



# Meeting minutes

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

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## **Members in Attendance:**

Audrey O'Brien, Oregon DEQ  
Bruce Walker, City of Portland  
Keith Ristau, Far West Recycling  
Mark Ottenad, City of Wilsonville  
Mike Leichner, Pride Disposal  
Paul Downey, City of Forest Grove  
Peter Brandom, City of Hillsboro  
Reba Crocker, City of Milwaukie  
Rick Winterhalter, Clackamas County  
Theresa Koppang, Washington County  
Matt Korot, Metro

## **Members Absent:**

Adrienne Welsh, Recycling Advocates  
Alando Simpson, City of Roses Disposal/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 SWAAC members**

Mr. Korot reviewed the meeting agenda and how citizen communications would be structured.

Bruce Walker commented that the City of Portland recently received a complaint regarding litter and lack of good operating procedures (at a MRF?), which goes back to the greater regulation that came out of the MRF subcommittee that was formed in 2016. He told the group how appreciative he is of Metro's work in this area, and he hopes for a good resolution at the facility in question.

### **3. Consideration of SWAAC minutes for December 13, 2017**

A motion was made to approve the minutes without changes; the motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

### **4. 2030 Regional Waste Plan: Draft Vision and Goals**

Metro's Marta McGuire gave a brief recap of the origins of the Plan, which is a descendant of the Regional Solid Waste Management Plan (RSWMP). The RSWMP is set to expire at the end of 2019. The 2030 Regional Waste Plan (RWP) will provide a blueprint for materials management from production to disposal over the next decade.

The Plan has a number of phases, each building on the previous. Today's presentation, Ms. McGuire continued, is Phase 2: Visualizing what the Plan should look like in 2030. The seven-member Equity Work Group has (and will continue to) play a significant role in each phase. They worked with community-based organizations to help shape the draft vision, resulting in a series of goals to achieve that vision. The goal of the EWG is to elevate the voice of communities which have historically not been engaged in the development of this type of plan.



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Values and principles were created using existing work relevant to the RWP, such as state and federal policies related to materials management and toxics reduction. The draft goals reflect themes that arose from the earlier engagements. Each goal area has its own vision, with a series of goals to accomplish that vision. These are presented broadly in Phase 2, and will be fleshed out in Phase 3. This coming spring, topic-specific technical work groups will be formed to develop draft actions. Members of these work groups will be from local governments, solid waste facility operators, haulers, advocacy / community-organizations.

Ms. McGuire asked the group to look for any major concepts might be missing, or any concerns the draft vision raises.

## *Questions/comments from SWAAC members:*

Peter Brandom commented that the City of Hillsboro supports the long-range aspirational goals and the equity considerations. The west side of the Metro region is currently deficient in many aspects, which means there are opportunities for improvement. He noted that he didn't see the words "adequate, consistent access." Mr. Korot responded that from staff's perspective, the issue of access will be explored by a technical work group in the next phase.

Mark Ottenad said that he was impressed with the (?) forum he attended, and congratulated Metro for "raising the bar for what might be considered a mundane issue." Regarding Item 3 (Invest in communities that receive...), he feels that grants expansion has increased awareness of services, and commends Metro for brining that forward.

What does "access" really mean? queried Keith Ristau. Mr. Korot replied that it can mean a variety of things for different people and situations. For purposes of the Plan, it could be geographic, or multi- vs single-family. The technical work group assigned will need to dig deep into that issue.

The aspirational tone aligns with DEQ vision, Mr. Walker added, but someone not at this table may think it's a mundane issue and may think that more services will be coming. That's not part of Metro's purview. Metro is, however, has had much more involvement in things like improved source-separation. Will Metro be able to make a difference in areas such as products (plastic) that create health issues? Ms. McGuire answered that there will be portions that Metro can implement, as well as things that can only be done in partnership with others. She acknowledged that it's hard to see what that will look like as each phase progresses, but at the end it will all come together. Mr. Korot added that staff has taken into consideration at each step where Metro can affect change either solely or in conjunction with others.

Audrey O'Brien thanked Metro for making changes that has made the draft RWP more aligned with DEQ, and would like to see more instances of that. Could purchasing and production be added to the 1, 2, 3 under Education and Information? She suggested that each agency take a look at what they can do within their own organization. This is an opportunity to also look at waste prevention, production, etc. to help the entire region become more sustainable. Can this be included in the Plan?

Rick Winterhalter commented that he wasn't sure 2050 (? Is that DEQ's plan?) was incorporated, but is happy that others do. He believes that recycling/reduction logically includes waste

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prevention. Does it need to be called out? Yes, Ms. O'Brien responded: Call it out to educate people what is meant by garbage/recycling (to include upstream and prevention).

The phrase "good benefits" (under the goal Good Jobs) may be too subjective, Reba Crocker said. More definition may be needed. How can Metro regulate what private businesses consider a living wage and good benefits? Mr. Korot agreed that better definition will be needed, as well as roles and responsibilities. For instance, conceptually, those jurisdictions that regulate haulers could take a stand that affects industry's labor practices. Ms. Crocker countered, however, that private industry could just move out of the region for labor to avoid such.

Regarding waste prevention and recycling, Mr. Ristau mused that reducing packaging in the first place is paramount to prevention.

Mr. Winterhalter offered a comment regarding the wording of Quality Service #3: He doesn't see anything that captures how that will happen. Similar to #5 under Garbage and Recycling.

Theresa Koppang commended Metro for taking a different approach to the RWP by including other groups. To her, access means facilities. Therefore, Washington County approves of the goals, but will be pushing for implementation.

Referring to values and goals, Mr. Ottenad commented that the Plan is very high-level. While Metro Council can make policies, the RWP should go to the state level. Teasing things out such as the definition of access will help to... (?)

Ms. O'Brien agreed that both the process and engagement have been great. She's in awe of staff's success getting people of different cultures and ages involved.

Paul Downey had the last comment, saying that he has seen a lot of vision plans, and cautioned that implementing an action plan won't be easy.

Ms. McGuire thanked the group for its input, which will help inform changes to the draft goals. A revised draft will be presented to Metro Council for their consideration on January 30<sup>th</sup>. Metro staff will return to SWAAC in the spring.

## **5. Commercial Food Scraps Recovery Policy**

Mr. Korot introduced Jennifer Erickson and Pam Peck for their update of the project.

Ms. Peck began by reiterating the program's goal. The vision is to create a regional food scraps system that captures enough high-quality material to make processing facilities economically viable; is able to collect and move material adequately; has enough stable processing capacity to allow growth over time; and provides a consistent standard that is clear to both businesses and local governments.

At the November 7 Council work session, concerns about the distance waiver (designed to exempt some jurisdictions) were raised. They felt the waiver didn't work as a consistent regional program, and may restrict the ability to meet tonnage goals, and make system efficiencies longer to realize. Following that input, staff delayed the policy in order to develop an approach that would meet some

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of the objectives as the waiver, but in a way that advances the goals of the policy more strongly, while providing consistency for the region and the business community.

Ms. Erickson continued. In lieu of distance waiver, a direct payment (Transfer Services Payment) is being proposed, to help level the financial disadvantages associated with greater distances to transfer or processing services. Using the same base data as other regional solid waste modeling that can be easily updated, the region would be divided into “base time” zones – how long is travel time one-way to the closest facility. Those zones would be divided into smaller segments, representing the additional time to individual facilities and the number of tons generated by individual businesses.

Ms. Erickson showed a draft map to explain. Several iterations will be mapped, calculating several iterations and what-if scenarios. She also showed several examples, such as a tons and loads calculation in a proposed zone. The roll-out would be gradual: In year one, just the largest businesses, with smaller businesses added in year 2, and schools in year 3. This new approach is designed to help off-set – not completely cover - the cost of having to bring food scraps further for disposal in this mandatory program for at least the first five years of the program.

## *Questions/comments from SWAAC members:*

Mr. Brandom asked about the annual review: What will it entail? Ms. Erickson said that staff would look at the factors used for the calculations to ensure calculations are kept up to date. Other factors such as tons and participation will also be tracked.

Mike Leichner asked a three-pronged funding question: Where will funding come from, how will locals get that money back to haulers? Will it be by raising fees? Funds will come from raising the Regional System Fee, Ms. Erickson replied: Just by pennies, probably, but yes it would have an impact.

Matt – (Didn’t catch what you said here.)

This model relies on an enormous amount of tracking and analysis, Ms. Koppang noted, but it can be done. Local jurisdictions could just put it in as revenue, but there’s a lot of time to figure out the details. One way would be to model it similarly to that used for the Japanese Beetle tracking.

Mr. Brandom expressed surprise that the waiver wasn’t accepted by Council. He encouraged discussing this new idea with the haulers. Ms. Peck assured him that’s is part of the work plan.

From a local government perspective, Mr. Ottenad added, the City of Wilsonville will be looking at implementation at the sites. How can this kind of payment be made practical and equitable? It will be built right into the administration, Ms. Erickson replied. The goal is for jurisdictions to have the ability to waive some businesses. They know the challenges, and will help with infrastructure, etc. . A lot of the implementation will be addressed there.

The next Council engagement on this topic has not been set. Stay tuned: This is an entire shift, but it will not reduce the implementation time. (Can’t remember who said that – Jennifer, you, or Pam)

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The goal is that there will be a facility that can take the scraps within the initial five years. If that doesn't happen, may need to extend.

Mr. Walker encouraged Metro to buy down the tip fee for funding.

## **6. Citizen Communications**

Mr. Korot opened the floor to citizen communications relating to topics discussed.

Jeff Murray (company), commented on the 2030 Regional Waste Plan. Regarding "Quality of Service" #3, he recommends working with local governments to ensure all fees are equitable. Also – as far as Values, there's never been a better time to re-educate everyone about what can and can't go into the recycling bin.

Mr. Ottenad suggested that presentations and minutes be made available on the web.

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

Mr. Korot thanked everyone for their attendance and participation and said that the next meeting will be on.....

The meeting adjourned.