

Metro | *Meeting minutes*

Meeting: Solid Waste Alternatives Advisory Committee (SWAAC)
Date: February 11, 2015
Place: Metro Regional Center, Council Chamber

Members present

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 Recycling
Bruce Walker, City of Portland
Amy Pepper, City of Troutdale
Amy Roth, Association of Oregon Recyclers

Members absent

Alando Simpson, City of Roses Disposal & Recycling
Dan Blue, City of Gresham

Guests

Tom Chaimov, Metro
Marta McGuire, Metro
Matt Tracy, 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. He also noted that recruitment for the vacant SWAAC position for jurisdictions under 50,000 will be closing next week. Council President Hughes will appoint the new committee member and the Metro Council will confirm the appointment.

In response to member questions, Chair Korot said that the new Recycling Information Supervisor, Susan Unrein, will begin work on March 2, 2015 and that Dan Nibouer, Metro's new Disaster Debris planner, will be reaching out to local governments soon.

3. CONSIDERATION OF SWAC MINUTES FOR DECEMBER 10, 2014

The minutes of the December 10, 2014 SWAAC meeting were approved as written.

4. UPDATES AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Tom Chaimov, Metro, provided the following updates:

- **Landfill Capacity Project:** Established by a resolution of the Metro Council on December 4, 2014, the project will look at landfill disposal capacity of waste and provide options to Council for establishing a landfill disposal policy. Bryce Jacobson will be Project Manager and will be developing a work plan to be completed by June 2016.
- **Transfer System Configuration:** Doug Anderson will convene a task force to advise Metro staff on which options represent the best way to configure the transfer system, and inform which model of the public-private transfer system would best serve the public interest. The task force's input will be shared with the Metro Council. The 12-member task force includes private and public facilities operators and represents two-thirds of the collectors in the system, and 95% of the region's facilities for post-consumer discards. Three members of SWAAC are also members of the task force: Alando Simpson, Mike Leichner and Paul Ehinger. The first meeting will be held Feb. 20, 2015 at Metro in Room 370 from 9:00 a.m. to Noon. The meeting is open to the public.
- The **Westside Economic Alliance Breakfast**, sponsored by Waste Management, will be held February 19, 2015, with the theme of Getting to Zero Waste. Speakers will include Metro Councilor Kathryn Harrington, as well as representatives from Providence Health, Gerber Gear and Waste Management.
- The **Metro Council meeting** agenda on February 19, 2015 will include two solid waste items: A proposed non-system license to Arrow Sanitary to send food scraps to Dirt Hugger in Dallesport, WA and a proposal to approve the Cowlitz County Landfill as a designated facility for receiving dry waste residual, special waste and cleanup material from the Metro region.
- **Alternative to Landfills:** As part of the Solid Waste Roadmap's Long-Term Management of Discards project, Rob Smoot of Metro is developing a Request for Expressions of Interest (RFEOI) from qualified firms (those who have been involved in the successful operation of such a business). Mr. Smoot will have the RFEOI ready for deployment in mid-March.
- The **Metro Policy Advisory Committee** (MPAC) will convene on April 8, 2015 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. and will review the Solid Waste Roadmap.
- The **BioCycle West Coast Conference** will be held at the Red Lion Hotel on the River on April 13-16, 2015, with the theme of Building Climate Resilient Communities. Metro is one of the event sponsors and several speakers from Metro will be presenting, including Councilor Harrington.
- The **Let's Talk Trash** series continues on May 5, 2015 at the Clinton Street Theater. The guest speaker will be David Allaway of DEQ, who will present: "Ignoble Rot: Food scraps as compost and energy".

5. MIDTERM REVIEW OF REGIONAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Marta McGuire, Metro, presented a draft of the midterm review of the Regional Solid Waste Management Plan (RSWMP).

The RSWMP identifies policies, goals and objectives to guide work in waste reduction, sustainable operations and the solid waste disposal system. The plan identifies the waste recovery rate as the primary measure of plan performance. The objectives of the review are to:

- Determine if the plan is being implemented uniformly and consistently across the region.
- Assess plan effectiveness in meeting program goals and objectives.
- Determine if major mid-course corrections are needed.

In the draft midterm review, Metro identifies key findings based on the implementation of the plan to date and offers four preliminary recommendations:

Recommendation 1: Continue work on key programs and make better progress on areas identified for improvement.

Recommendation 2: Develop new and updated goals to track environmental progress and consider the lifecycle impacts of products and materials.

Recommendation 3: Complete development of disposal system policies and guidance.

Recommendation 4: Initiate the planning process for the next RSWMP.

Committee input and questions

- Mr. Leichner wondered if the language in the draft review should be evaluated to ensure the correct terminology regarding goals is being used. Aspirational goals are not interchangeable with “mandated” goals. Chair Korot clarified that even if there were no penalty imposed for failure to achieve certain objectives, Metro would make a concerted effort to meet them as statutory goals. Ms. McGuire agreed to review the draft document to identify where the term “mandated goal” may have been used.
- Mr. Walker noted that the City of Portland and Association of Oregon Recyclers is assessing how the State of Washington is measuring interventions at facilities in that State.
- Mr. Leichner queried how stormwater runoff was linked to solid waste in the Sustainability Operations goals of the RSWMP. Matt Tracy of Metro replied that the targets associated with these goals were part of the original plan and developed by the committee that was made up of haulers and facility operators.
- Chair Korot spoke to the collaborative efforts on shared goals by those on this committee. Mr. Walker emphasized the efforts of jurisdictions and industry to work together, but stated that there is still much work to do.
- Mr. Leichner asked what impact a material, e.g., newspaper, that has essentially disappeared from the recyclables stream would have on the goals and numbers. Ms. Kochan stated that the DEQ sets goals for wastesheds recognizing that material amounts can fluctuate. Mr Leichner responded that the public may question why a goal was not reached if the disappeared components were not factored in.

6. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS TO SWAAC AGENDA

David White of the Oregon Refuse & Recycling Association (ORRA) stated that the industry he represents appreciates being involved in the 2015 mid-term review of RSWMP, but has concerns. Metro is not responsible for solid waste collection and receiving approval by DEQ gives it the mantle of collection. The implication of “aspirational” goals is that Metro doesn’t have a mechanism to enforce compliance. Using “statutory goal” versus “mandatory goal” indicates that these are not requirements, as there is no consequence. “Mandates” should be taken out of the RSWMP document. The way RSWMP addresses goals implies there will be sanctions if these goals are unmet. This bootstraps authority over collection when Metro does not have that authority.

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

Chair Korot said that it is still to be determined whether there will be a meeting in March. He will let members and the public know toward the end of February.

8. ADJOURN

Chair Korot adjourned the meeting at 11:25 a.m.