

Meeting: Regional Waste Advisory Committee (RWAC) Meeting  
Date: Thursday, September 15 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:**

Marta McGuire, Metro  
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**

Marta McGuire (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. Disaster Debris Grant Program Guidelines**

Marta McGuire introduced Metro staff, Jim Quinn.

*Key points of the presentation included:*

The Disaster Debris Grant program focuses on goal 19 of the Regional Waste Plan. As weather related disasters increase this program will help address the debris generated from these extreme weather events. Council approved this program in July 2022. The program will reserve funds for Metro's own post-disaster debris management costs, assist local governments with post-disaster debris costs, support equitable disaster debris strategies, speedy recovery after disasters and maintain public confidence in the solid waste system. Fees are currently collected on clean up materials, those funds will be allocated to this reserve. These funds are collected on materials such as contaminated soil. There will be a \$5 million dollar cap on the fund.

The program has proposed guidelines that are currently being finalized. Items to be determined are, what is an eligible disaster, how to prioritize spending of funds and the guidelines for local

governments to apply for grants. The Federal Emergency Management Act (FEMA) does provide funds to support clean up after disasters, but generally only pays 75% of costs. The Disaster Debris Grant program would help cover the remaining costs of disaster clean-up.

*Member Discussion Included:*

Eben Polk, Clackamas County, asked if this program was sized by previous disasters in the region. Mr. Quinn responded that the Metro Analytics team researched past disasters and previous FEMA response to disasters in the area to help determine monetary needs for the program.

Ariane Sperry, City of Portland, asked for an explanation of the reasoning on how quickly the fund will be built up, then be utilized. Mr. Quinn responded that the data helped set the fund cap, but we can't know how many incidents will occur in the future. Ms. McGuire added that this was a discussion with Council, and that it was decided that \$5 million was a reasonable cap, but the code allows for the cap to be reevaluated.

Courtney Patterson, Metro, explained that Metro estimated the amount of debris from floods, fires and storms, and did an estimate of event frequency to predict spending needs from this fund.

Mr. Polk asked if this funding would be available to a local government that did not take the steps to be eligible to receive FEMA funding. Mr. Quinn responded that as of right now the guidelines would look at if the local government made a good faith effort to receive FEMA funding. Mr. Polk suggested that there could be an agreement in place for funding, for example that the local government have a debris plan in place to receive funds.

A question in the Zoom Chat: How is Metro defining marginalized communities. Ms. McGuire responded that Metro looks at equity focus areas. These areas are based on census metrics where people of color or limited English proficiency is greater than the regional average.

A question in the Zoom Chat: Is there anyone on this committee that is on the disaster debris work group. Mr. Quinn responded that Peter Brandom, Eben Polk and Audrey O'Brien have sat on the disaster debris group meetings.

Audrey O'Brien, DEQ, raised that not all local governments have the funding to focus on creating a disaster debris plan, and to eliminate them from receiving these funds would not be equitable. We don't want to eliminate those who truly need help in the region.

Ms. Sperry asked if this funding can be used for planning for disasters, not just response after a disaster. Mr. Quinn responded that no, the funds are currently meant to be used for debris removal.

Mr. Polk asked if diverting and reusing debris has been taken into consideration. Could enhanced recycling be used as a requirement to receive grants. Mr. Quinn responded that requirements such as this can be announced at the time of the disaster.

Peter Brandom, City of Hillsboro, raised that he feels there is a lack of involvement of solid waste planning and natural hazard mitigation planning. Courtney Patterson responded that this work is more focused in Counties, but the Regional Waste Plan does have a goal to make the regions solid waste facilities resiliency.

Ms. Sperry asked if the equity guidelines are specifically stated for local governments to see and utilize to qualify for grants. Ms. McGuire responded that this will be reviewed and updated in the program.

Christa McDermott asked if it would be possible to align the investment and innovation grants with this program to help keep funds local, divert materials for recycling and reuse, and fill the funding gap from FEMA. Mr. Polk shared that larger debris removal contractors are very focused on using local companies to support this work and may be interested in building capacity at the local level.

#### **5. Final Remarks**

Ms. McGuire put forth the August meeting minutes for approval. Ms. Alondra Flores Avina motioned to approve the August minutes; Ms. Butcher seconded. August minutes approved. Ms. McGuire gave a few final remarks to the committee.

**MEETING AJOURNED at 9:30 a.m.**