



## Metro | *Meeting minutes*

**Meeting:** Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC)  
**Date:** May 14, 2014  
**Place:** Metro Regional Center, Council Chamber

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### **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  
Susan Millhauser, City of Lake Oswego  
Amy Pepper, City of Troutdale  
Keith Ristau, Far West Fibers  
Amy Roth, Association of Oregon Recyclers  
Alando Simpson, City of Roses Disposal & Recycling  
Bruce Walker, City of Portland

### **Members Absent**

Paul Ehinger, Metro (alternate)  
Mike Leichner, Pride Disposal

### **Guests**

Tom Chaimov, Metro  
Marv Fjordbeck, Metro  
Rob Smoot, 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 meeting agenda and asked if the Committee had questions or comments regarding the agenda. They did not. Ken Ray, Metro Communications, promoted Metro's Let's Talk Trash public engagement series (see [www.oregonmetro.gov/letstalktrash](http://www.oregonmetro.gov/letstalktrash)).

### **3. CONSIDERATION OF SWAC MINUTES FOR MARCH 12, 2014**

The minutes of the March 12, 2014 SWAC meeting were approved as written.

#### **4. DEMOGRAPHIC SURVEY OF METRO ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Marv Fjordbeck, Office of Metro Attorney, introduced a survey designed to help evaluate the level of diversity of Metro's advisory committees. Committee members will receive an invitation via email to participate in the survey. The survey is anonymous and asks for basic demographic information. In response to a question from the Committee, Mr. Fjordbeck confirmed this is a survey of individual Committee members, not the organizations they represent. Committee members can contact Mr. Fjordbeck with questions, [marv.fjordbeck@oregonmetro.gov](mailto:marv.fjordbeck@oregonmetro.gov).

#### **5. SOLID WASTE ROADMAP SEQUENCING**

Tom Chaimov, Metro, provided the schedule for the Solid Waste Roadmap policy development. Through its involvement in the region's solid waste system, Metro seeks to provide the following public benefits:

1. Protect people's health
2. Protect the environment
3. Get good value for the public's money
4. Keep the commitment to the highest and best use of materials
5. Be adaptive and responsive in managing materials
6. Ensure services are available to all types of customers

Mr. Chaimov discussed the broader context of the Roadmap and presented a number of key questions for consideration by stakeholders and the Metro Council:

1. Long term, what should the region do with items that aren't reused, recycled or composted?
2. What model of public-private transfer system best serves the public interest?
3. What service alternative should Metro pursue at or near Metro South?
4. What actions should Metro take to ensure adequate and reasonably proximate food waste transfer and processing capacity?
5. How should Metro recover the cost of solid waste services and general government?

Rob Smoot and Paul Ehinger (Metro) will begin discussions on answering the long term question with the Metro Council on July 15, 2014. The Council is very interested in SWAC's comments and will consider all stakeholder input in the greater context of the Roadmap and the entire solid waste system.

Mr. Chaimov noted there have been no site-specific or company-specific conversations to this point, just concepts. He also noted that for the purposes of the long-term options study, Metro is reviewing solutions for ALL of the region's waste, not just the waste that passes through the two public transfer stations.

#### **6. SOLID WASTE ROADMAP: LONG-TERM OPTIONS FOR SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT**

Rob Smoot, Metro, presented a number of potential technology options for solid waste management. Metro has contracted with HDR, a national firm with many contacts in the industry.

Questions and answers during and following the presentation:

**BRUCE WALKER:** Reference was made in the presentation about the failed Reidel facility, and RDF (refuse-derived fuel) was mentioned. A facility in Lane County failed along those lines. Have other advancements made the technology appropriate now?

**ROB SMOOT:** The technology was tested at Metro Central a number of years ago. Related technologies are now much more advanced and a more feasible proposition; costs are not as prohibitive. Metro is looking into some of the technologies that failed in the past to determine how and why they are working today, and comparing options to facilitate discussion.

**BRUCE WALKER:** Regarding dry anaerobic digestion, is that what San Jose is doing?

**ROB SMOOT:** Yes. They had to redo their waste collection process. They bid out to a single franchise for the collection of commercial dry and wet waste in the region.

**BRUCE WALKER:** For all of the AMR (Advanced Material Recovery), one option would be a San Jose-like mega facility, or trying to put it in public transfer stations, or more of an EDWRP (Enhanced Dry Waste Recovery Program) requirement that would rely on Metro's transfer stations, as well as private.

**ROB SMOOT:** Yes. But we're not looking at the how yet. We're looking at the scenarios to see how they meet our six public values.

**LESLIE KOCHAN:** How will the analysis be done looking at the lifecycle impacts of some of these facilities? How does that pencil out, and what are the environmental benefits of the new technologies versus continuing to landfill? I'm hoping that's part of the broader assessment. It is critical to do that review up front.

**ROB SMOOT:** Yes. We'll be creating a Consumer Reports-style table to compare and contrast each of the scenarios. The consultant is currently working on a lifecycle cost analysis.

**LESLIE KOCHAN:** In a previous report, Metro anticipated impacts of population growth, including projections for climate refugees to the region. As Metro wants to support adaptability, are potential climate change impacts, including the potential for reduced consumption due to forecasts for scarcer resources, considered? How is Metro projecting growth?

**ROB SMOOT:** Adaptability is one of the key criteria. We have produced some projections using many analysis tools to inform their mechanisms and have passed those along to the consultant.

**MATT KOROT:** The Metro Council will want to have some of those details as well, so we'll have more specifics prior to meeting with the Council.

Mr. Chaimov introduced several questions for the Committee to consider:

1. What major policy implications should be considered as the scenarios are further investigated?
2. Do you see any critical problems with the scenarios that we have described that could lead to potentially fatal flaws?
3. What other critical information do you believe is needed for decision making?

Committee members wrote their comments to the three questions, which were then discussed and attributed to one of six areas (see attached chart).

1. Landfill (+/- AMR)
2. Direct combustion (+/- AMR)
3. Gasification after AMR
4. Anaerobic digestion after AMR
5. RDF after digestion with AMR
6. Other

Mr. Smoot thanked the Committee for their comments. He noted that some are already being addressed, and some are new thoughts that will be added to the list of issues to research.

Mr. Chaimov indicated staff will summarize the comments and return them to the Committee for approval and feedback, then transmit them to the Metro Council prior to their July 15 work session. Staff will have more direction from the Council following the work session, and will report back to the Committee early next year.

**7. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS TO SWAC AGENDA ITEMS**

Rick Winterhalter, Clackamas County, noted there are issues with MRFs (Material Recovery Facilities), but if the region is looking at spending this kind of money, we need to back up and look at how to get the material out of the front end. He acknowledged there are other discussions going on, but said it is important to look at this component.

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

Chair Korot thanked everyone for the valuable discussion. Next month there will be the first of at least two back-to-back discussions on the Roadmap project looking at what steps Metro should take to increase capacity for the transfer and processing of food scraps.

**9. ADJOURN**

Chair Korot adjourned the meeting at noon.