

MEETING SUMMARY
METRO SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SWAC)
Metro Regional Center, Council Chambers
Thursday, September 16, 2010

Members / Alternates Present:

Matt Korot, Chair	Bruce Walker	John Lucini
Scott Keller	Amy Pepper	Michelle Poyourow
Adam Winston	Rick Winterhalter	Susan Millhauser
Dave White	JoAnn Herrigel	

Members / Alternates Absent:

Audrey O'Brien
Theresa Koppang
Paul Ehinger, Alternate

Guests and Metro staff:

Jennifer Erickson, Metro	Alando Simpson, City of Roses	Jerry Green, Washington Cty.
Meredith Sorenson, Harvest Pwr.	Dan Blue, City of Gresham	Mike Dewey, WMO
Tom Chaimov, Metro	Dean Kampfer, WMO	Ray Phelps, Allied Waste
Will Elder, Metro	Dick Stringer,	Roy Brower, Metro
Rich McConaghy, City of Vanc.	Meg Lynch, Metro	Gina Cubbon, Metro
Holly Stirnkorb, Tabor Consult.	Leslie Kochan, DEQ	

- I. Welcome and Review of Agenda.....*Matt Korot***
- II. Introduction to Metro's Solid Waste System Roadmap Project..... *Tom Chaimov***

Tom Chaimov, Senior Solid Waste Planner, introduced himself and explained the project's background. The goal is to map out a five to ten-year plan for actions that need to be taken by 2020. A large study of the system was conducted in 2005-06; some (but not all) of its recommendations were implemented. This project will bring the subject back to Council's attention.

By the end of 2019, Mr. Chaimov reminded the group, all Metro's major solid waste contracts will expire, including the contract for waste disposal that requires sending a significant portion of waste to a single source. Decisions need to be made regarding whether to keep that provision, what issues are important, what changes Council would like to see. The issues include reconfiguration or repurposing of Metro South Transfer Station, product stewardship, rate transparency, among others. While the project is still too fluid to be able to give a real status report on, Mr. Chaimov encouraged anyone who would like to talk about it to contact him directly.

The original timeline was to finish the Roadmap this year; however, with the departure of Council President Bragdon, the project has slowed slightly. Information about discussion of the project at Council Work Sessions can be found on Metro's website: <http://www.oregonmetro.gov/index.cfm/go/by.web/id=21730>

- III. Review and Discuss Results of Food System Refinement Exercise.....*Facilitator: Jennifer Erickson***

Ms. Erickson told the group that she and Mr. Korot reviewed all the information gathered from the original exercise and winnowed the action areas down into those that would require action by the Metro Council. Regarding education / promotion – these are really embedded within all of the ideas so don't need to be separate; also, local and sustainable agriculture were combined into one topic.

She walked the group through a PowerPoint presentation (attached) which outlined each policy-related action (taken directly from members' suggestions). Next, the criteria for narrowing the focus was revisited; the third section of the PowerPoint showed the results of running each idea through the criteria.

In discussion, Ms. Erickson mentioned that the topic of worker health and safety only had one item that Metro could take action on: to ensure those working in any capacity for Metro (contractor and subcontractors' employees, for instance) be treated fairly. Also, use of the word "processing" is meant to encompass more than just composting. Energy technologies or other uses are also in the mix.

IV. Prioritization of Food System Actions.....All

The members were asked to discuss and begin to prioritize the list of ideas. Discussion included whether the intention is to pursue Metro-specific policies, or ones that would reach throughout the region (can be either and hopefully both). The goal is to give the Council items to consider; even items that don't go to Council in the end will help inform staff at a program level. Guest Leslie Kochan added that another criteria could be if / how Metro actions may affect the state's plan, which includes material specific items.

Dave White asked if Metro might be able to use some of its parks or open spaces for local farming. Ms. Erickson replied that while there are definite limitations due to the stipulations of the bond measure, there is some farming already occurring on Metro-owned properties with a goal to look at more where it can happen. Mr. White also asked that staff look into whether other jurisdictions are already working on any similar ideas that could make this work redundant, or with which we could partner.

How would Metro define "edible"? There are existing regulatory parameters for the term. Does Metro have the authority to institute bans? The Metro Attorney has looked at the issue to confirm that the basic answer is yes; there are other issues involved, but for the sake of this exercise, the group was asked to assume yes. Adam Winston voiced concern that any kind of ban would be unworkable and unenforceable, but JoAnn Herrigel added that the idea of banning anything is to encourage donation. She said it would be best to treat it like a ban, without an actual ban. Set up a system for pick-up and distribution of the edible food. The group discussed and developed language for this item.

The group continued to dig into the recommended actions, taking out some options and giving others further consideration. The item concerning carbon taxes elicited particularly note-worthy ideas (thus their inclusion in the notes), including concern about carbon taxes being approached in a "piece-meal" manner; Michelle Poyourow preferred the idea of advocating for a carbon tax that would include food, fuel, clothing and more. Amy Pepper pointed out, however, that at this time there's not even a state methodology to track the carbon. Bruce Walker suggested state legislation to have labels include GHG information as related to the product, to encourage better choices. It might be a more palatable option. Another member brought up the fact that labeling could get very complicated with products from national and international manufacturers.

After debating all the areas, the group voted on their prioritizations. The results were compiled and are attached.

V. Public CommentAll

Dick Springer, of the West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District, introduced himself with a synopsis of his experience in the solid waste & recycling field and explained the efforts underway to locate a bio-energy facility on Sauvie Island. He encouraged the SWAC members to contact him if they were interested in additional information about the project.

VI. Next Steps

Staff will take the four top priority policy actions defined by SWAC and develop draft policy papers for discussion and consideration at the October meeting.

VII. Adjourn

The Committee discussed whether this day and time will work for meeting monthly. They gave head-nodding approval for Leslie Kochan to replace Audrey O'Brien, who cannot attend on Thursday mornings, pending Council approval.

Mr. Korot adjourned the meeting at 11:02 a.m.

Prepared by:

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Attachments

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