



**Call to Order** by Kristen Fabry, Co-Chair at 5:02 p.m.

- Members in attendance: Kristen Fabry, Ryan Wixson, Paula Wildes, Jay Christian, Caleb Reese, Garth Steedman, Dave Fergus, David Emmons, Gretchen Ritter-Lopatowski
- Members absent: Katie Walters, Kyle Bardwell, Sarah Philley Obert, Neal Gaulden, Wendy Kile, David Wolner, Donna Hart
- Approximately 62 Community Members present
  - Council Introductions.
  - Agenda was presented with revisions.
    - Caleb Reese motioned to accept, Jay Christian seconded, motion carried.
  - Approval of the June 2026 minutes was postponed until the September meeting.

**Guest Speaker Introduction:**

**Chris Kitchin and Ryan Cunningham from Puget Sound Clean Air Agency** presented proposed changes to Kitsap County's residential yard-waste burning rules. The presentation and residents' comments continued into the Community Updates portion of the meeting.

**Note:** The presentation was recorded for those unable to attend.

- The recording is available at [https://www.kitsap.gov/BOC\\_p/Pages/CKCC.aspx](https://www.kitsap.gov/BOC_p/Pages/CKCC.aspx).
- The Puget Sound Clean Air Agency (PSCAA) has jurisdiction over Snohomish, King, Pierce, and Kitsap Counties. Founded in 1967 the agency oversees outdoor air quality regulating air pollution sources, monitors and forecasts air quality throughout the region receiving grants from state and federal sources.
- The proposed burn-rule change is driven by a 1979 State law requiring local air agencies to restrict residential burning once reasonable disposal alternatives reach a specified level, not by current local air-quality readings alone. It was last updated in 2000.
- The Agency is considering countywide bans on residential yard-waste burning with a proposed effective date of January 1, 2028.
- The intended focus is residential yard debris that does not fit in a curbside bin.
  - The rule would only apply to land within Urban Growth Areas (UGA), within 10-miles of transfer station, or has curbside pick-up
- Residents raised concerns about existing temporary burn bans that already address poor-air-quality periods.
- Public concerns center on disposal costs and access for rural residents, seniors, fixed-income households, large parcels, and bulky debris, as well as unclear parcel definitions and enforcement responsibilities.
- Recreational/residential fires, permitted agricultural burns, and qualifying silvicultural burns would remain allowed; however, yard waste could not be burned in recreational/residential fires.
- Private forestland covered by forestry plans, silvicultural activity, and agricultural burning are expected to be excluded, though definitions are still being clarified with the State.

The rule is still being developed; officials are gathering public input to define practical, enforceable boundaries, including possible parcel-size exemptions.

Residents are urged to complete the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency Survey at [pscleanair.gov/RAOB](https://pscleanair.gov/RAOB). Officials are recording public comments, the feedback is shared with County Commissioners. Christine Rolfes represents the County Commissioners on the Agency.

References: WAC 173-425-040, RCW 70A.15.5070, and Regulation I Article 8.

**Public Comment:**

There were no community concerns during the public comment period, all comments circled around the presentation.

**Presentation Pros:**

- Improves local air quality by reducing smoke and fine-particle pollution from residential burning.
- Reduces smoke-related health impacts, especially for people sensitive to poor air quality.
- May reduce nuisance smoke and conflicts between neighbors, particularly in denser communities.
- Encourages cleaner disposal methods, such as composting, chipping, curbside collection, or transfer-station disposal.
- Creates more consistent implementation of State air-quality requirements across regulated areas.

**Presentation Cons:**

- Comments from CKFR Chief Jay Christian:
  - The Fire Department is not an enforcement agency; enforcement needs to be refined.
  - The PSCAA needs to be responsible for enforcement of the rule, not the Fire Departments.
  - The Fire Chief Association has interfaced with the Agency asking for clarify regarding the proposal.
- Increase costs for property owners who must hire hauling or chipping services, rent a truck, or pay disposal fees.
- Alternatives may not be genuinely accessible, especially in rural areas without curbside yard-waste collection or a nearby disposal facility.
- Curbside pick-up is not always reliable.
- Could disproportionately burden lower-income, elderly, or mobility-limited residents who cannot easily transport or process debris.
- May allow vegetation and woody debris to accumulate, potentially increasing wildfire fuel near homes and forested properties.
- The State's definition of a "reasonable alternative" may not reflect local geography, travel routes, service availability, or household circumstances transporting to transfer facilities.
- Enforcement details remain unclear, including penalties, inspection capacity, exemptions, and how complaints would be handled.
- Could lead to noncompliance or unsafe burning, such as residents burning at night or without proper oversight.
- May limit practices such as biochar production if kilns or similar devices require permits or are treated as incinerators.
- Creates uncertainty for larger or forested parcels about exemptions, acreage thresholds, permits, and possible Department of Natural Resources requirements.
- Local agencies may have limited discretion, because the rule appears to be driven by existing State law and Department of Ecology definitions.

**Committee Updates:**

- Whaling Days report deferred to September meeting
- Local August events were announced.

**Council Announcements:**

- None

**Other Comments:**

- None

**Commissioner Announcements/Comments:**

- None

**Meeting Adjourned at 6:30 p.m.**

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, September 2, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by Paula Wildes, CKCC Member for Donna Hart, CKCC Secretary*

