



## Metro | *Meeting minutes*

**Meeting:** Solid Waste Alternatives Advisory Committee (SWAAC)  
**Date:** December 10, 2014  
**Place:** Metro Regional Center, Council Chamber

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### **Members present**

Dan Blue, City of Gresham  
Paul Ehinger, Metro  
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**

Tom Chaimov, Metro  
Andy Sloop, 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 reviewed the agenda items, as well as the tentative 2015 meeting schedule.

### **3. CONSIDERATION OF SWAC MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 10, 2014**

The minutes of the September 10, 2014 SWAAC meeting were approved as written. A motion to approve was made and seconded.

### **4. UPDATE ON METRO COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS OF SOLID WASTE ROADMAP PRODUCTS**

Tom Chaimov, Metro, updated the committee on the Solid Waste Roadmap program. Information on the following topics was discussed with the Metro Council at October and November work sessions:

- **Transfer system configuration:** Staff reviewed the current transfer system configuration and an alternatives analysis to determine what model of the public-private transfer system

would best serve the public interest. The Council agreed the project is headed in the right direction, but asked for more information about the system's history, and what best practices existed in similar systems. The Council stressed the importance of long-term flexibility, and its desire for a solution other than landfilling. In addition, the Council was very interested in continued, even enhanced, provision of self-haul services in the region. To that end, the Council directed staff to include the public as part of the project's stakeholder engagement.

- **Food scraps processing capacity:** The primary goal of this presentation was to seek guidance from the Council on which potential alternatives to investigate further. A number of alternatives were presented for addressing the capacity issue in general and two specific barriers to progress: lack of a reliable supply of food scraps and the challenge of siting additional facilities within the region. The Council endorsed the project approach and directed staff to further investigate all of the identified options.
- **Metro South transfer station:** Staff presented an overview of Metro South station history from 1983 to present and reviewed findings of recent stakeholder assessments, then asked the Council to narrow proposed facility reconfigurations from three finalists to two. The Council chose two options, "Fill to Grade" and "Move Self Haul Offsite." The Fill to Grade option would fill and level the entire site to grade and build a 45,000 sq. ft. building, including a new sort line. This configuration is projected to triple recovery rates, similar to those of Metro Central transfer station. The Move Self Haul Offsite option would build a new 70,000 sq. ft. self-haul and HHW facility at a to-be-determined off-site location and, with only minor modifications, would rebrand the current Metro South site as a commercial only facility.

## 5. WOOD WASTE MARKET ALTERNATIVES

Andy Sloop, Metro, presented context and background information for the wood waste market alternatives study (*see Metro Wood Waste Markets Alternatives Project Briefing Paper*). He then reviewed four potential scenarios and posed three questions for the committee:

Scenario 1 (Enhanced Base Case): Status quo with increased reuse. Clean hog fuel goes to traditional markets and some treated wood to Marion County waste-to-energy and landfill.

Scenario 2 (Enhanced Base Case plus District Heat and Biochar): Implement scenario 1 and build pyrolysis facility to convert hog fuel into biochar, biogas, and bio-oil.

Scenario 3 (Enhanced Base Case plus Composite Panelboard, Pulp Chips, and Densified Wood Fuels): Implement scenario 1 and add a sort to divert clean wood prior to grinding. Equip a central facility to produce quality chips for pulp, pellet, and particleboard markets.

Scenario 4 (Enhanced Base Case plus Dry Anaerobic Digestion)

Implement scenario 1 and add a sort to divert clean wood to produce quality chips to provide feedstock to dry anaerobic digestion facilities to produce biogas.

### Questions

1. What are your general impressions of each scenario?
2. Given the nature of each scenario, what are your thoughts about the role Metro and local governments should play in implementing them?
3. If Metro were to invest time and money in market development, on which types of options do you think it should focus its resources?

### **Committee input and questions**

- A broad, public conversation about this is needed.
- There is concern about rate impacts if remaining urban wood markets failed and most/all wood waste were disposed.
- There may be a need for investing in sorting and processing equipment to meet higher value market specifications. This equipment should be installed at several smaller facilities rather than investing in just one large facility.
- Consider whether there is an opportunity to include urban wood in extended producer responsibility work.
- Be attentive to air quality impacts in the scenarios, as areas of the region are in or near non-attainment status.
- Consider using a ranking system, similar to that used in DEQ's recent food scraps study, as a way to assessing the scenarios.
- It is critical to investigate options beyond the status quo. Wood material has limited options for reuse; opportunities for higher use markets should be investigated.
- Challenges outlined in some of the scenarios need additional exploration. Options for decentralized, smaller units that leverage existing infrastructure should be thoroughly researched.
- The feasibility of locating wood-fired district heating facilities in an urban environment is questionable.
- In the past, pressure on paper mills to use recycled feedstock helped spur market development.

### **Audience comments**

- Metro's role should be to work with state, local and federal governments to determine uses for this type of material, such as colorized urban wood mulch, and require government procurement of it. An alternative is for Metro to enter the hogged fuel market itself, installing a state-of-the-art, environmentally friendly electricity and steam co-generation plant, possibly at the old St. Johns landfill site, using the wood Metro transfer stations produce. *(Vince Gilbert, Environmentally Conscious Recycling)*
- All facilities should be contacted for input. Greenway already has the capacity to clean urban wood waste for higher-grade uses than hog fuel such as reuse, but this doesn't pencil out economically. Additional funding will need to come from somewhere, either as a direct subsidy from Metro (not sustainable long term) or as an increase in tipping fees. The current wood waste tipping fee is approaching the level of the garbage tipping fee, so there isn't enough margin to raise the wood tipping fee to the level needed to justify higher-grade processing. *(Terrell Garrett, Greenway Recycling)*

Mr. Sloop thanked the committee and members of the audience for their comments and said that Metro would likely begin deeper analysis of the scenarios in spring of this year and would probably return to SWAAC to discuss the findings from this work.

## **6. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS TO SWAAC AGENDA ITEMS**

Thane Tienson, representing NatureWorks, noted that during the Nov. 18, 2014 Metro Council discussion on the Solid Waste Roadmap projects, Council asked that staff return with information about best practices used elsewhere in regard to the management of compostable serviceware.

Jeff Murray said that related to paper recovery, mills historically were pressured to find ways to reuse product. We should encourage industry to look at better uses like MDF.

Vince Gilbert, Environmentally Conscious Recycling, expressed his appreciation for Metro's comprehensive review and analysis of the wood waste program.

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

No meeting will be held in January 2015. The next meeting is scheduled for Feb. 11, 2015. Topics will include a continuing discussion about DEQ's waste generation goals for the region, as well as a mid-term review of the Regional Solid Waste Management Plan.

**8. ADJOURN**

Chair Korot adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m.