



Metro

600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232-2736

Meeting minutes

Meeting: Solid Waste Alternatives Advisory Committee (SWAAC)

Date/time: 10:00 a.m.-noon, Wednesday, February 8, 2017

Place: Metro Council Chambers

Members in Attendance:

Mike Leichner, Pride Disposal
Bruce Walker, City of Portland
Audrey O'Brien, Oregon DEQ
Adrienne Welsh, Recycling Advocates
Theresa Koppang, Washington County
Reba Crocker, City of Milwaukie
Peter Brandom, City of Hillsboro
Rick Winterhalter, Clackamas County
Matt Korot, Metro

Members Absent:

Paul Downey, City of Forest Grove
Mark Ottenad, City of Wilsonville
Alando Simpson, City of Roses Disposal & Recycling
Keith Ristau, Far West Recycling

1. Call to Order and Declaration of a Quorum

Matt Korot brought the meeting to order and declared a Quorum.

2. Comments from the Chair and SWACC Members

Mr. Korot reviewed the meeting agenda and how citizen communications would be structured. Theresa Koppang said that yesterday she made a presentation to the Washington County Board of Commissioners about commercial food scraps recovery, including Metro's work. The conversation went well and Board members were generally supportive of the idea of a mandatory approach for food scraps-generating businesses, though, of course, they need to see the details. Ms. Koppang appreciated that Metro Councilor Kathryn Harrington and staff person Pam Peck were in attendance.

3. Consideration of SWAAC Minutes for October 12, 2016

The minutes of the October SWAAC meeting were approved without change.

4. Updates

Ken Ray of Metro updated the committee about acceptance of asbestos-containing materials at Metro transfer stations. Additional items will be added to the list of unacceptable materials as of April 1, 2017. Metro has reached out to customer groups to inform them of the additional materials. The full list is available on the Metro website and printed materials are also available for local governments and others to distribute. Peter Brandom, Ms. Koppang, Rick Winterhalter and Reba Crocker indicated their interest in receiving copies. Mr. Winterhalter asked whether these rules apply to private transfer stations also. Audrey O'Brien responded that DEQ-issued permits for some private facilities don't allow for acceptance of asbestos-containing materials and that DEQ would share the Metro protocol with them.

Roy Brower of Metro provided a brief update on the Material Recovery Facility/Conversion Technology regulatory changes. The recommendations approved by SWAAC in October were presented to the Metro Council in January. Mr. Brower will present the draft code language for implementing the changes at the SWAAC meeting in April. Opportunities for broader public



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comment will occur after that and Mr. Brower will share any proposed revisions to the original draft language to SWAAC in June or July, with the intent of taking the final proposed language to Council in August or September.

5. 2030 Regional Waste Plan: Draft Work Plan

Paul Slyman and Marta McGuire of Metro reported on development of the successor to the current Regional Solid Waste Management Plan (RSWMP) and referred committee members to the draft plan that they had received in advance of the meeting. The Regional Waste Plan will establish policy direction, goals, roles and responsibilities, and strategies and actions for the region's solid waste and recycling system. Mr. Slyman pointed out that this will be the first major planning effort to incorporate Metro's new *Strategic plan to advance racial equity, diversity and inclusion*.

Ms. McGuire and Mr. Slyman reported that they discussed the draft work plan with the Metro Council on Feb. 7, 2017. Councilors were very engaged and supportive. Ms. McGuire and Mr. Korot will present the same information to the Metro Policy Advisory Committee on Feb. 22, 2016.

The work plan is informed by lessons learned from developing the current Regional Solid Waste Management Plan, from other Metro projects, and from non-Metro work such as the Portland Climate Action Plan. The overall goal is to adopt a Regional Waste Plan that reflects community and regional values, is based on sound technical analysis, and advances the region as a leader in resource conservation and protecting the environment.

Ms. McGuire added that the work of developing the plan will be guided by equity and product life cycle frameworks. Metro will form an equity work group that will operate throughout the process. Technical workgroups, SWAAC and the Metro Policy Advisory Committee will all have roles.

Bruce Walker asked what the technical work groups will do. Ms. McGuire responded that the actual topics of the work groups have yet to be decided and will come out of the visioning and system priorities phases of the work plan. They will also be informed by our existing work.

Peter Brandom asked who will be involved in the visioning. Ms. McGuire responded the community at large, local governments, historically underrepresented groups and others. Mr. Brandom asked whether Metro would look at local government plans beyond Portland's, such as Hillsboro's sustainability plan and comprehensive plan. Mr. Korot replied that looking at various local plans is a good idea and would be helpful to the process.

Ms. Koppang said she would like to see "wild" visioning that is bold and wide open. Let's not limit ourselves at the beginning; that can come later.

Ms. McGuire went on to explain the five phases of the work plan, which are detailed in the document provided to SWAAC members:

- Phase 1: development of shared values
- Phase 2: visioning and scenario development
- Phase 3: system analysis and goal setting
- Phase 4: development of strategies and actions
- Phase 5: plan review and adoption

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Mr. Brandom commented that the equity element of the planning should also have some “wild” visioning. Traditional engagements may not be effective. Local governments like Hillsboro may have ideas since they are doing this type of work. Ms. Koppang echoed Mr. Brandom’s comment and suggested that groups like Centro Cultural and Adelantes Mujeres could be involved. She also asked for some help in learning about MPAC and its role.

Mr. Walker complimented the broad thinking evident in the work plan and gave credit to the DEQ for its 2050 Materials Management plan, which clearly influenced this work plan. He added that it is particularly important and commendable that the plan will so strongly address equity. Finally, he encouraged Metro to come up with a better name for the plan; something more visionary to reflect the plan’s ambitions.

Rick Winterhalter added his appreciation for the amount of effort put into the work plan and its ambition. He expressed concern that disposal system decisions may be made before the Regional Waste Plan work is done. Mr. Korot responded that we are trying to balance keeping existing work going with running this planning process. Mr. Slyman added that we don’t have the luxury of a blank slate. The planning needs to reflect that we have a system that is mostly in place and we have to deal with work that’s already in process.

6. Citizen Communications to Agenda Item #5

Jeff Murray (EFI Recycling) said that an important part of previous solid waste plans was to give industry some certainty on what’s coming, which helped businesses to plan their investments. From industry’s perspective, lots of people invested a lot of money based on the 1995 plan. The 2008 plan had more pieces, but didn’t lessen the importance of older ones and, again, companies made significant investments based on what was written in the plan. He indicated a concern that there have been new policies put in place the last few years that are not reflected in the RSWMP.

Cindy Dolezel (Republic) remarked that she was very pleased to see equity, diversity and inclusion as a focus of the plan. We are doing the same at Republic. She added that she wants to see haulers, collectors, and facilities well-represented in the work groups.

Dave White (Oregon Refuse & Recycling Association) said that names matter and “waste” will imply to the public that the plan will only be about garbage. He suggested rethinking the plan name. He echoed Ms. Dolezel’s comment that haulers want to be at the table in the process. While we work with local governments, we want to have the opportunity to directly provide input.

Dean Large (Waste Connections) said that he supported the emphasis on equity. Waste Connections is working to expand diversity and opportunity. Mr. Large encouraged Metro to make sure that cost is not ignored when developing the vision and the plan. The current level of fees and taxes on a ton of garbage is \$30.24. That amount is generating resistance from industry. We can’t ignore this even if trying to achieve laudable goals and objectives, and this level of fees has a detrimental impact on retaining companies in Oregon.

Eric Wentland (Greenway) asked what will happen if there are policy conflicts between Roadmap and RSWMP? Mr. Slyman referred back to some of his earlier comments.

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7. Existing Solid Waste Fee and Tax Exemptions

Tim Collier began by explaining that the objective of today's discussion is to discuss the subcommittee proposal, specifically to seek SWAAC members' advice on subcommittee approach and membership categories. This is part of the Metro Code Title 5 re-look.

The purpose of the subcommittee is to determine whether current fee and tax exemptions are achieving the public benefit goals and objectives of the solid waste system. Those exemptions currently include a reduced fee and tax for cleanup material, material that is reused productively in the operation of a disposal site (such as alternative daily cover), tire processing residual, and recyclable materials that are reused or recycled. Metro has hired a consultant, Mr. Collier continued, to review the current policies and solicit input from stakeholders. The consultant will present the stakeholder input to the Metro Council at a work session on March 21, 2017. The consultant will present a draft policy with recommendations after the SWAAC subcommittee meets on the topic.

The suggested composition of the subcommittee would be representatives from:

- Companies receiving exemptions, including two dry waste MRFs (one vertically integrated, one not), a tire processor, an auto processor and one other type of processor
- One landfill currently using exempted alternative daily cover and road base
- Two dry waste MRFs that are eligible for exemptions, but don't use them
- Two local government solid waste representatives

Mr. Collier will be looking for nominations for those positions. In addition, Metro will appoint the following subcommittee members:

- One Oregon DEQ representative
- One waste reduction advocate
- One other, such as a utility board representative or local expert on tax policies

Mr. Collier concluded with three questions for the Committee:

1. Does SWAAC have comments on the proposed subcommittee approach?
There were no comments.
2. Does SWAAC have any suggestions on scope, coverage or approach of this project?
Ms. Koppang recommended that the subcommittee should elaborate on what the DEQ exemptions are and their history, and how that information might influence what Metro decides. Audrey O'Brien agreed, suggesting Metro use that history to inform the scope.
3. Does SWAAC have any suggestions on the membership categories?
Mike Leichner noted that no recycling facilities are included in membership and they would potentially be affected. He added that it might be valuable to add a hauler who's not connected to a landfill. Mr. Winterhalter agreed. Ms. O'Brien suggested that Metro consider representatives of two landfills, not just one, to get a broader view.

Next steps:

- February 17 – Deadline for SWAAC members to forward subcommittee nominations
- March 8 – SWAAC reviews proposed subcommittee members
- March 21 – Consultant presents stakeholder input to Metro Council

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- April – Subcommittee commences work

8. Citizen Communications to Agenda Item #7

Matt Marler (Covanta) noted that no conversion technology facility is represented on the subcommittee roster. If Metro looks to utilize these facilities in the future, then the exemption decisions would be important to them.

9. Preview of the Next Meeting's Agenda and Final Comments

The March SWAAC meeting will include the next part of the fee and tax subcommittee work and Roy Brower and Warren Johnson will return to talk about next steps with MRF/Conversion Technology code changes.

Mr. Walker noted that we haven't had extensive discussions about some of the foundational projects that Metro has been doing, like incineration in Marion County and how that fits into the upcoming work. There are so many issues going on; it would be good to have updates at a future meeting.