



Metro | *Meeting minutes*

Meeting: Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC)
Date: June 11, 2014
Place: Metro Regional Center, Room 401

Members present

Paul Ehinger, Metro (alternate)
Scott Keller, City of Beaverton
Leslie Kochan, Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality
Theresa Koppang, Washington County
Susan Millhauser, City of Lake Oswego
Alando Simpson, City of Roses Disposal & Recycling
Mike Leichner, Pride Disposal
Amy Pepper, City of Troutdale
Keith Ristau, Far West Fibers
Amy Roth, Association of Oregon Recyclers

Members Absent

Matt Korot, Metro
Dan Blue, City of Gresham
Kathy Kaatz, City of Tualatin
Bruce Walker, City of Portland

1. CALL TO ORDER AND DECLARATION OF A QUORUM

Chair Alternate Paul Ehinger called the meeting to order and declared a quorum.

2. COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

None

3. CONSIDERATION OF SWAC MINUTES FOR MAY 14, 2014

The minutes of the May 14, 2014 SWAC meeting were amended to incorporate revisions submitted by Leslie Kochan and then approved.

4. 2014 SOLID WASTE CODE UPDATE

Mr. Ehinger introduced Regulatory Affairs Manager Roy Brower. Mr. Brower explained proposed changes to Metro Code that will go to the Metro Council. No current practices, regulatory requirements or policies will be affected; they are primarily structural changes, he said. A copy of a letter summarizing the questions was included in the agenda packet.

The goal of the changes is to improve consistency, accessibility and usability of the Metro Code. Definitions are being consolidated in one location; licensing and franchise requirements are being separated to make them distinctive; and designated facilities will no longer be listed in the Code, but a list will be adopted by Council Resolution every 5 years. (Agreement negotiations will not be affected). Lakeside, Cedar Grove and Weyerhaeuser facilities are being deleted from the listings because of various changes to their operations. A section of Code regarding facilities not subject to regional system fee payments is being moved from 5.01 to 5.02. It is also being proposed that SWAC's name be changed to Solid Waste Alternatives Advisory Committee (SWAAC).

First reading of the Ordinance will be July 17. The second reading, public hearing and a decision will be made on July 24. Material will be available online at Metro's website for review in advance.

5. SOLID WASTE ROADMAP: FOOD SCRAPS PROCESSING CAPACITY PROJECT (PART 1)

Jennifer Erickson gave a presentation on the food scraps capacity project of the Solid Waste Roadmap. The project's focus is on identifying alternatives to increase capacity and identify potential roles for Metro to play in securing that capacity. At the conclusion of the project, staff will present alternatives to Council for consideration and direction.

Disposed food scraps make up the largest portion of the region's waste stream. Of approximately 206,000 tons of food scraps collected annually, only about 35,000 of those tons are currently recovered. The capacity challenge has been considered for several years and many projects undertaken. Metro's contract with Cedar Grove established a food scraps program for the region, but Cedar Grove was unable to establish a facility in the region as hoped. While things were looking up in 2010 with the acceptance of commercial food scraps at Nature's Needs and Pacific Region Compost, and Columbia Biogas on the horizon, the subsequent loss of Nature's Needs as a commercial material market was a significant setback and Columbia Biogas has yet to be built.

The consulting firm CH2M Hill has been brought onboard to assist with Phase 1 of this project, which will identify and assess alternatives and refine the top five to a field of three for presentation to Council. Phase 2 will be in-depth analysis of the alternatives chosen by Council as priorities for investigation. At the next SWAC meeting, committee members will review and discuss the preliminary alternatives.

Committee member Theresa Koppang referred to previous SWAC discussions that considered alternatives such as banning food scraps. Ms. Erickson said that we have been working on some of those alternatives, such as supporting local government efforts and the Fork It Over food donation program, and examining disposal bans is on the table as part of this project.

6. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS TO SWAC AGENDA ITEMS

Ariane Sperry (City of Portland) asked about residential capacity. Ms. Erickson explained that while her examples dealt with commercial scraps, the project will deal with both.

Dave White (Oregon Refuse and Recycling Association) asked how a determination can be made that enough programs will be operational in the region to use the increased capacity. Ms. Erickson explained that this is a system-wide look; how the entire system needs to function. It is a challenge to consider the generation and processing both, because there is a bit of a chicken and

egg situation, but that's the approach we need to take. All of the potential tools/options need to be on the table, from light lifts to more difficult options.

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

July's SWAC meeting will continue today's topic of discussion.

8. ADJOURN

Chair Ehinger adjourned the meeting at 10:43 a.m.