

Meeting: Regional Waste Advisory Committee (RWAC) Meeting
Date: Thursday, February 17, 2022
Time: 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m.
Place: Zoom meeting
Purpose: *The purpose of the Regional Waste Advisory Committee is to provide input on certain policies, programs, and projects that implement actions in the 2030 Regional Waste Plan, as well as to provide input on certain legislative and administrative actions that the Metro Council or Chief Operating Officer will consider related to implementation of the 2030 Regional Waste Plan.*

Members in Attendance:

Roy W. Brower, Metro
Peter Brandom, City of Hillsboro
Sharetta Butcher, North by Northeast Community Health Center (NxNE)
Alondra Flores Aviña, Student
Bunsereyrithy Kong, Oregon Cambodian Buddhist Society
Lindsay Marshall, City of Tualatin
Shannon Martin, City of Gresham
Christa McDermott, Community Environmental Services, PSU (PSU)
Audrey O'Brien, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
Eben Polk, Clackamas County
Arianne Sperry, City of Portland
Thao Tu, Vietnamese Community of Oregon
Beth Vargas Duncan, Oregon Refuse and Recycling Association (ORRA)

1. CALL TO ORDER & MEETING OVERVIEW

Roy Brower (Metro) brought the virtual meeting to order at 8:34 am and previewed the agenda.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no comments from the public.

3. Local Community Engagement and Outreach

Eben Polk (Clackamas County) in the three counties, we have local governments involved in varying degrees in education, outreach and technical assistance programs around materials management, recycling, and waste prevention, chief among them in Multnomah County, Gresham, Portland. Troutdale and Fairview are involved in that. In Clackamas County, the county provides the bulk of that work on behalf of our cities in the form of a cooperative. And in Washington County, the same thing is the case. Although Beaverton provides its own direct education and outreach.

We have Hillsboro and Tualatin in the mix and they are served primarily by Washington County. A lot of our work is funded through either franchise fees, which are collected locally through the collection services and funding through Metro as well, which is provided under IGA.

Our education and outreach work is guided in large part by our community. We are a pretty consistent presence with feet on the ground, focused on customer service, supporting events, partnerships, technical assistance throughout the community. And we try to be responsive to needs, interests and concerns. Through our engagement work, support the local service delivery, including collection services. It also supports our rate-setting and rule-making in enforcement work.

It's definitely a regional effort to deliver education and outreach initiatives. A lot of those are expressed within the regional waste plan, including the priority around culturally responsive community education and assistance. Our work is guided by the State, in Oregon administrative rule and Oregon-revised statutes under the Opportunity to Recycle Act. We have a number of requirements that we fulfill in many of those with support from Metro. For example, we are directed in state law to educate all businesses and community members four times a year about the materials that are collected in recycling.

Working at the local level, there're some advantages to it. It allows us to collocate on regional initiatives, to provide some level of community consistency, resources and support. But it also allows us to work independently on initiatives that fit the local context. And when there's diversity in how communities approach outreach and education, it allows us to learn and glean best practices from each other and improve how we do our work across all our communities. Increasingly, we centered racial equity in our work as part of the compass direction set under the regional waste plan. And we apply that locally through the tools and trainings and partnerships that we develop.

Shannon Martin (City of Gresham) Starting with the community, cities and counties, we answer thousands of recycling, garbage and composting questions. We're open five days a week, but then we're also out in our communities during the weekends doing other events. We also produce and distribute educational materials. As Eben mentioned, we're really looking at doing things in a more collaborative way that is more culturally relevant and making sure that our information is also available in multiple languages.

Most of this is delivered newsletters to all households in the communities as well as collection calendars. Recycling guides are provided in electronic formats as well as information on where to take hard-to-recycle materials for those items that we don't collect curbside.

Education is provided via social media, e-newsletters and YouTube videos where possible. We host a number of tabling events throughout the community. That has been done virtually and in person lately due to COVID. We are also providing staffing and coordination support for community cleanups in special collection events. Right now, a lot of us are working on bulky waste events with Metro grants through that program. We also support master recycler classes with funding. We provide them classroom spaces if they need it. We support them on presentations and continued education and support.

We also partner with nonprofits and community-based organizations on numerous projects. A couple of examples is Washington County are the Promoter's Program. And then also in Gresham, partners with Trash for Peace on multifamily outreach.

Local governments have been working with multifamily communities for well over a decade. But multifamily community members have still been historically underserved by our waste collection system. And now reached out efforts given the dedicated and ongoing time, that's really needed with these properties.

So multifamily services and technical assistance, it's still a priority in the regional waste plan. And this program will also be continued to be enhanced as we move forward. With multifamily, local governments provide site visits and assistance to property managers to ensure their community has an accessible and safe collection that meets their needs. And our local governments are also working with Metro on passing regional service standards to really enhance that, to ensure that our communities are getting the services that they need.

We also are updating our stickers, decals and signage in garbage and recycling enclosures. We conduct door-to-door outreach and give presentations to folks on a range of topics, depending on what their interests are. We also distribute education resources to help property managers meet their requirements, to notify their tenants at least once a year of what can be recyclable, and what's the value of recycling and waste prevention.

Some local governments also provide tote bags, which you see in this photo here to community members, just to help bring recyclables to a central collection area. If you've ever been into a

multifamily community, a lot of times you'll see folks setting garbage on the trunk of their car and driving it down to the compactor, which is not ideal. And so we're just trying to find some additional resources for folks to help with them to recycle properly.

With businesses, technical assistance and education for businesses are offered across the region. We've called this Recycle at Work for quite some time. And this program has helped thousands of businesses a year green their workplace operations. Some jurisdictions also offer sustainability assistance beyond recycling and waste prevention. They look at energy efficiencies in water and storm water. They also provide certification and recognition programs for those that want to achieve higher standards of sustainability.

We provide technical assistance with onsite assessments. We also provide recommended best management practices on waste prevention, recycling and composting. Offer resources and connections to service providers such as reuse organizations and food rescue agencies. We have a lot of connections throughout our communities to help businesses get food that's still edible to our community-based organizations and help make those connections.

We also manage the business recycling requirement for all new and existing businesses. Also, wanted just to mention that during the pandemic, we've been incorporating COVID resources and connecting businesses to others. BIPOC owned businesses with different grants to help support their businesses, offering PPE supplies that we receive through the state and other resources that have been available at the local level.

Some local governments offer school-specific programming. And Portland also has a sustainability dedicated person within the school district. Local governments also support Oregon Green School Certification, which is a state-run program. And also some local government staff support that state program by participating on the board of that organization. We provide technical assistance in education for teachers. We also provide basic business assistance on recycling, waste prevention and food composting and also helping them with food waste prevention for their kitchens.

Clackamas County also provides mini-grants for classrooms on waste prevention kits, and they also do larger grants to help with a milk dispenser installation to eliminate single-use cartons. And I also just want to do a quick call out to DEQ for future grants or historic grants that they've given on helping schools install water bottle filling stations. So our local government partners have also been participating in that work with DEQ.

Lastly, large gatherings have been on hold for the most part. They're starting to ramp up again, which is nice to see. Many jurisdictions do offer and support recycling at events. So we provide technical assistance to event organizers. A lot of times these will also be used for filming. So if somebody's coming to the city or the local government to film something on hand, we'll provide these to them. And also we provide these containers and signage at no cost.

Many local governments also hold community cleanup events. A couple examples; there's Trashpalooza in Sherwood, Annual City Cleanups in Cornelius, Wood Village and Milwaukee. Gresham holds Annual Earth Day Collection event for hard to recycle items like styro-foam, e-waste and fluorescent lights.

Lastly, local governments are also supporting and helping nonprofits with this type of work. For example, James Recycling, who is also out in our community collecting materials that people would like to recycle, that we don't collect curbside.

Mr. Polk shared that materials management has a meaningful connection with climate action. A significant portion of greenhouse gas emissions come from the materials consumed. A number of local governments are engaged in community-level and or city-level climate action efforts. Some examples of that include the City of Portland and Multnomah County that having a joint climate action plan. There are also some really fantastic sustainability and or climate plans in the City of Hillsboro, Lake Oswego, Milwaukee, City of Forest Grove runs a Sustainability Commission. Climate action plans are under development in Gresham and Clackamas County.

Repair, reuse, and sharing is another theme. A lot of things are happening in communities to promote and build a culture of repair and reuse that builds on our existing culture of recycling. So local jurisdiction support repair and reuse events in many different formats. That includes tool libraries, repair cafes and fix it fairs, libraries of things.

There has been culturally specific, culturally responsive groups emerge in this space as well. For example, Central Cultural's Promoters Ambientales. They have a specific buy nothing group. And both in Washington County and Clackamas County, there's a strong presence of library of things. So those are a few examples happening in that space.

Food is another major theme. Wasted food in general is a key area of focus for our region and local governments are supportive and involved in outreach education and technical assistance to move food waste into improved processes, whether that's composting or even better prevention of food waste. Food scraps are about 18% of our waste stream overall. And so helping homes and businesses prevent the wasting of food is really a critical piece for climate action, but also has important links to addressing hunger in the community and to other opportunity. For example, to produce compost or clean energy from food waste instead of sending it to the landfill. So in this space, local governments are implementing mandatory food scraps collection programs that will be kicking in this year, applying to places like restaurant, grocery stores, institutional kitchens, and schools that generate large quantities of food waste. Teams have been providing technical assistance, posters and resources in this area for years, but the mandate, which was initially adopted by Metro and then in turn adopted at the local level is going to probably drive a lot more food waste out of the garbage can and hopefully into prevention and composting situations.

Local governments share an initiative called Eat Smart, Waste Less that provides practices and tools for households to find food waste prevention practices. Those are a few examples of food as a theme. Youth engagement is another important theme. Local government support work in this space through supporting the Oregon Green School summit through presenting at career fairs, delivering programming and presentations to local youth organizations. We are participating with Metro on a forthcoming youth leadership and education coordinating committee to shape how youth are engaged in education and leadership opportunities going forward.

One thing happening in high schools is supporting the formation of a Green Team. That will involve working with both students and faculty at a high school. Another example that's going on right now is that Clackamas County is hosting a youth climate action task force that's convening regularly.

Peter Brandom (City of Hillsboro) highlighted the role of supporting businesses. Each part of the region has some form of Green Business Award, that's what it's called in Washington County for businesses to recognize businesses for efforts to make those efficiencies in their operations. It's a great way for businesses, both to learn what more they can do and to get recognized for it.

Beth Vargas Duncan (ORRA) added that the garbage and recycling industry, are proud to be partners with local governments and promoting outreach and education. Industry also provides direct financial support in Clackamas County.

Bunsereythy Kong (Oregon Cambodian Buddhist Society), asked if there are plans in the future to reach out to specific community members like Cambodian or Vietnamese or Chinese? Because those people probably, don't have much outreach, so they don't have much knowledge about the recycling.

Mr. Polk responded that in general, outreach and education efforts has been over several years, a shift to ensure that services are accessible for every community. And also, people whose primary language is not English. And that started some years ago with translation of materials, into other languages, including Vietnamese.

Mr. Brower responded that Metro has established a pretty good relationship with APANO. In fact, the latest newly appointed counselor is from APANO. And so is representing a lot of the communities APANO represents at the council level.

Thao Thu (Vietnamese Community of Oregon) offered to share as much of this education information with his community as possible.

Ms. Martin suggested to get some more insight of how local governments can engage with other communities and start that dialogue and build that trust and have those partnerships and have additional conversations offline of this meeting too.

Arianne Sperry (City of Portland) added that City of Portland have just hired a new outreach and education manager. There's a lot of opportunity to build new relationships and new connections with a lot of different communities throughout Portland. Let's continue this conversation and we'd love to introduce you and make those connections.

Mr. Brower introduced Hanna Osman, Metro's new Engagement and Special Projects Planner. Ms. Osman shared that she was previously employed with City of Portland as an assistant planner coming in with some of that knowledge and also my public health background.

4. Garbage and Recycling System Facility Plan

Will Elder (Metro) talked about the finalized scope of work for the garbage and recycling system facility plan, the timelines and next steps. The plan has evolved since June of 2021.

Ultimately, Metro is working to develop, improve and implement a plan to improve and expand the garbage and recycling facilities in greater Portland. The regional waste plan is a vision for the garbage and recycling system that provides equitable and sustainable services. The system facility plan will guide these facility needs to achieve that vision.

There are three considerations to highlight with the development of this plan. First, investment and updates in the garbage and recycling facilities to support the needs of a growing region. Upgrading the aging infrastructure will reduce climate impacts on the garbage and recycling system. A better system means less stuff going to landfills, more reuse and repair and more recovery of recyclable materials. People in the region need improved access to service in the garbage and recycling system. This was heard clearly in the regional waste plan and the future south and west projects. The system facility plan brings together everything learned so far and charts a pathway forward to address service gaps, modernize infrastructure and anticipate changes in the system over the next 20 years. Last, to improve the system investment is needed and a clear understanding of the costs and financial options.

This plan will help Metro identify the types of facilities and services needed and predict impacts to the solid waste fees and regional rate payers. Metro management of the region's garbage and recycling system dates back to 1974, when Metro predecessor, the metropolitan service district adopted a solid waste management plan called [inaudible 00:45:17]. Over the years. This plan has been updated to include solid waste reduction programs and plans, responding to the need for expanded services throughout the region.

On the top of this timeline, is the development of the first three regional solid waste plans and the 2030 regional waste plan. On the bottom of the timeline is where Metro built the region's first publicly owned transfer station, Metro South transfer state in 1993. It's in Oregon City and is located across from the Rossman Landfill, which closed the same year. Metro central transfer station in Northwest Portland opened in 1993 and followed the closing of the St John's Landfill in 1991. What's missing from the bottom of this timeline is a strategic plan that looks for facility development related R swamps ted to the R swamps and the regional waste plan.

The development of the garbage and recycling systems facility plan will run across the phases here. Phase one is the policy and values and that will run now through April. Phase two is the gap analysis, which runs May to August. Phase three is scenario development, which will begin September and run through December. Phase four is our implementation strategy, which begins December and runs through April of 2023. And then phase five is the plan adoption, which is May through June of 2023. How the future of south and west projects will be addressed will be covered. Metro completed the purchase of land in Cornelius for a future facility and chose not to purchase the Jennifer Street property near Metro South Transfer Station.

Both of these projects are on hold until the garbage and recycling system facilities plan is complete. Staff will continue to passively look for sites in the south region while improvement options are being reviewed for the continued operation of Metro South. Next slide. So phase one, I'd like to think of this phase as getting to a shared understanding of what we know and don't know about facilities planning. As a first step we'll review what the different plans tell us about infrastructure needs related to facilities. These include regional waste plans and others such as Metro plan on racial equity, our draft capital asset plan, sustainability plan, and others. Will be compiling feedback received from the community and stakeholders over the last couple years related to facility needs. And last we'd like to identify other comprehensive, solid waste plans that develop long-term capital improvement projects for best practices. These could be engagement, scenario development and funding pathways.

In order to expedite the planning process, staff have begun collecting these documents and we will be ready to turn it over to consultants immediately for them to make summaries, findings and identify information needed to be gathered in phase two. Staff have also begun the process of developing council values, which will guide the planning process and outcomes. This is an example of how this plan scope has evolved since last year. Phase one told us what we know and don't know about facilities. Phase two will answer what we don't know. The first step is to develop an engagement plan that will answer this. We'll have existing feedback as a starting point and many best practices for engaging a broad and diverse group of community members that have not traditionally participated in the planning of the garbage and recycling system. And most recently engagement in the property citing to the west and south.

We also know that in order to have buy-in and predictability, that comes with a 20 year plan, local government and traditional stakeholders will need to participate in the planning. Your guidance on this development for the engagement will be helpful in formulating this. We also want to get an idea of what for facilities currently exist. The Metro region is a hybrid garbage, recycling and reuse system, public private and nonprofit facilities exist in order to help us achieve our goals. We'll look for those existing facilities and then apply growth projections in order to identify current gaps and future gaps in the garbage and recycling system. These needs will be identified through our existing and developed community engagement. Once we have feedback needed for the gaps identified staff will look to existing policy and council values to begin developing scenarios for council to consider.

These scenarios will function as policy guidance for council in order to give staff to prioritize facilities and develop funding option in phase four. These scenarios will consider roles of the public private and nonprofit facilities in the region scale and trade off in size and function to ensure the plan takes a holistic look at the whole system waste, prevent in reuse and end of life. Once council has adopted a scenario for advancing the garbage and recycling system facility plan. The next step is to apply the policy guidance and develop a recommended priority of facilities to be developed over the next 20 years. This prioritized list will include facilities to be developed over time. Once this list is developed, it'll be brought to Metro council for input and finalization.

Having a prioritized list of facilities will help staff to explore different ways of financing the facilities over time. This is a critical component for not just Metro, but for other jurisdictions and rate payers. Having a prioritized list of facilities and funding mechanism will provide transparency into what facilities will be developed in different communities, as well as projected costs over time to build them. The last element of phase five is to develop resources needed for staff to implement the plan

once adopted. These will include policy directions from the regional waste plan and others such as [inaudible 00:52:00] goals, wages, disaster, preparedness consideration, as well as sustain objectives for operations. This part will also include indicators to help track and report progress over time.

Phase five brings us to the plan's adoption. Staff will review findings and decisions made over the course of the planning process with stakeholders and then bring any final input to count council when we present the final plan. Once council has endorsed the final plan, a resolution will be drafted to formally adopt it.

Roles and engagement. This is actually where we see a great opportunity for this group to help inform our process. The element of the plan will involve a wide range of individuals, formal bodies and informal groups. Metro is responsible for the overall development of the plan, engaging others and adopting the final plan. The Metro policy advisory committee, regional solid waste advisory committee and committee on racial equity will provide input at key decision points. Integral to this decision making process is to provide timely opportunities for community partners in the public to provide input to these advisory committees.

The engagement efforts will seek participation of all potentially affected and interested individuals, communities, and organizations with some of our engagements approaches listed here on the right while Metro will engage the general public at large through a variety of means particular emphasis will be placed on engaging communities of color, urban indigenous peoples, and tribal nations and other communities who may be directly impacted by the decisions that affect the garbage and recycling system, but may have fewer opportunities to influence and shape that system.

Engagement will also include participation by businesses, local governments, reuse organizations and advocacy organizations. Your input will shape this.

So for next steps, we'll be issuing an RFP at the beginning of March. I think it says February here on this slide, that yesterday after a conversation with our procurement department, next will be a resolution that is being brought to council on March 3rd to formalize the project scope and understanding. Council values as mentioned, are being developed through April as part of phase one, and then we'll return on March for those questions that will follow on the next slide. The three questions surround the formation of a community advisory group, how we want to engage elected officials through the planning, as well as the garbage and recycling industry.

The terms, community or industry, includes a lot of subgroups. When talking about the community, these could be the reason for the community advisory group to get at communities that don't participate with the recycling industry, garbage industry, you have haulers, and you have owners of facilities as well as the involvement of the reuse group.

Ms. Vargas Duncan suggested that when it comes to involving, especially our group that like to focus on doing their operations and picking up garbage and recycling in a safe affordable manner, knowing when meetings are coming is the best thing you could do to help us out and keep us engaged. Having real advanced notice of dates even, I know it's hard, but a couple of weeks is better than one.

Mr. Brandom said that leadership is very interested in being engaged in the process. So we would like to work with Metro to figure out the most effective ways for them to engage in, as much as possible, of the phases.

He implored to have representation of stakeholders representing both geographies in the region, as well as different services that the facilities do or will provide and the gaps that exist. In Hillsboro and other parts of this part of the region, it's primarily cost control on self-haul. So those who haul their own material to a facility it's really cost prohibitive. And then also household hazardous waste and other Metro specific options that are just pretty far afield without a facility here on Metro.

Ms. Sperry asked about the RFP that is going to be released. What is the scope of that? Is Metro hiring a company that will complete the full analysis throughout all five phases or what are the different elements that you're looking for in that?

Mr. Elder responded, the RFP actually will cover the whole process of the plan. Now, as I mentioned, there's some work that we're able to do as staff to get this started, which is collect documents that they'd want to review. We're starting the council value work. So we're not waiting until the RFP happens to get this work started, but we do see the consultant really being the one that is kind of lifting or doing the hard lift. Doing the research, creating summaries. We expect one of the biggest questions that we have is really about that engagement, because difficult to envision that engagement. However, we know that we're going to be going out to the community. We know that we're going to be going out to facility owners, to haulers, to governments.

Metro has a concept, but the questions and the format is still to be developed. And so that why we're looking for your help. We also expect the consultant to do kind of a heavy lift on a lot of the analysis. Metro has a lot of data from our DRC, but when we think about the gaps, like when we start thinking about at spatial gaps, gaps in service, travel times, what materials are being collected at what facilities, that's a lot of GIS work. And we expect them to kind of do a lot of that heavy lifting for crunching that data that we have in order to be able to produce maps and images that tell us something. That actually paint a need. And also the summaries of reports.

The only other thing to add is that we anticipate them to manage a lot of the administrative responsibilities. And that's just because at this moment, WPES is stretched with our admin abilities. We want to make sure that we're not pulling from existing needs. And so it's an opportunity to take that lift and put it on the consultant. And then I think the last thing I'd want to point out is, we keep saying the consultant, and there's nothing that would prevent one firm from being awarded this. It's not a criteria, but because there's so many components that have specialization, we really see that probably the teams that will score the highest will be a combination of teams that actually have specialization. This is also a great opportunity to utilize co-bid firms. There's a lot of community organizations that we've been engaged with hearing Shannon, talking about some of the groups that Gresham's worked with. There's no reason that we couldn't partner with some community groups, especially around the engagement, to cast a wider net.

Estee Segal (Metro) added, there's elements of the RFP service tasks that we need around communications and around engagement and then on technical work and we are expecting to put it out to have single responders, but we're expecting and hoping that there'll be some subcontracting. So teams will come together with diverse set of services. And so, I guess I would just put a call out to you all to, when the RFP is released, hopefully in early March, to spread the word. And if you know of consultants and contractors that have specialties in engaging diverse communities and good communication services that can tie in with a more technical planning firm, we would ask for your input on that and to push out the RFP. So we see you as a resource to help get the word out.

Ms. Butcher asked what GIS services are.

Mr. Elder responded, Geographical Information Systems. It's taking data and visualizing it whether on a map or through emphasis.

Ms. Martin asked, will the Build Back Better federal infrastructure bill, include funding for solid waste and recycling systems

Mr. Brower responded that Metro has looked into that a little bit. It seems to be pretty not inclusive of solid waste infrastructure. Inquiries of our senators and congressional staff have been made about that, but that doesn't appear to be in the forefront of the minds of most of the federal folks.

Ms. Sperry, asked for clarification on community engagement relates to this group. For example in the flow chart, community and stakeholder input is then brought to a number of other groups. And

what was the reasoning behind having a separate community advisory group in addition to this advisory group?

Mr. Elder responded that Metro had really great results with the advisory groups that were formed around the sighting for west and south and wanted to continue that momentum. It's not that one takes the role of the other, but it's just an opportunity to cast a wider net as it relates to community engagement.

Ms. Estee shared, the goal is to make it a subcommittee of this group.

Mr. Brower added that Metro is looking to engage other groups beyond who are already sitting at the table with the advisory committee and particularly urban indigenous and native tribes, which Metro has done really poorly in the past. Metro has the regional waste plan. This is really going to be a compliment to that plan. The plan itself is pretty aspirational. It's pretty much focused on implementation of policies and projects and programs. Now we're filling in the gap of, what do we need as far as hard infrastructure or potentially other alternative programs that will deliver on the regional waste plan itself and getting to more of the Recycling Modernization Act that just passed last year. How can we move to more of a producer-stewardship and enhanced recycling role for the region that includes things like, repair and reuse and recovery etc.

5. Disaster Debris Fund

Jim Quinn (Metro) the 2030 regional waste plan does have some goals specifically related to resilience and preparedness. Goal 17 is about coordinating public and partners in the planning. Goal 18 is about making sure that routine garbage recycling continues to happen in the face of disruption. Keep that trash moving after a disaster. And then goal 19 is about disaster debris operations. So there are some goals and we have geared up to really start tackling these goals. One of the things we've done is establish a work group to tackle these goals.

Start with the MOU's project. The proposal is that Metro will negotiate memorandum understanding with the counties and cities in the region. Really clarifying the roles and responsibilities when it comes to managing disaster debris. This would make our incident response more systematic and clear ahead of time, who's going to do what, how are we going to work together when these things happen, and inevitably they are going to happen. Also, they will increase the readiness and resilience of the region to respond efficiently and effectively when these things do happen. And then make sure that any debris that's generated is managed safely, legally equitably, cost effectively, etc.

So some of the things that the MOU's would likely include; participating and collaborating before disaster, pre-planning and training and potentially exercises. Looking at the process for locating debris collection sites. After a big disaster, we may need to establish sites where people can bring the debris that was generated and how that would work and where those sites would be. And then debris site operation, how that would work. And then other types of cooperation during the disaster response and recovery process. Sharing information, for example, debris volume estimates and that sort of thing amongst the different jurisdictions. And then after something happens, making sure that we get together and talk about what happened and how to make the system stronger and better. So these are some of the things that we think would be included in these MOU's.

There are 15 actions altogether addressing resilience and preparedness in some way or another. Goal 17 is about developing a regional emergency framework and partnership with local governments and others. Goal 19 is about developing agreements and contracts with providers and partners to make sure that we get those resources moving after a disaster.

Mr. Brower highlighted that the MOUs are between Metro and other local governments. Clarify roles.

Christa McDermott (PSU) offered a resource from Portland state. We have an emergency management certificate program, so we have faculty with expertise in this area and a lot of students interested around community resilience and specific emergency management. And just letting you all know that there are resources there. Interested stakeholders, lots of connections already made to local groups and indigenous communities and other folks.

Mr. Brandom asked if specific individuals or groups at the cities and counties have been identified yet to work through this.

Mr. Quinn responded that, no, the game plan is to start with one partner to pilot this concept and see how it goes. Probably working with both emergency managers and solid waste folks. So that would probably vary from jurisdiction and jurisdiction on exactly who would be engaging with. We're doing the communication part of it right now. And once we've let everybody know what we're thinking and heard any feedback that folks have, we're going to move out on to the next step. And identify the first partner as I mentioned and dive into it.

Ms. Vargas Duncan asked if industry voices are being incorporated in this project.

Mr. Quinn responded that the focus is on the jurisdictional MOUs, but engagement with industry will be included.

Mr. Quinn explains establishing a fund for disaster debris. Setting aside money to help pay for debris management when disasters do happen. So this is something that would be available to the cities and counties to help them out with certain debris management costs. Metro would probably also be using it if we do set up some of those temporary debris collection sites.

The proposal on the table is that Metro would earmark some money. It's been coming in for a long time and this is a reduced system fee that is levied on what's called cleanup waste. So cleanup waste is a subset of waste that incorporates things like contaminated soils, street sweeping, some dredge material, things like that from contaminated sites where the stuff is scooped up and sent directly to a landfill. And for that reason, incurs this reduced \$2.50 system fee. That money's been coming in for many years, but it isn't really used for any particular purpose. It just flows into the solid waste fund in general.

So some of the benefits of doing this would be helping the local governments with payment for some of those costs in future disasters or managing the debris, help of course meet the regional waste plan goal relating to disaster debris and increasing the readiness of the region to respond effectively when there is debris generating events.

The goal is to set money aside and have it ready to go when these things happen. There is also a discussion for setting up a grant program after a disaster does happen, and then any of the cities or counties that need some of these funds would apply to Metro and funds would be awarded.

Mr. Brower added that this type of cleanup waste does not typically flow through the transfer system of the regional solid waste system. This is mostly material that gets generated in the course of a remediation and is taken directly to a landfill where it gets disposed of. And the landfill is then responsible for collecting the fee and remitting that back to Metro. This was a fee that was established 20 years ago. And it's not really changed much. But it has varied from year to year, depending on how many cleanups happen in a year and how much gets generated in a year. So it's one of those that Metro has not really relied on, but it's always been like bonus tonnage and bonus money that goes into the solid waste fund.

Ms. Sperry asked why funding would be provided this way if incoming money is uncertain. As opposed to saying, "Okay, here's how much money we think should be in a disaster debris fund,"

and then asking for that money to be allocated? So in case that happens tomorrow, we have some money available as opposed to waiting to build up the fund over a period of time.

Mr. Quinn responded that this is money hasn't been allocated for any purpose.

Mr. Brower added that this is a way to set aside and reserve a portion of that funding in the anticipation of disaster debris-generating event that we can dip into. We can't predict how many times we're going to need to dip into this fund. Over the last two years, Evan mentioned wildfires. We had an ice storm. We still are planning on a potential Cascadia event down the road. So we thought this would be a good way to take a portion of the funding that we currently generate based on cleanups and set it aside in the eventuality that we need to spend money, especially in the smaller debris-generating events, with the knowledge that we still have the solid waste fund backing that up.

Courtney Patterson (Metro) added that we're not setting this money aside in hopes of saving for an earthquake. Whether it's the Cascadia subduction zone or another earthquake. Metro has reserves and other funding sources that we could tap in something really large. This is really about a service that we could provide to the local governments. And this funding source is a good way to support the local governments without impacting the rest of the solid waste fund or changing fees around.

Mr. Kong added that that there aren't a lot of local companies or businesses available to do this kind of work. Is there a way to incentivize building up that local debris dealing with industry, or if that might be a part of this at all.

Mr. Quinn responded that that response is outlined in the regional waste plan. Metro would contract for some of those debris services, one of the actions does call for looking for local and also minority operated businesses.

Mr. Polk responded that in Metro's debris removal and debris monitoring contracting journey, Clackamas County has five-year on-call contracts in place that would enable Metro to activate them if needed, for large events. In the procurement process, we asked questions really focusing on subcontractors. It turns out that the companies that we ended up contracting with put a very strong emphasis on activating local contractors, if we activate the overall debris removal or monitoring contract. And they provided us with fairly long lists of in-state contractors that they had pre-negotiated relationships with. And so that gives us a starting point to look at maybe capacity building for local contractors to fit into that pipeline. It's not likely that local contractors would be the primary contractor in response to a large event, but could be a very important subcontractor. And we've seen that in action on the wildfire cleanup activity.

Ms. Patterson added that it's something that local emergency managers always want to do. They want to bring business locally so that all the response money, the recovery money doesn't drain out of an area. But FEMA offers a grant program that pays for 75% of local government's expenses. And in their grant program, if you have a local preference in your contracting, then that's void and none of those expenses are eligible for FEMA reimbursement. So it's like a dance you have to do to try to encourage contracts locally, but not give them extra points in their procurement.

Mr. Brower added that a condition to receive the money from this grant program would be that an entity have an MOU with Metro. So that would be the baseline. And then there would be other designation of responsibilities between the local government and Metro within the MOU.

Mr. Brower put forth December and January meeting minutes for approval.

Ms. Sperry motioned to approve the December minutes.

Ms. Butcher seconded the motion.

December minutes approved.

Ms. Vargas Duncan raised edits for the January minutes.

Updated minutes will be brought back in March meeting.

Mr. Brower reviewed upcoming topics.

Mr. Brandom asked how meetings would proceed as COVID response changes, and that having meetings remote has many benefits.

Mr. Brower responded that this should Metro is aiming to be back at least part-time in person in April at this point. And so maybe at the next meeting in March, we'll see how much things have changed between now and March 17th. And we'll have that conversation. Our challenge, of course, is we still want to make meetings available in a virtual sense, as well as potentially an in person sense. And so we're trying to. We haven't done that yet, so we haven't quite figured out all the nuances and all the ways that it makes whoever joins feel like they're part of the meeting. So that is one of the things that we're starting to look at and deal with at Metro.

3. FINAL REMARKS: Mr. Brower gave a few final remarks to the committee.

MEETING AJOURNED at 10:30 a.m.