



Metro | Meeting minutes

Meeting: Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC)
Date: July 9, 2014
Place: Metro Regional Center, Council Chamber

Members present

Dan Blue, City of Gresham
Paul Ehinger, Metro
Kathy Kaatz, City of Tualatin
Scott Keller, City of Beaverton
Leslie Kochan, Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality
Theresa Koppang, Washington County
Matt Korot, Metro
Mike Leichner, Pride Disposal
Susan Millhauser, City of Lake Oswego
Amy Pepper, City of Troutdale
Keith Ristau, Far West Fibers
Amy Roth, Association of Oregon Recyclers
Bruce Walker, City of Portland

Members absent

Alando Simpson, City of Roses Disposal & Recycling

Guests

Jennifer Erickson, Metro

1. CALL TO ORDER AND DECLARATION OF A QUORUM

Chair Matt Korot called the meeting to order and declared a quorum.

2. COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair Korot reviewed the meeting agenda and asked if the Committee had any questions or comments. He noted the Metro Council will consider a new name for the Committee, Solid Waste Alternatives Advisory Committee, at its July 17 meeting. Chair Korot introduced Ken Ray, Metro Communications, who promoted several upcoming events in Metro's *Let's Talk Trash* series. Chair Korot asked if there were other comments or announcements from the Committee. Susan Millhauser announced she will be leaving the Committee and her position at Lake Oswego. Chair Korot thanked her for her contributions to the Committee and wished her luck in her future endeavors.

3. CONSIDERATION OF SWAC MINUTES FOR JUNE 11, 2014

The minutes of the June 11, 2014 SWAC meeting were approved as written. A motion to approve was made and seconded.

4. SOLID WASTE ROADMAP: FOOD SCRAPS PROCESSING CAPACITY PROJECT

Jennifer Erickson, Metro Resource Conservation and Recycling, discussed the food scraps processing capacity project, a continuation of last month's discussion. She also introduced Lyndsey Lopez from CH2M Hill, who is assisting with the project. Ms. Erickson gave a presentation introducing five alternatives for food scraps processing, and then Chair Korot led the Committee in an exercise to provide feedback on the alternatives related to: general thoughts, additions or refinements, red flags and residential impact. This feedback is recorded in the attached table. Ms. Erickson acknowledged a hybrid of the various alternatives may be considered.

Alternative 1 – Status quo

Alternative 2 – Food scraps disposal ban

Alternative 3 – Flow control and contracting

Alternative 4 – Metro builds facility

Alternative 5 – Wastewater treatment

In response to a question about whether Metro can use flow control authority to direct material to private transfer stations in addition to public ones, Marv Fjordbeck, Office of Metro Attorney, explained that Metro has the least amount of legal risk associated with flow control regulation under current law is if it directs waste to its own facilities. That doesn't mean that there are not other ways to implement flow control, but those may have higher risk. He pointed out that we need to be attentive to not confusing flow control legal authority with flow control contractual implementation. As long as contractual arrangements don't unduly favor a local entity over an out-of-state entity, and the procurement is otherwise properly done, then that procurement is likely to be upheld, but does entail a greater risk of legal challenge than that associated with directing flow to public facilities.

Ms. Erickson wrapped up the discussion by noting that the next steps are to refine the alternatives, incorporating SWAC's input, and apply the evaluation criteria. We may return to SWAC if the alternatives become substantially different than those presented today. The alternatives will be presented to the Metro Council for discussion and guidance in October [*Note: this has since been changed to a tentative date of Nov. 18*].

5. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS TO SWAC AGENDA ITEMS

Doug Drennen stated that looking at food scraps alone as a feedstock is one alternative, but suggested considering mixed organics because the technology is already there to handle this material. The San Jose digester is currently taking mixed organics.

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

Chair Korot thanked everyone for the valuable dialogue. Next month's discussion will be led by Doug Anderson, Metro Solid Waste Policy and Compliance, and will focus on context and introduction to the transfer system configuration project. Also, obtaining Committee input on DEQ's draft recovery goals for the region has been added to the September meeting agenda.

7. ADJOURN

Chair Korot adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m.