM which is the Solid Waste Managers that 's in WASAC. They have been working very diligently together to get these comments to Ecology to make this as feasible as possible for jurisdictions. There is a great group, and they've worked hard at helping us.

Devin Felsted- Do you have a fill for how unamendable DOE is to this waiver process.

Dave Nails- Those questions we have been asking are just how stringent you are going to be. What is the max mileage that we would be able to transport organics to a facility, and you say that seems feasible, that doesn't seem feasible those are the types of questions we're trying to get ironed out as well. I believe in this first period because 2027 is when we're supposed to voluntarily have it ready to go 2030 is when you're required to have those subscriptions and people doing those collecting yard waste and food waste. I think a lot of people especially on the Eastern side of the Mountains will get a pass for at least five years and show a plan of how we are going to get there. Is that building a compost facility, is that transporting it to Lewiston, is that transporting it to WSU possibly those are types of things they want to

see that plan in place of how are going to get there we give you a waiver for five years how are you going to get there in five years

Devin Felsted- If you're working with them as opposed to like ignoring it

Dave Nails- No we'll be working with chips, and I appreciate you volunteering to help me.

I just wanted to report on that, I just left that meeting.

Aaron Lawhead- Whitman County is not unique there's many other Counties that fit our demographic right.

Dave Nails- Yeah

Aaron Lawhead- It's just the West Siders that have a nice click that will help us were not I-5 so

Dave Nails- Correct and we don't even have. The only Bartech in Sprague is the only and I think they're at capacity. Then you have the apple maggot quarantine areas so there's a lot of that comes into play.

Aaron Lawhead- We have a lot of flag waving on our side, so we'll be alright

Devin Felstad- Is there a Lewiston Facility?

Dave Nails- There is Mark, and I went down and visited Inland North Waste Composting Facility they are not taking food waste at this time. But they want to try to do that.

Aaron Lawhead- But that's also the State of Idaho which

Dave Nails- It is also the State of Idaho which we'll see how that works

Devin Felsted- So, when you say a five-year waiver would that be from 27

Dave Nails- That's Correct

Devin Felsted- But you say 2030 was hard

Dave Nails- They'll have the waiver ready February 26 and closes October 26 for that April deadline in 27 to have. You're already collecting in Pullman just not food waste you're collecting Yard Waste and really that's where they want you to be is having a route established and you do so we're a little bit ahead of the game on that we just aren't accepting food waste at this time.

Mark and I toured a couple of different facilities. One of them being at U of I and one of them down in Lewiston at Inland Northwest. We'd love to come up and tour WSU's and talk about any partnership we might be able to have there.

Aaron Lawhead- Thank you

All right I will ask again if anybody else has any ideas for business to share

Meeting adjourned at 3:35