

Metro | *Meeting minutes*

Meeting: Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC)
Date: Jan. 8, 2014
Place: Metro Regional Center, Room 370A/B

Members Present

Amy Pepper, City of Troutdale
Kathy Kaatz, City of Tualatin
Scott Keller, City of Beaverton
Theresa Koppang, Washington County
Dan Blue, City of Gresham
Bruce Walker, City of Portland
Alando Simpson, City of Roses Disposal & Recycling
Keith Ristau, Far West Fibers
Mike Leichner, Pride Disposal
Leslie Kochan, Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality
Amy Roth, Association of Oregon Recyclers
Matt Korot, Metro
Paul Ehinger (alternate), Metro

Members Absent

Susan Millhauser, City of Lake Oswego

1. CALL TO ORDER AND DECLARATION OF A QUORUM

Chair Matt Korot declared a quorum and called the meeting to order.

2. COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

SWAC members introduced themselves by name, affiliation and nature of work. Meeting visitors introduced themselves.

Chair Korot reviewed SWAC's purpose, which is to develop policy options for the Metro Council 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.

Chair Korot reviewed SWAC member responsibilities and the committee's decision-making process, noting the basic ground rule of having open and respectful communication. He reminded the group that SWAC's voting members are the local government representatives, with all other members in non-voting roles. He added that when SWAC last met, the group operated on a consensus basis without taking votes and expressed his hope that the committee

could use that consensus approach again, unless members desired otherwise. Committee members indicated they approved of that approach.

3. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS TO SWAC AGENDA ITEMS

Chair Korot said this item will be on the agenda for each meeting. He expects that there will not be a lot of time allotted to it because future agendas are expected to be full.

4. PRELIMINARY LIST OF SWAC AGENDA TOPICS

Chair Korot reviewed the preliminary calendar of topics. He noted that today's Solid Waste Roadmap presentation by Paul Slyman will set up SWAC for discussions at future meetings, because many of the upcoming agenda items are Roadmap-related. There will also be a couple of Regional Solid Waste Management Plan-related items and a discussion of Community Enhancement Fees. He added that most items will have more than one engagement and that there could be some adjustments to the schedule if the timelines of particular projects are adjusted.

5. METRO'S SOLID WASTE ROADMAP

Paul Slyman, Metro Parks & Environmental Services Director, provided an overview of the Solid Waste Roadmap and what it is attempting to accomplish. He reviewed Metro's three areas of responsibility associated with the solid waste system: policy-making, regulatory and operations. He noted that Metro carries these out with six public benefits in mind:

- protect human health
- protect the environment
- get good value for the public's money
- get the most out of the materials collected (the solid waste management hierarchy)
- stay responsive to changes in the waste stream
- ensure there are services for all types of customers, e.g., self-haul.

Mr. Slyman reviewed the six questions being addressed by the Roadmap:

1. Long-term Management. Over the long run, what does the region want to do with materials that aren't reused, recycled, or composted?
2. Metro South Station. What service alternatives should Metro pursue at Metro South and in the vicinity to provide for the full suite of needed services?
3. Foundational Work. What is the amount and nature of waste that might be discarded in the future, and how will various alternatives perform in managing it?
4. Organics Capacity. What actions should Metro take to ensure adequate and reasonably proximate capacity to transfer and process food scraps collected from the region's businesses and residents?

5. Transfer System Configuration. What model of the public-private transfer system (e.g., service levels, tonnage allocations, rates, public role, private role) best provides for the public interest?
6. Fee & Tax Policies. How should Metro recover the cost of solid waste services and programs, and of general government, to improve stability, equity and predictability?

He said that Metro will assess the potential approaches for addressing each question against the six public benefits.

Mr. Slyman then provided a high level, two decade overview of the solid waste system, highlighting how Metro transfer stations' share of disposed solid waste declined over the years relative to the private sector, and that these changes affected how Metro used its operations, regulatory and policy roles and its ability to achieve the six public benefits described above. He finished by noting that the Roadmap is a very deliberate effort for Metro to ask itself what its ongoing role should be.

6. PREVIEW OF THE NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA AND FINAL COMMENTS

Mr. Korot said that at SWAC's next meeting on February 12, it will discuss the Metro South Transfer Station project. He will send background information on the project to members in advance of the meeting.

7. ADJOURN

Chair Korot adjourned the meeting.

MEETING TOPIC

FROM

DATE