MEETING SUMMARY METRO SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING COMMITTEE (SWAC)

Metro Regional Center, Rooms 370 A/B Thursday, March 4, 2010

Members / Alternates Present:

Matt Korot, Chair Susan Millhauser Michelle Poyourow Scott Keller Amy Pepper Dave White

Bruce Walker Rick Winterhalter John Lucini

Theresa Koppang JoAnn Herrigel Paul Ehinger, Alternate

Adam Winston

Members / Alternates Not Present:

Audrey O'Brien

Guests and Metro staff:

Reed Wagner, Metro Jim Desmond, Metro Paulette Rossi
Ray Phelps, Allied Waste Chris Carey Kevin Six, Metro
Roy Brower, Metro Jeff Murray, Far West Fibers Andrew Bartlett
Dean Large, Waste Connections Matt Stern Gina Cubbon, Metro

Dan Blue, City of Gresham
Marv Fjordbeck, Metro
Dean Kampfer, Waste Mgmnt
Mike Dewey, Waste Mgmnt

Matt Korot welcomed the attendees and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Mr. Korot explained that the Committee will meet at least once per month, and more frequently as the group wishes. Regarding public comment at the meetings, Mr. Korot received head-nodding agreement to his suggestion of up to ten minutes per agenda item, and no time for non-agenda topics. If more time is needed, additional written comments may be submitted via email to Gina Cubbon at Metro.

Meeting proceedings will not follow Robert's Rules of Order, but votes will be taken in a proper manner. While voting members are those representing local governments, Metro Council will be given reports that reflect the full flavor of discussions, including ideas and minority opinions from both voting and non-voting members.

Mr. Korot reminded the group of SWAC's purpose as established in Metro Code:

To develop policy options that, if implemented, would serve the public interest by reducing the amount and toxicity of waste generated and disposed, or enhancing the effectiveness and sustainability of the system through which the region's solid waste is managed.

The Committee's role will be to use its expertise and creative ideas to provide the Council with thoughtful, well-vetted options to serve this purpose, including pros, cons, and indicative opinions of group members. Its role is not to present one recommendation per issue to Council.

Mr. Korot said that Metro staff suggests that the first area on which the Committee focus is food waste. Mr. Korot used a PowerPoint presentation to outline the subject (attached). The issue is compelling region-wide from a number of perspectives, and is a priority element of the Regional Solid Waste Management Plan (RSWMP) in the form of reuse (useable food donated to rescue agencies) and recovery (commercial food waste organics). There are a number of potential actions the Metro Council could take to advance the food system more sustainable, including many that fall within SWAC's area of responsibility.

The Committee discussed how wide a focus should be used to start the discussion. A number of members felt the broad sustainability perspective illustrated in the PowerPoint should be used, while others felt it best to immediately focus "on end-of-life" work, i.e., the point at which food doesn't get used and disposal, recycling and donation are all still options.

Other questions/comments:

- What's the problem statement? Is it that there's too much going to the landfill, or that too much is wasted, or something else?
- Is any of this Metro's problem to solve? New programs aren't cheap if it's somebody else's problem, maybe they should be informed and let them take care of it.
- Will Council be looking at tonnage or percentages?

Mr. Korot took a stab at summarizing it all: everyone sees the need to quickly focus our deliberations, but more members are in support of starting broadly than immediately focusing on end-of-life. He said he would present the focus area and this approach to Council for its approval and report back to SWAC. Members asked for more information on the elements of the sustainable food system presented in the PowerPoint to use as a roadmap to develop the problem statement and begin to identify options for narrowing the group's focus..

A web-based poll will be conducted to ascertain what day/time works best for all or most members. The group prefers morning or late afternoon meetings; Fridays are not ideal because some local government offices are closed.

With neither further announcements nor new business, Mr. Korot adjourned the meeting at 4:15 p.m.

Prepared by:

Gina Cubbon
Assistant to the Director
Metro Parks & Environmental Services

gbc Attachments

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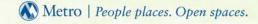
Metro Solid Waste Advisory Committee

March 4, 2010



Metro Solid Waste Advisory Committee

Purpose: to develop policy options that, if implemented, would serve the public interest by reducing the amount and toxicity of waste generated and disposed, or enhancing the effectiveness and sustainability of the system through which the region's solid waste is managed.



Proposed First Area of Focus: Food

Why?

Regional interest in Sustainable Food Systems

Regional Solid Waste Management Plan

Significant component of the waste stream

Availability of end-of-life management options

Opportunity for Metro policy role



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Proposed First Area of Focus: Food

Why?

Regional interest in Sustainable Food Systems

Local food

Healthy food

Food insecurity

Environmental and health impacts of food production

Reducing food waste



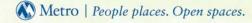
Proposed First Area of Focus: Food

Why?

Regional Solid Waste Management Plan

Commercial Organics

- "Reuse"
- Recovery



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Proposed First Area of Focus: Food

Why?

Significant component of the waste stream

184,000 tons per year = 14% of garbage

Of this . . .

- Commercial sector = 55-60%
- Residential sector = 40-45%



Proposed First Area of Focus: Food

Why?

Availability of end-of-life management options

Composting

Bioenergy



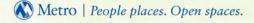
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Proposed First Area of Focus: Food

Why?

Opportunity for Metro policy role

- Food production, distribution, consumption (examples)
 - Land use, incentives, market development, education
- Capacity building for food discards (examples)
 - Investments, incentives or disincentives for reuse
 - Increase reload, transfer and processing capacity through public facility development, investment in private facilities, facility permitting changes
- System management (examples)
 - Rate setting, disposal bans, flow control



Food Waste - Components of a Problem Statement

- Opportunity for improving sustainability of regional food system.
- There are a number of potential policy tools that Metro could use to improve the sustainability of the regional food system.
- Given SWAC's charge, it is the appropriate body to identify and analyze these policy options, particularly those that would reduce the amount of food waste generated and disposed in the region.

