



Metro | *Meeting minutes*

Meeting: Solid Waste Alternatives Advisory Committee (SWAAC)
Date: August 13, 2014
Place: Metro Regional Center, Council Chamber

Members present

Dan Blue, City of Gresham
Kathy Kaatz, City of Tualatin
Scott Keller, City of Beaverton
Leslie Kochan, Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality
Theresa Koppang, Washington County
Matt Korot, Metro
Mike Leichner, Pride Disposal
Keith Ristau, Far West Fibers
Alando Simpson, City of Roses Disposal & Recycling
Bruce Walker, City of Portland

Members Absent

Amy Pepper, City of Troutdale
Amy Roth, Association of Oregon Recyclers

Guests

Doug Anderson, Metro
Ken Ray, Metro

1. CALL TO ORDER AND DECLARATION OF A QUORUM

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

2. COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair Korot review the agenda items and reminded members that Susan Milhauser had resigned from the committee.

3. CONSIDERATION OF SWAC MINUTES FOR JULY 9, 2014

The minutes of the July 9, 2014 Solid Waste Alternatives Advisory Committee meeting were approved as written. A motion to approve was made and seconded.

4. LET'S TALK TRASH UPDATE

Ken Ray, Metro Communications, presented an update on Metro's Let's Talk Trash series, through which Metro is trying to reach a broader base of individuals who want to be engaged in the discussion of solid waste management. Since May, multiple events have engaged people across the region, with additional events scheduled for fall, including the Let's Talk Trash Film Contest,

in partnership with the Northwest Film Center, and an event currently in the planning process that will focus on the region's food waste. More information can be found on Metro's website, www.oregonmetro.gov/letstalktrash. Mr. Ray said he welcomes input and suggestions for speakers, places to go, topics, and sharing information through social media channels. Mr. Ray can be reached at 503-797-1508 or ken.ray@oregonmetro.gov.

5. SOLID WASTE ROADMAP: TRANSFER SYSTEM CONFIGURATION PROJECT

Doug Anderson, Metro, spoke about the Transfer System Configuration project (see presentation).

Bruce Walker, City of Portland, asked for clarification of the phrase "vertically integrated companies" on slide 27. Mr. Anderson replied that the project is not regarding vertically integrated in any strict sense. If you have two or more legs of the system (collection, transfer, landfill), that would fall within the definition. Mainly, he said, we're trying to ascertain differences between the truly independent hauler and those with other functions to see where points of view converge or don't. In the reconnaissance phase, we are trying to understand all points of view.

Mr. Walker also asked for clarification on the work groups. He asked how Mr. Anderson is anticipating addressing issues in such subgroups. Mr. Anderson replied that he is still flexible, because until the reconnaissance phase is done he won't know the hot button issues. Metro is committing to a work group-type process, but the actual form won't be known until later.

Theresa Koppang, Washington County, asked for clarification of the phrase "content of regulatory instruments" on slide 37. Mr. Anderson replied that a primary example of this is the tonnage caps, in which Metro sets the amount of wet waste that private transfer stations can accept. The caps issue is a shorter term one that we know we have to address. It may or not relate to the post-2019 situation.

Alando Simpson, City of Roses Disposal & Recycling, asked for confirmation of the question "Are there alternatives that would do a better job?" on slide 16. Mr. Anderson reminded the committee that this is why we are doing the reconnaissance phase. Nothing's been decided and that's why we want an open dialogue with stakeholders.

Dan Blue, City of Gresham, stated that the project title implies Metro is looking at status quo in terms of transferring material away from the region. Is that an accurate description or, if you are truly looking at all alternatives, does transfer away from the region have to be highlighted? Mr. Anderson replied that it does not have to be just about transfer, so there may be a labeling issue to which he had not been sensitive.

Mr. Simpson asked for confirmation of the word "internalization" on slide 20. Mr. Anderson replied that internalization is a measure of the degree to which a vertically integrated company directs the waste it controls to its own landfills. Conventional wisdom is that landfills are potentially very high profit entities. Mr. Anderson stated that it's his belief that if nothing is done, the forces of internalization will help shape what the system looks like after the 90% tonnage guarantee to Waste Management goes away after 2019, because there are other players that may come in with a motive to acquire haulers and transfer stations to feed large regional landfills. It's a dynamic that's sitting in the closet and is on our radar screen.

6. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS TO SWAAC AGENDA ITEMS

Thane Tienson, representing NatureWorks, asked for confirmation about the role of the Metro Council, whether advisory or decision-maker. Mr. Anderson replied that the Metro Council has a decision-making role in terms of both short-term issues and adoption of long-term policies. The

plan now is to forward recommendations to the Council in November/December 2015. Mr. Tienson noted that his client does not fit into the initial group of stakeholders, and asked what role they will play in the process. Mr. Anderson replied that the stakeholders he mentioned today are just an initial group and additional stakeholders will continue to be identified and included throughout the process. Mr. Anderson asked Mr. Korot to speak to how this integrates with the food scraps capacity project process. Mr. Korot responded that we have an engagement with Council at a work session in November to share the initial set of options for increasing capacity. At that point, Council will give us direction on where they want staff to focus its research. We would come back to Council for actual decision-making in 2015.

Doug Drennen, JR Miller, referenced the Metro South alternatives study and was curious how that study and its process and progress dovetails with the current project. Mr. Anderson replied that the Metro Council has asked to hear the Solid Waste Roadmap projects in order of Food Scraps, Long Term Management, Transfer System, Metro South and Finance, in that order (see slide 6), to better understand higher level system issues and to get an idea of what policies might be coming out of the transfer station project that may affect Metro South.

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

Mr. Korot said the September 10, 2014 SWAAC meeting will be a discussion of the components of DEQ's draft Materials Management legislative packet, including goals and measures for the Metro region, potential changes to the Recycling Opportunity Act and some of the financial elements. The reason for holding this discussion at SWAAC is that the Metro Council develops its legislative priorities prior to each session and we want to be able to provide Council with your input and staff's analysis to inform Council's decision on whether to make the DEQ package a priority. Leslie Kochan and David Allaway will present on the package and then our discussion will hone in on the potential impact to the Metro region. In addition, Roy Brower and Bill Metzler will give an update on changes to Metro's community enhancement grant programs.

8. ADJOURN

Chair Korot adjourned the meeting at 11 a.m.