

# A G E N D A



METRO

MEETING: **REGIONAL SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
DATE: Monday, October 25, 2004  
TIME: 3:00 p.m. – 4.30 p.m.  
PLACE: Metro Regional Center, Main Floor, Rm 270, 600 NE Grand Avenue, Portland

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- 5 mins. I. Call to Order and Announcements** **Susan McLain**  
*Announcements*  
*Responses to Issues from the September 27<sup>th</sup> Meeting*  
*Approval of Minutes*
- 10 mins. II. Solid Waste & Recycling Director's Update** **Mike Hoglund**
- 15 mins. III. Proposed Clark County Facilities** **Anita Largent**  
*Two landfills and a transfer station are being proposed for Clark County, WA. This presentation will provide a description and status report for each of those proposed facilities.*
- 20 mins. IV. Organics Recovery Update** **Lee Barrett, Judy Crockett**  
*Metro Council recently approved an organics tip fee for Metro Central and a contract with Cedar Grove for transportation and processing of source-separated food waste. This presentation will cover the when and how of organics recovery getting started at Metro Central and among generators in the City of Portland.*
- 20 mins. V. Report of the Dry Waste Recovery Task Force** **Lee Barrett**  
*Solid Waste and Recycling staff were directed by Metro Council to conduct public outreach on the impact of a "mandatory MRFing" requirement. Mandatory MRFing is being considered as a means of boosting recovery of dry waste in the region. This agenda item will update SWAC on the recommendations of a work group on dry waste recovery. SWAC members will be asked for their reactions to these recommendations.*
- 20 mins. VI. RSWMP Update** **Janet Matthews**  
*This agenda item will update SWAC on the public input received during the "Let's Talk Trash" meetings, early Council direction from disposal system planning discussions, and the small group meetings expected to contribute to pieces of the draft update of RSWMP by early next year. Opportunities for SWAC members to contribute to the updated Plan will be explored.*

**All times listed on this agenda are approximate. Items may not be considered in the exact order listed.**

Chair: Councilor Susan McLain (797-1553)  
Staff: Janet Matthews (797-1826)

Alternate Chair: Councilor Rod Park (797-1547)  
Committee Clerk: Gina Cubbon (797-1645)

**MEETING SUMMARY**  
**Solid Waste Advisory Committee**  
Metro Regional Center, Council Annex  
September 27, 2004

**Attendees:**

Councilor Susan McLain	Wade Lange	Eric Merrill
Mike Hoglund	Rick Winterhalter	Alison Cable (for Matt Korot)
Dave White	Bruce Walker	Vince Gilbert
Mark Altenhofen	Jeff Murray	Mike Miller
Paul Edwards	David Allaway	Ray Phelps
Rob Guttridge (for Anita Largent)	Dean Kampfer	Mark McLain
Jan O'Dell	Karen Blauer	Susan Moore
Doug Anderson		
Gina Cubbon, Admin. Secretary		

**I. Call to Order and Announcements ..... Susan McLain**

- Councilor Susan McLain convened the meeting and previewed the agenda items.
- Councilor McLain presented a memo containing the tentative SWAC meeting dates and agenda items for the remainder of 2004. She asked members to contact Solid Waste & Recycling staff with any changes.
- Director of the Solid Waste & Recycling Department Mike Hoglund reported that Mary Sue Gilliland of the DEQ sent the following correction to the July 26, 2004 meeting summary, as follows: Page 3, first paragraph, sentence beginning "Wastesheds can earn two percent credits, up to six of which can be added to the recovery rate for backyard composting..." add "for material reuse, and waste prevention programs..." eliminating "recoverable materials" prior to "...burned for energy." The City of Portland's Bruce Walker jokingly suggested that it should be noted that Mr. Hoglund's absence from the July meeting was not for just a vacation, but in truth for his honeymoon. Mr. Walker then moved to accept the minutes as amended with Ms. Gilliland's changes; Rick Winterhalter of Clackamas County seconded; all members present agreed.

**II. Solid Waste & Recycling Director's Update..... Mike Hoglund**

Mr. Hoglund announced that a letter of intent to enter into a contract for the transfer station operations has been sent to BFI. Secondly, he thanked everyone who helped get information out regarding the tip fee increase at Metro transfer stations (effective September 1). The new rate incorporate a \$2 increase to the excise tax (\$1.50 for Metro Parks and Greenspaces; \$0.50 for the Oregon Convention Center). He said a fact sheet was available on a table near the Council Chambers door.

Mr. Hoglund reminded the group that on Friday, October 1, an all-day Organics Forum would be taking place. Technological issues, regulatory changes, hauler and collector issues, and the future of the system would be discussed; he encouraged all members to attend and to feel free to invite other interested parties.

Since the last SWAC meeting, a moratorium has been passed on new transfer station capacity. This legislation will be in force until the Regional Solid Waste Management Plan (RSWMP) update is complete. Issues having to do with tonnage caps at private facilities, the role of Metro's transfer stations, service areas that generate tonnage caps, exceptions to those caps, host fees, etc. will all be looked at. Because Columbia Environmental submitted their application prior to the moratorium going into effect, they are being considered; a decision will be made in the next few months.

### **III. Upcoming Disposal System Issues..... Doug Anderson**

Mr. Anderson (Manager of the Solid Waste & Recycling Department's Financial Management & Analysis Division) directed the group's attention to a hand-out entitled "Disposal System Planning" which will be presented to the Metro Council.

Councilor McLain said that she would report back to SWAC what transpires at the Council Work Session regarding the document, and any questions or issues that Council may want to be discussed with this group. She commented that while there has been an ongoing review of the disposal issues involved, it's very timely to coordinate it with the RSWMP update.

### **IV. "Let's Talk Trash" ..... Jan O'Dell**

SW&R's Community Relations Supervisor, Jan O'Dell, introduced the "Let's Talk Trash" public outreach portion of the RSWMP update. A series of public meetings / workshops will be held to get resident's views on the current solid waste system and the direction they would like to see it take in the next several years. In addition to the meetings, the information and a survey are available on Metro's website. Depending on response, Ms. O'Dell said, a few more meetings may be added in October targeting various community groups.

Ms. O'Dell introduced Arnold Cogan of Cogan, Owens, Cogan, the consultants selected to facilitate the workshops. Mr. Cogan explained how each meeting would be conducted, and then divided the members into three groups to participate in a session themselves. Upon conclusion, one person from each group summarized their table's discussion. Some of the points mentioned:

- More education – and make it ongoing.
- Make recycling easier.
- More recycling should be pursued, but analyze the cost, figuring in public good, not just cost.
- Government can lead by example.
- Message hasn't been communicated to public that more recycling comes at a cost.
- What are motivating factors?
- Should measurement be weight- or toxicity based?
- Expand education and literature to target non-English speaking residents.
- Recycling needs more consistency throughout region; people move from jurisdiction to jurisdiction and get confused.
- More consistency in multi-family dwellings; plan recycling areas for new construction.
- More can be accomplished with the current system.
- Local commitment needed at all levels (government, generators, haulers, etc.)
- Mandatory recycling may lead to attitudes of "I have to, but that doesn't mean I'll do it well."
- Motivate voluntary actions rather than create regulations.
- Determine who's not recycling, and why.
- Will the public tolerate higher costs in order to increase recycling?
- Greener products – clean up manufacturing processes, recycle heavy metals, continue to work with manufacturers.
- Seek alternatives to toxic chemicals/processes
- Have incentives for research and development and zero waste achievers.
- Economic development framework.
- Community wide approach needed to increase sustainability (government, manufacturers, retail, haulers, etc.)

There were decidedly mixed reviews on the topic of the 62% goal, from “stay the course” to wanting the goal reviewed / revised. Some members would like to see existing programs improved before bringing in new ones; others thought that new programs might stir excitement and added participation. Education was addressed at all three tables, along with the word “consistent,” sometimes in the context of wanting rules between jurisdictions to be consistent, and sometimes meaning “constant” as in ongoing educational programs to help target new residents. Regulation and landfill bans also had both fans and detractors.

When discussion concluded, Mr. Walker commended staff on their work on this project.

**V. Other Business and Adjourn ..... Susan McLain**

- Councilor McLain thanked everyone for attending, and said she would like comments on any of the handouts from this meeting at the October meeting.
- The Councilor adjourned the meeting at 4:53 p.m.

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**Documents to be kept with the record of the meeting (copies available upon request):**

Agenda Item I:

- Meeting Summary of the July 26, 2004 SWAC meeting (as adopted)

Agenda Item III:

- Disposal System Planning

Other:

- Memo from Janet Matthews to Councilor Susan McLain presenting the tentative SWAC meeting schedule and topics for the remainder of 2004.

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# Update on the RSWMP Update Project

## PROGRESS REPORT

Progress report #2 was issued last week. Next progress report will be issued in January.

## PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

- “Let’s Talk Trash” -- 3 public meetings and 1 SWAC meeting held in Sept. and Oct.
- 38 people attended the 3 public meetings
- To-date, approximately 100 people have filled out the Let’s Talk Trash survey/questionnaire
- 7 more small meetings have been scheduled for the first two weeks of November to invite more input on the three key planning issues presented in the Let’s Talk Trash discussion guide:
  - Franklin High School (Portland)
  - Ralceigh West Neighborhood Association (Beaverton)
  - Environmental Services Council Advisory Committee and 11 neighborhood associations (Gresham)
  - Five Oaks/Triple Creek Neighborhood Association (Beaverton)
  - Park Place Neighborhood Association (Oregon City)
  - North and Central Portland Enhancement Committees (north and northwest Portland)

Meetings will range in time from 30 minutes to an hour; staff will tailor presentations to the time allowed at each meeting; primary purpose is to introduce the issues and ask people to fill out the questionnaire.

- The official summary report will be released after these meetings have concluded.
- Some highlights of what we’ve heard so far:

### *SERVICES:*

- The current solid waste system is adequate for today, but needs to be improved in the future in terms of standardization of services and recycling options available curbside.

### *RESOURCE CONSERVATION:*

- Resource conservation received strong support as the most important aspect to emphasize in how services are provided (choosing among convenience, cost, and conservation).

### *RECYCLING:*

- The current level of recycling can be improved. Recycling needs to be made easier and more convenient. The majority of participants were willing to pay more for increased recycling and education options.

### *EDUCATION:*

- There is strong support for increasing investment in public information and recycling programs

### *SUSTAINABILITY PRINCIPLES GUIDING SOLID WASTE PRACTICES*

- Government agencies and Metro in particular should lead the region by modeling sustainable practices and standards
  - Some participants had a difficult time grasping the terms and examples of sustainability, but there was support that it should be a long-term goal.
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- The survey will be posted on Metro's website until November 12, 2004.

### **SUMMARY OF INPUTS TO THE DRAFT**

1. Key planning issues of (a) recycling and garbage services; (b) recycling policies; and (c) sustainability (Inputs from public involvement meetings, on-line survey participants, SWAC) Report next month will clarify what we've heard.
2. Disposal System Planning (Inputs from Council & SWAC) Council work session on October 12<sup>th</sup> indicated a preference to maintain current RSWMP direction that calls for a disposal system comprised of public and private facilities. Closer to the time the transfer station bonds are paid off in 2009, however, Council will expect staff research on, among other things: the value of the public investment; how public services might be provided in a private system; and regulation of a private system.
3. Updating Waste Reduction Strategies
  - Residential (inputs to date from LGs, Metro staff)
  - Business (inputs to date from chambers of commerce and other business groups; multi-stakeholder dry waste recovery group)
  - Hazardous Waste (inputs to date from technical experts; public focus group to follow)
  - Education (inputs to date from Metro staff)
4. Collection Issues (inputs from LG's, haulers, SWAC)

### **SCHEDULE FOR THE MONTHS AHEAD**

November – finish up inputs from small groups

December – staff completes preliminary revisions to the current RSWMP

January – internal review and stakeholder discussion

March – consultant will revise preliminary draft into draft for public review

April – draft RSWMP available for public review and comment

### **SWAC INVOLVEMENT IN THE MONTH'S AHEAD**

January and February – we'll be asking for your feedback to proposed revisions on the direction-setting portions of the plan (goals, objectives, strategies).

**[SWAC feedback: industry members said they prefer to provide input in the context of SWAC meetings, rather than small group meetings outside of SWAC]**