

Attending:

Nick Waldo, subcommittee chair, JCOS

Dianna Robinson, CBJ DPW

Jessie Barker, JCOS

Marian Call, JCOS

Lisa Daugherty, Juneau Compost

Zach Gianotti, solid waste management with CED, zach.gianotti@alaska.gov

Michele Elfers, dep direc parks & rec

Dan Hysell, SEAK Land Trust

Kris, member of the public

Nancy Waterman, Leighty foundation

Minutes:

- Land Acknowledgement at 12:04pm
- Public comment - introductions of all present
- Agenda item: artificial turf for parks & rec locations
  - *Dianna*: CBJ did some risk assessment of risk of contamination from artificial turf in response to concerns about PFAS content of artificial turf
  - There is risk of contamination, but not any more than other buildings / clothing / environment
  - *Nick*: It is a potential source of PFAS contamination, but we have bigger fish to fry if we want to tackle this issue. The particular product we're looking at – unless you're living on these fields, it's not going to be a major source of contamination for you. Issues with other products (not the one being used in Juneau) have presented larger risks, but we're not using those.
  - *Dianna*: any further questions, send them to me and/or Michele Elfers, parks & rec. The major pathway for PFAS to enter the body is through drinking water.
- Agenda item: Construction industry waste
  - *Nick*: I reached out to SEAK Construction Industry Association, an industry consortium. My pitch was that JCOS is looking at reducing what goes into our landfill, particularly demo/construction. Received a positive but guarded response, they will talk about it at their next meeting and attend one of our future meetings
  - Nick references Talking Trash meeting, recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iEn16EoQn6U>
  - *Jessie*: Do you have a sense of whether it's bigger because it's higher volume? how much room is there for reduction?
  - *Dianna*: Several avenues to explore. C&D waste is about 20% of our waste stream. Landfill is a willing partner in finding ways to reduce, reuse.
  - *Marian*: how do we begin outreach to engage the private sector in the reuse portion of this? Seed the idea of the need for a ReStore?
  - *Dianna*: we're convening a stakeholder group as part of our zero waste plan. People to engage might be Chamber of Commerce, DBA, potentially JEDC
- Agenda item: Juneau Composts & future of composting

- Juneau Composts, local business, is already engaged in composting. CBJ has also recently received funding for a facility, and is figuring out how to design it
- *Lisa*: I've been operating since 2017, food scraps and yard debris, also distributing garden supplies to community as product. CBJ is our landlord, the owner of the unpaved property where we're located. Now entire business is at a standstill due to uncertainty, because the city can't guarantee I'll be the operator due to RFP process. I'm interested in whether the RFP process can happen now, before the facility is designed, so that whoever gets the contract can plan for the future and prepare to engage the facility as it is. The main point is that composting continues to happen in the city – I'm at the point of taking no new customers and potentially shutting down if there's no future for the business, if I can't invest in heavy equipment.
- *Lisa*: Talking Trash session (linked above) had some issues. If we want to know more about how to divert from the landfill, it's important to ask DNC Recycling (Valley), Skookum, Juneau Recycling, asking people already engaged in diversion
- *Dianna*: Talking Trash was requested by assembly and questions came from assembly, hopefully there will be more and we can share out more of the story. We have the power to work on more Talking Trash events and can continue the conversation.
- *Marian*: what autonomy does CBJ have when it comes to the timing on the RFP?
- *Dianna*: procurement is a huge complex process and the people in procurement have been historically fairly conservative. That said, the Assembly may have some authority over the process and could make it possible to do things differently if they wanted to. But procurement process would be the hurdle. We're looking at models of public/private partnership and trying to find a model for success, Lisa is aware of several failed attempts.
- Nick: could there be more than one facility for diversion, with food grade / non-food grade output, ie for road grade etc? w bio-solids for example?
- *Lisa*: that seems unlikely, what would be added to the compost that would make it non-food grade? as a composter I wouldn't want to rehydrate bio-solids, so all my compost is food grade, and there is no advantage to pursuing a non-food-grade
- *Zach*: our solid waste can be dried for disposal – but it's essentially just dry sewage, so when it re-enters a wet environment (like the landfill) it rehydrates and microbes create methane. There's also PFAS contamination in sewage solids (not as high as elsewhere, but still very present). So plans to dispose of dried sewage solids that way were scrapped, now they are shipped to a landfill in Oregon. So it's allowable to use it in compost, but a problem to use since it produces so much methane and contains PFAS. CBJ has been looking into other options, including the option of fully composting sewage, which is quite a different process. I don't know that it would make sense to attempt to merge solid waste and compost processes at this time.
- *Dianna*: we ship biosolids out at \$600/ton, we purchased the drier to make shipping safer, but at the time there were thoughts it could help with other waste – but it's not suitable to blend w compost solutions.
- *Marian*: Lisa, what would be indicators to you that progress would be happening?
- *Lisa*: moving towards an RFP now would be helpful – I'm aware the city can't favor my business, but the risk here is that composting vanishes completely for a few years if I close before the new facility can work. I personally wish businesses

like mine were able to get the funding instead of the muni government, but the private sector really isn't eligible for that. In other states, grants are made directly from states and munis to compost businesses. The state of AK doesn't have any vehicles for this to happen. Waiting in limbo for this to happen is terrible – I'm considering closing my business down.

- *Nick*: next steps - what recommendations JCOS might want to put forward to the assembly. We might have to come up with a resolution as a full body.
- The subcommittee will reconvene May 23rd and spend time on a work session drafting language to share with JCOS to move us towards a resolution on the matter of composting and this important community issue. Will read some resources and references in the meantime.
- Next subcommittee meeting:
  - discuss construction waste if the industry can get back to us
  - work on compost RFP question and potential resolution language to bring to JCOS
  - discuss Dianna's work on food waste mitigation / diversion
- Meeting adjourned at 12:59pm