

 **Metro** | *Meeting minutes*

**Meeting:** Solid Waste Alternatives Advisory Committee (SWAAC)

**Date:** May 13, 2015

**Place:** Metro Regional Center, Council Chamber

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**Members present**

Paul Ehinger, Metro  
Scott Keller, City of Beaverton  
Leslie Kochan, Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality  
Theresa Koppang, Washington County  
Matt Korot, Metro  
Mike Leichner, Pride Disposal  
Dan Blue, City of Gresham  
Keith Ristau, Far West Recycling  
Bruce Walker, City of Portland  
Amy Roth, Association of Oregon Recyclers  
Casey Camors, City of Milwaukie

**Members absent**

Alando Simpson, City of Roses Disposal & Recycling  
Amy Pepper, City of Troutdale  
Kathy Kaatz, City of Tualatin

**Guests**

Tom Chaimov, Metro  
Ken Ray, Metro  
Jennifer Erickson, Metro  
Lyndsey Lopez, CH2M

**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 and introduced and welcomed new SWAAC member Casey Camors from the City of Milwaukie.

**3. CONSIDERATION OF SWAAC MINUTES FOR February 11, 2015**

The minutes of the February 11, 2015 SWAAC meeting were approved as written.

#### 4. UPDATES AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Tom Chaimov of Metro provided the following updates on Solid Waste Roadmap projects and other items:

- **Long-term Management of Discards:** The report on the combined qualitative analysis and greenhouse gas analysis of selected waste scenarios has been posted to the Solid Waste Roadmap [web page](#). Details regarding the five technologies under review for integration into the region's solid waste system are also posted online. Solicitations for requests for expressions of interest from qualified firms that have been involved in the successful operation of businesses using these technologies are due May 15, 2015. Metro staff will review and present these at the July 28, 2015 Metro Council work session.
- **Landfill Capacity:** This is a Council-directed project that is currently in the scoping phase.
- **Transfer System Configuration:** The task force is currently considering the roles of public and private facilities. It is finalizing a problem statement and then will develop evaluation criteria based on the six public benefits guiding the Solid Waste Roadmap projects. An overview of task force process steps is posted on the Metro website. Council will be briefed on the work of the task force at its work session on May 26, 2015.
- **Metro South Transfer Station:** Two options have moved forward for how this facility might better serve the region's customers. A constructability study on option 1, filling and leveling the pit, is underway, and work is being done to explore how to bring down the costs of option 2, handling self-haul services off-site.
- **Fee and Tax Policies:** consideration of changes will take place in 2016 after further progress and decisions are made on other Roadmap projects.
- **Foundational Work:** This project is developing a tool to estimate the amount and nature of solid waste in the future. It's a "what if" model that will allow for different scenarios to be run. Staff is aiming to demonstrate the model to interested parties in August 2015.
- **Upcoming Metro Council Engagements**
  - May 26, 2015: Metro Council work session discussion of transfer system configuration.
  - July 21, 2015: Metro Council work session discussion of food scraps processing capacity options.
  - July 28, 2015: Metro Council work session discussion of long-term options for managing discards.
  - Late Fall: Solid waste facility permit renewals and extensions.

Ken Ray of Metro reported that the May 5, 2015 Let's Talk Trash event that featured David Allaway of Oregon DEQ, *Ignoble Rot – Food Scraps as Compost and Energy* (part of the Science on Tap series), had a great turnout. No further Let's Talk Trash events are scheduled at this time. Ken hopes to develop some later in the year that will be aligned with specific Roadmap projects.

## 5. SOLID WASTE ROAD MAP: FOOD SCRAPS CAPACITY PROJECT – REPORT ON TRANSFER STATION CAPACITY ANALYSIS

Jennifer Erickson, Metro, and Lyndsey Lopez of CH2M reported on the transfer station analysis recently completed as part of the Solid Waste Roadmap's Food Scraps Capacity Project. The objectives of the analysis were:

- To gain an understanding of the capacity available at public and private transfer stations in the region to accept and manage 50,000 to 75,000 tons per year of commercial food scraps delivered under a variety of scenarios.
- To gain an understanding of the capacity available at public and private transfer stations or reloads in the region to accept and manage up to 230,000 tons per year of residential food scraps/yard debris mix.
- To gain an understanding of the potential impacts that food scraps would have on existing transfer station operations.

The analysis concluded the following:

- Overall, the existing transfer system has potential capacity capable of managing the projected commercial food scraps and residential food/yard debris.
- The overall system capacity does not consider matching the needs of generators to capacity in various sub-geographies within the region. The western portion of the region does not currently have adequate transfer capacity.

CH2M interviewed 15 facility owners/operators to collect the information that informed the analysis.

Staff will complete a final report on the transfer capacity analysis soon and share it with SWAAC members, the Transfer System Configuration System task force and on the Metro Solid Waste Roadmap web pages.

### *Committee input and questions*

- Mr. Blue asked how the facilities in the analysis were chosen and why Allwood Recycling was not included. Ms. Erickson responded that the primary criterion was whether the facility was permitted to take putrescible waste. We did not include yard debris-only facilities.
- Mr. Walker asked whether it's fair to say the study results are encouraging. Ms. Erickson replied yes, that when we reach a point of adequate processing capacity of food scraps we will know we have the capacity to transfer it.
- Ms. Roth asked what was assumed as the growth rates and timeframes for collecting food scraps. Ms. Erickson responded that phase one of the study assumed there would be growth over time. Mr. Korot replied that, absent mandates, the growth is presumed to be gradual.
- Mr. Blue asked what role local jurisdictions would have in deciding where food scraps would go. Ms. Kochan noted that facilities would need to seek land-use compatibility permits from local jurisdictions in order to be compliant with DEQ regulations. In cases where the transfer stations already had permits, DEQ would go to local jurisdictions to have them sign-off on the changes. Roy Brower stated that Metro would not grant approvals without checking-in with local jurisdictions, as well.

- Mr. Blue questioned how east Multnomah County would be served for residential mixed yard debris and food, since all yard debris currently goes to a facility not included in the analysis. Ms Erickson stated that the design of the program was not expected to be dictated by current processing of yard debris.
- Mr. Keller asked if this analysis was just one element of a larger piece. Ms Erickson responded yes, that the project is focused on processing capacity and that we now know that we can collect and transfer food scraps when a build-out of processing capacity becomes imminent.
- Ms. Erickson asked the SWAAC members if there was detail that should be emphasized to the Council.
  - Mr. Blue said that it will be important for the Metro Council and local governments to understand the cost impacts of programs, particularly from adding food to existing yard debris service.
  - Ms. Koppang said there is a disconnect among elected officials between residential and commercial programs and why they have to be separated, and we will have to help them to understand.
  - Ms. Kochan wondered if an overlay map of the facilities and residential and commercial supply could give an enhanced overview.

6. **CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS TO SWAAC AGENDA**

Meredith Sorenson of Solid Waste Strategies and Harvest Power said that Council often asks for equity in services and Metro should consider that given that there are existing facilities that were not included in the analysis.

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

The next SWAAC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 10, 2015 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. (noon) at the Metro Regional Center. The agenda is expected to include a continuation of the discussion of the food scraps project and discussion of the Solid Waste Roadmap's long-term management project.

8. **ADJOURN**

Chair Korot adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.