



# Meeting minutes

Meeting: Solid Waste Alternatives Advisory Committee (SWAAC)  
Date/time: 10:00 a.m.-noon, Wednesday, March 8, 2017  
Place: Metro Council Chambers

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## **Members in Attendance:**

Mike Leichner, Pride Disposal  
Bruce Walker, City of Portland  
Adrienne Welsh, Recycling Advocates  
Theresa Koppang, Washington County  
Mark Ottenad, City of Wilsonville  
Peter Brandom, City of Hillsboro  
Rick Winterhalter, Clackamas County  
Keith Ristau, Far West Recycling  
Matt Korot, Metro

## **Members Absent:**

Paul Downey, City of Forest Grove  
Alando Simpson, City of Roses Disposal & Recycling  
Audrey O'Brien, Oregon DEQ  
Reba Crocker, City of Milwaukie

### **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 SWAAC Members**

Mr. Korot reviewed the meeting agenda and how citizen communications would be structured. Mr. Korot also informed the committee members that Tim Collier, Metro, would be asking them to commission the Solid Waste Fee and Tax Exemption Subcommittee.

Peter Brandom reiterated that with all the broad, wide-range, long-term projects that Metro is undertaking, it is important that the unique concerns and challenges of the west side be kept in mind.

### **3. Consideration of SWAAC Minutes for February 8, 2017**

The minutes of the February SWAAC meeting were approved without change. Mr. Brandom said that he had noted some typographical errors in the minutes, which he would identify in a follow-up email.

### **4. Updates – Matt Korot**

#### Commercial Food Scraps Recovery

Mr. Korot provided an update on the Food Scraps Recovery project. The Metro Council gave direction last October to accelerate the recovery of food scraps with four areas of focus:

- Develop draft mandatory recovery policy
- Develop options for spreading costs beyond participating businesses
- Assess how to most effectively transfer the collected food scraps
- Procure processing services

Metro staff is working to draft the policy and options for spreading the costs. The goal is to bring these items to SWAAC in July and/or August. The team working on these deliverables

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includes representatives from Washington and Clackamas counties, Gresham, Portland and Oregon DEQ.

Metro expects to release the Request for Proposal (RFP) for processing services in April [*note: since the meeting, the release date has moved to May*]. Spring and summer will include additional stakeholder engagement with those local governments with the highest concentration of food businesses and with the businesses that will be affected in the first phases of the mandatory program.

Theresa Koppang asked if the timeline had changed for any actions to go in front of Metro Council. She thought engagement with the Council was going to occur in spring. Mr. Korot responded that it made sense to push that date back until all the engagements are complete and a full report can be given to the Council. Mr. Brandom asked for a timeline for the RFP. Mr. Korot informed him that the RFP is slated to be released in the first week of April [*note: changed to May*] and anticipates a four to six week deadline for submission. The hope is for an outcome by late summer. Bruce Walker commented on the transfer aspect of this project, stating that getting Metro South geared up for commercial food scraps would greatly boost our regional efforts. The Portland residential food scraps program has benefitted from being able to use that facility. Ms. Koppang announced that the Washington County Solid Waste Advisory Committee would be discussing food scraps recovery on Thursday, March 9, 2017.

## 2030 Regional Waste Plan

Mr. Korot reminded the committee that Paul Slyman and Marta McGuire presented the Regional Waste Plan work plan to SWAAC at the February meeting. Both SWAAC and the Metro Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC) reviewed the work plan and provided input. Staff presented the work plan to Metro Council last week and received the go-ahead to implement it. Work on *Phase 1: Values* is set to begin in April and will incorporate engagement with Metro Council, the Equity Work Group, prioritized audiences, SWAAC and MPAC.

## Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Mr. Korot reminded the group that Paul Slyman and staff from Metro's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion program introduced Metro's Racial Equity Strategy a little less than a year ago. He then said that the Property and Environmental Services (PES) department, in which Metro's solid waste programs are housed, developed an initial one-year plan to begin to implement the strategy. He distributed a one-page summary of this plan and said that those interested could let him know if they wanted the entire document. Later this year the department will develop a five-year plan.

## Metro Transfer Station Update – Paul Ehinger

Paul Ehinger provided a recap of the significant impacts that the December and January snow events had on Metro's transfer operations. They severely affected Metro's ability to move trash out on a timely basis because of both road closures and significant increases in travel time, resulting in much greater than usual accumulations of garbage at the stations. As of today, March 8, 2017, operations are nearing normal (a little over one month after the last weather event). Mr. Ehinger stressed his appreciation for haulers who helped by diverting deliveries to the transfer stations that were able to accommodate the material.

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Mr. Ehinger identified some areas for improvement in the future:

- Implementing a stronger system for notifying haulers of transfer system conditions
- Ensuring all information for the public is on the website and current

Mr. Ehinger informed the committee that as of March 15, 2017 he will become the Director of Capital Assets for solid waste operations. His first undertaking will be improvements at Metro South. In light of the job change, Mr. Walker complimented Mr. Ehinger for his previous work gearing up South for residential organics waste handling.

Mr. Ehinger reminded the committee that April 1, 2017 will be the start of the new asbestos rules at transfer stations. Mr. Korot noted that these rules are available on the Metro website. Mr. Brandom restated his request from last month for hard-copies of the rules.

## **5. Solid Waste Fee and Tax Exemptions Subcommittee - Tim Collier, Metro**

Tim Collier presented the proposed list of members for the Fee and Tax Exemptions Subcommittee, noting that he presented the goals and directives of this subcommittee at the February 8, 2017 SWAAC meeting. The proposed list is drawn from nominations and recommendations received after that meeting. He is asking SWAAC's approval of this proposed member list. The subcommittee will begin meeting in April and have monthly meetings to develop recommendations that will go to SWAAC in late summer. SWAAC will then develop its findings and options for Council consideration in the fall.

Mr. Walker requested that any subcommittee members who were present in the audience please identify themselves. Vern Brown and Matt Cusma were present.

Ms. Koppang asked for more information about proposed member Janice Thompson. Ms. Thompson is on the staff of the Oregon Citizens' Utility Board, which advocates on behalf of ratepayers. Mike Leichner asked for verification that those on the list have been contacted and agreed to serve. Mr. Collier confirmed that.

Mr. Korot opened the floor for audience comments and there were none. He then called for a vote to approve the subcommittee member list. The committee adopted the list as presented.

SWAAC member Rick Winterhalter is on this subcommittee and will serve as the liaison with SWAAC.

## **6. Preview of the Next Meeting's Agenda and Final Comments**

Mr. Korot said that the April SWAAC meeting will be canceled because it conflicts with the Association of Oregon Recyclers Forum (State of Food Scraps) taking place on the same day. More information on the forum can be found at [oregonrecyclers.org](http://oregonrecyclers.org). The May meeting will include a discussion of the next steps for Material Recovery Facility/Conversion Technology code changes.