

Meeting: Regional Waste Advisory Committee (RWAC) Meeting  
Date: Thursday, August 18 2022  
Time: 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 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.*

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**Members in Attendance:**

Pam Peck, Metro  
Peter Brandom, City of Hillsboro  
Sharetta Butcher, North by Northeast Community Health Center (NxNE)  
Alondra Flores Aviña, Student [check with Alondra but I think she is with Trash for Peace]  
Bunsereyrithy Kong, Oregon Cambodian Buddhist Society  
Lindsay Marshall, City of Tualatin  
Shannon Martin, City of Gresham  
Christa McDermott, Community Environmental Services, 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**

Pam Peck (Metro) brought the virtual meeting to order at 8:31 am and previewed the agenda.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

There were no comments from the public.

**4. Metro Regional Cleanup Services and Special Funding Updates**

Jon Mayer, Metro provided an update Regional Cleanup Services and Special Funding.

*Key points of the presentation included:*

Due to the pandemic there were a variety of impacts on Metro's cleanup initiatives. In 2021 Metro Council made a 3.5 million investment to focus on cleanups. In 2022 the State Legislature gave Metro \$10 million dollars for cleanup initiatives that are focused on highway corridors, large items such as boats, and highly visible areas. Cleanup services have returned to pre-pandemic response times. Neighborhood cleanups have been restarted, as well as large scale events.

*Member Discussion Included:*

Christa McDermott asked if all the collected materials are disposed of or are any items used for reuse? Mr. Mayer replied that items collected at bulky waste or hazardous waste events or sorted

for reuse when possible. RID is starting to pre-segregate wood and metal to help with better reuse efforts.

Ms. McDermott asked if data is being collected on the weights of waste being disposed of or diverted?

This is not metric grantees are required to report on, however, Metro will request those who are already collecting this information share with us.

Eben Polk asked how the funds were delegated? Audrey O'Brien replied that the funding was directly designated to Metro, and Stephanie Rawson has been working closely with DEQ on these efforts.

Sharetta Butcher asked if an organization can apply for second grants for a second project. Jennifer Payne responded that yes organizations can apply for multiple projects within Regional Refresh. Ms. McDermott asked why the value of \$5000 was the funding threshold for Regional Refresh projects. Ms. Payne responded that the \$5000 cap does not require the same contractual agreements which makes it low barrier.

## **5. 2022 Investment and Innovation grants and program update**

Pam Peck introduced Metro staff, Suzanne Piluso.

### *Key points of the presentation included:*

The Investment and Innovation grant program was originally a 3 year pilot that started in 2018. The program is currently contracting new grants. There were several changes to the solicitation in 2022 in response to an evaluation of the pilot phase. These include an equity threshold, no match for non-profits, up-front installment payments and addition of a second grant review committee. Program staff will provide RWAC an opportunity to comment on funding priorities for next year's solicitation, which will launch in early 2023.

### *Member Discussion Included:*

Alondra Flores-Avina asked if there is a final report on organizations providing feedback on their grants. Suzanne Piluso explained that Metro does receive a final report on how grant impacts, any issues the encountered, and how the project benefits will continue after the grant ends.

## **6. WPES Participation in Recycling Modernization Act Implementation**

Pam Peck introduced DEQ staff Audrey O'Brien and Metro staff Jill Hrycyk, Sabrina Gogol and Rosalynn Greene.

### *Key points of the presentation included:*

The Recycling Modernization Act establishes an extended producer responsibility program and additional requirements of the producers of recyclable materials. It also establishes a shared responsibility with local governments. The law will include: a statewide collection list of recyclable materials, a commodity risk fee to protect taxpayers, social equity elements, assurance that materials reach responsible end markets, and processor permitting. The law went into effect January 2022. In 2023 and 2024 there will be public comment periods on proposed administrative rules to guide implementation of the law, and on July 1, 2025 the program will be implemented. There is a Recycling Council that was appointed by the Governor that meets quarterly to advise DEQ and the Producer Responsibility Organizations (PROs) on key system elements. There is also the Rulemaking Advisory Committee to review the technical issues and fiscal impacts related to the proposed rules.

Presenters suggested that there are 3 topics that RWAC could consult on in the future; materials collected in the Metro region, responsible end markets and public communication.

*Member Discussion Included:*

Mr. Polk asked if others would be interested in generic sharing of themes or topics from the new Recycling Council.

Ariane Sperry suggested that focusing on convenience of collection could be isolating 1 issue, and that the materials list will be a broad discussion on a variety of factors.

Beth Vargas Duncan expressed that there should be an understanding between the local governments and the haulers roles in this situation, and that local governments have authority over collection, not Metro. Ms. Peck responded that Metro is not trying to change collections, and that those rules are clearly outlined in the law.

Audrey O'Brien asked that a 4<sup>th</sup> question be considered for RWAC. The question is how can RWAC give input to Metro that will help further the equity outcomes the law demands.

Ms. McDermott expressed that it can be unclear on how to weigh in publicly in these rule making processes, and that RWAC members could bring comments to council or public hearing directly not as private citizens.

Mr. Polk asked if Pam Peck could describe where other conversations on the RMA will happen. Ms. Peck responded that it will be discussed monthly at the Solid Waste Directors meetings and special meetings.

## **7. Review of Schedule of Topics**

Ms. Peck reviewed the schedule of topics. Ms. O'Brien requested periodic updates on the state funds for cleanup. Ms. Sperry suggested that it is difficult to know when RWAC is scheduled for informational presentations, and where are the corresponding opportunities to provide feedback. Ms. Peck suggested that items that will go to Council could be flagged so RWAC knows which items will need advisory input.

## **8. Final Remarks**

Ms. Peck put forth the July meeting minutes for approval. Ms. Vargas Duncan motioned to approve the July minutes, Ms. Butcher seconded. July minutes approved. Ms. Peck gave a few final remarks to the committee.

**MEETING AJOURNED at 10:30 a.m.**