

# Meeting minutes



**Metro**

600 NE Grand Ave.  
Portland, OR 97232-2736

Meeting: Solid Waste Alternatives Advisory Committee (SWAAC)  
Date/time: 10:00 - 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, Sept. 12, 2018  
Place: Metro Regional Center, Council Chamber

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## **Members in Attendance:**

Mike Leichner, Pride Disposal  
Bruce Walker, City of Portland  
Rick Winterhalter, Clackamas County  
Mark Ottenad, City of Wilsonville  
Audrey O'Brien, Oregon DEQ  
Alando Simpson, City of Roses Disposal/Recycling  
Matt Korot, Metro  
Peter Brandom, City of Hillsboro  
Paul Downey, City of Forest Grove  
Keith Ristau, Far West Recycling

## **Members Absent:**

Reba Crocker, City of Milwaukie  
Adrienne Welsh, Recycling Advocates  
Theresa Koppang, Washington County

### **1. Call to order and declaration of a quorum**

Matt Korot brought the meeting to order at 10:07 AM, declared a quorum, and previewed the agenda.

### **2. Comments from the chair and SWAAC members**

Matt Korot reminded the committee about a presentation by Dr. Tom Potiowsky immediately following the meeting about the regional economic impact of the solid waste system.

### **3. Consideration of SWAAC minutes for July 11, 2018**

Motion to approve by Rick Winterhalter, seconded by Paul Downey. Minutes were approved.

### **4. 2030 Regional Waste Plan Completion and Adoption Process**

Marta McGuire (Metro) provided an update on the 2030 Regional Waste Plan timeline. Currently in Phase 4, the timeline is as follows:

- Phase 1 – Values (March – July 2017)
- Phase 2 – Vision & Goal Setting (July 2017- January 2018)
- Phase 3 – System Analysis (December 2017 – March 2018)
- Phase 4 – Building a Strategy (March – October 2018)
- Phase 5 – Plan Adoption (November 2018 – February 2019)

The project timeline was extended by a few months for planned adoption in 2019. Information about upcoming public comment periods and public engagement sessions was provided in a handout ("2030 Regional Waste Plan Project Update") included with the meeting packet.

Questions and comments from SWAAC members:

Bruce Walker (City of Portland) is impressed with how Metro has convened equity and community-based groups to support the Regional Waste Plan's development. This has increased the conversation and greater understanding of work in the solid waste field. Mr. Walker asked about the connection between SWAAC, community organizations and the plan's adoption. Ms. McGuire

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answered that engagement staff are working to establish dates during the public comment period when community groups will be engaged for comments on the plan, likely in mid-November or early December. There will be a stakeholder forum on Dec. 5 at Metro Regional Center. Additionally, Equity Work Group members will be invited to co-present with staff at advisory committee meetings in October 2018.

Rick Winterhalter (Clackamas County) requested to be notified when advisory committee meetings will be convened, as well as when community organizations will hold their meetings.

Peter Brandom (City of Hillsboro) asked if the Regional Waste Plan actions will all be implemented within the plan's identified timeframe window. Mr. Brandom commented that this seems like a lot of work and asked what the cumulative and individual cost of the proposed actions will be. Ms. McGuire answered that yes, the intention is for all actions to be started within the plan's 12-year time period. Mr. Korot added that there will not be a cost estimate included in the plan. Work plans will be developed for each action, at which time cost estimates would be determined.

Mark Ottenad (City of Wilsonville) commented that there were a wide range of attendees at the community forms and that Metro has done a good job of outreach among various communities.

## **5. Draft Administrative Rules for Commercial Food Scraps Recovery Program**

Jennifer Erickson (Metro) and Pam Peck (Metro) presented the draft administrative rules for the Commercial Food Scraps Recovery Program. The draft administrative rules are going through a third round of public comment, which closes on Friday, Sept. 28. There will be a public hearing at Metro Regional Center on Wednesday, Sept. 26 from 9 to 11 a.m. The final version of the administrative rules that Metro's Chief Operating Officer will consider for adoption will be posted to the Metro website. Any substantive modifications will require a 15-day period for further comment. The rules become effective 30 days following adoption.

Ms. Erickson and Ms. Peck explained three substantive changes that had been made to the administrative rules. The first two relate to access to service payments and the third relates to schools. Given the limited number of disposal facilities for commercial food scraps, the rules had a provision in place to make access to services payments to local governments. After feedback from local governments and haulers, the rules were amended to make payments directly to haulers for the increased transport costs associated with hauling commercial food scraps. Haulers will be required to enter into simple agreements with Metro to be eligible for payment. Only franchised or permitted haulers within jurisdictions that have adopted food scraps collection will be eligible to receive payments. Haulers will be required to submit a short 1-page report each year on March 31, a date that coincides with existing reporting requirements to local governments. The rules also now include a provision allowing access to services payments to be made directly to covered businesses that self-haul their own food waste, however the business must demonstrate that this waste was previously going to landfill. Schools also have the option to include student waste, but they must take responsibility for making sure the material is contamination free.

Questions and comments from SWAAC members:

Mike Leichner (Pride Disposal) requested that page 7, number 2b of the rules clarify that customer food waste is limited to waste generated and collected at the business and is not for individuals from the general public with their own food waste. Mr. Leichner also requested clarification to page

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7, number 3 that landlords must provide a location for collection, rather than provide the collection themselves.

Related to page 5, number 1 of the rules, Mr. Ottenad asked how Metro defines “reasonable proximity” and whether there will be an annual update. Ms. Erickson answered that reasonable proximity is the base time for a particular hauler to get to the closest garbage transfer station and that it will be updated at least annually. Mr. Ottenad asked whether that base time exists now and is it in the rules. Ms. Erickson responded that it exists, but not in the rules, because it will change as new data comes in that informs the calculation formula.

Mr. Ottenad asked whether the description of technical assistance on page 8 of the rules could recognize that some cities use cooperative agreements with counties or Metro to do the work. Ms. Erickson replied that this is included in the provisions on page 10 and she would consider adding it to page 8 sections.

Alando Simpson (City of Roses) asked if food waste is defined as a solid waste. Ms. Erickson answered yes. Mr. Simpson then asked how that definition applies if a new hauler wants to start collecting food waste, specifically as relates to the difference between hauling recyclables and hauling food waste. Mr. Korot explained that every jurisdiction in the region has a defined process for how a collector can enter into the system, which mirrors garbage collection. New haulers need to meet franchise or permit requirements. Food waste and recyclables are sub-elements of solid waste.

Mr. Winterhalter explained that hauling for compensation is a determinant in how collection regulation is carried out. Mr. Simpson asked how the agricultural exemption is factored in from the collection regulation perspective. Audrey O’Brien (Department of Environmental Quality) explained that the agricultural exemption in statute prohibits DEQ from regulating waste that goes to an agricultural operation and is applied at agronomic rates. Mr. Winterhalter said that at the local level the agricultural exemption is considered on a case by case basis.

Mr. Brandom read from a written statement that he plans to submit formally through the public comment process as well as at the public hearing on Sept. 26. The City of Hillsboro reiterates its support for the efforts to divert solid waste, including food, from the landfill as well as the intended positive environmental and other outcomes. The objective is consistent with existing City goals. However, the policy remains problematic. Hillsboro questions Metro’s authority to require the region’s cities and counties to pass local laws, there needs to be a more clear cost benefit analysis, and rather than offsetting the costs of longer travel distances, Metro should focus efforts on developing a complete and efficient transfer and processing system. There is no capacity to transfer food scraps in or near Hillsboro. The City believes that Metro should exempt more distant cities from compliance.

Mr. Winterhalter hopes that infrastructure work continues and would like to see a greater subsidy of the food waste tip fee to bring it lower than the current amount of \$66 and approaching \$0, ideally. Mr. Winterhalter explained that the policy will require more technical assistance work for local governments and hopes there is additional shared funding to support this work.

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Mr. Ottenad asked where Metro is at with the food waste processing procurement process. Mr. Korot answered that Metro has been in negotiations with Waste Management since the spring and hopes to be done soon.

Mr. Walker shared that he formally testified on behalf of the City in support of this policy. He concurred with Mr. Winterhalter by noting that food scraps are a high priority material and that anything we can do to reduce program costs would be very beneficial.

Ms. Erickson reminded the committee members to submit their comments and questions in writing so that they can be logged accurately. Comments and questions can be submitted at [oregonmetro.gov/foodscraps](http://oregonmetro.gov/foodscraps). Ms. Peck added, in response to the earlier comment from Mr. Winterhalter, that technical assistance funding will be commensurate with the number of businesses in each jurisdiction and Metro will discuss these levels with local governments so that they can budget accordingly.

## **6. Metro's Role in Disaster Debris Management**

Roy Brower (Metro) and Daniel Nibouar (Metro) shared Metro's disaster debris management plan with the committee. Mr. Brower introduced the plan, explaining that Metro has authority and responsibility for disaster planning and response coordination. Metro's work on disaster debris management has considered strategies and plans for how to deal with a dramatic increase in waste that would overwhelm the solid waste system. Mr. Nibouar explained that Metro would primarily be involved with debris storage and transfer to its final disposition. Mr. Nibouar reviewed Metro's adopted plan in a presentation that is included with the meeting packet. More information is available at [oregonmetro.gov/disaster-debris-management-plan](http://oregonmetro.gov/disaster-debris-management-plan).

Questions and comments from SWAAC members:

Mr. Korot asked Mr. Nibouar to contextualize this plan and explain how it fits with the work of other participants in the disaster response system. Mr. Nibouar explained that Metro is working with city and county emergency management offices. The disaster debris management plan is developed as a complement to county disaster management plans.

Mr. Walker asked about the plan's alignment with existing emergency coordination centers and whether Metro would be operating an additional command center. Mr. Nibouar answered that this depends on the size of the disaster event. Metro's intent is not to open a duplicative center of communication, but rather to remove the burden of debris management from the primary incident command center.

Mr. Brandom said that he attended the FEMA training several years ago and wondered if Metro would be doing on-the-ground work (FEMA due diligence) and whether Metro has identified debris sites. Mr. Nibouar confirmed that Metro would be doing on-the-ground work for the entirety of the region. Sites have been preliminarily identified.

Mr. Korot asked about takeaways for private operators in the solid waste system. Mr. Nibouar explained that the debris management plan's intent is to use the existing system as much as possible. He advised private businesses to be ready for big disaster events because the region needs to be able to call on facilities and collection services for help. Private businesses may need seismic assessments of their existing facilities.

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Paul Downey (City of Forest Grove) asked if people would really separate their own recycling at the curb in the event of a disaster. Mr. Nibouar explained that it's a hope, not an expectation, and that there are examples in post-hurricane situations in which some people did this really well.

Ms. O'Brien commented that there have been Oregon examples of good responses in separating materials. In Vernonia, people were able to separate household hazardous waste from their other debris and waste. Communication was essential to getting people the information they needed to safely help out.

Mr. Ottenad commented that many bridges will be damaged in the event of a major earthquake and that we will need many collection sites. Mr. Nibouar explained that the intent is to locate debris sites in many different areas of the region.

## **7. Public Comment on Agenda Items**

Mr. Korot invited public comment on agenda items. There were no public comments.

## **8. Preview of the next meeting agenda and final comments**

Mr. Korot thanked members for their participation and stated that the next meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 10, 2018 would focus on the 2030 Regional Waste Plan goals and actions.

With no final comments from the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:28 a.m.



# Event sign-in

Solid Waste Alternatives Advisory Committee  
Metro Regional Center  
Wednesday, Sept. 12, 2018  
10:00 a.m to 12:00 p.m.

Name	Address	Email	Yes, sign me up to this project's contact list
Mike Lechner			
Kristin Lechner		kristinL@pridedisposal.com	X
Audrey Butz			
Jeff Murray		jeffm@efirecycling.com	X
Dean Kampfer			
Derek Ranta			
Daniel Nibouar			