



## Metro | *Meeting minutes*

**Meeting:** Solid Waste Alternatives Advisory Committee (SWAAC)  
**Date:** September 10, 2014  
**Place:** Metro Regional Center, Council Chamber

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### **Members present**

Dan Blue, City of Gresham  
Kathy Kaatz, City of Tualatin  
Scott Keller, City of Beaverton  
Leslie Kochan, Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality (DEQ)  
Mike Leichner, Pride Disposal  
Keith Ristau, Far West Fibers  
Amy Roth, Association of Oregon Recyclers  
Alando Simpson, City of Roses Disposal & Recycling  
Bruce Walker, City of Portland

### **Members absent**

Theresa Koppang, Washington County  
Matt Korot, Metro  
Amy Pepper, City of Troutdale

### **Guests**

David Allaway, Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality  
Roy Brower, Metro  
Bill Metzler, Metro  
Andy Sloop, Metro

### **1. CALL TO ORDER AND DECLARATION OF A QUORUM**

Acting Chair Roy Brower called the meeting to order and declared a quorum.

### **2. COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Acting Chair Brower reviewed the agenda items.

### **3. CONSIDERATION OF SWAC MINUTES FOR AUGUST 13, 2014**

The minutes of the August 13, 2014 SWAAC meeting were approved as written. A motion to approve was made and seconded.

### **4. UPDATE ON COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM CHANGES**

Roy Brower and Bill Metzler, Metro, discussed proposed changes to the Community Enhancement Grant programs (see Sept. 10, 2014 memorandum to committee and presentation). Discussion was held to clarify several minor points.

## **5. DEQ DRAFT MATERIALS MANAGEMENT LEGISLATIVE CONCEPT**

Andy Sloop, Metro and David Allaway and Leslie Kochan, DEQ, presented information about the DEQ draft materials management legislative concept (see summary and presentation). In general, the committee agreed with the proposed concepts. Discussion was held as follows:

There are significant challenges related to implementation, and DEQ wants to give the industry enough time to prepare. DEQ will identify best practices and work with local governments and haulers to implement the program. There are several ways to change this policy via state requirements, such as requiring every city to adopt via ordinance. The DEQ proposal avoids that requirement and will make it easier for DEQ to step in when necessary.

Funding from disposal fees is probably not a stable funding source. Longer-term funding options need to be identified. The proposed changes will have an impact on consumers, and cities and counties need to understand that haulers are going to be talking about costs. Extensive discussion needs to be held with the jurisdictions and haulers so they are comfortable about any fee increase.

Most jurisdictions in the Metro region are already meeting the basic requirements.

*Questions for Committee consideration and members' responses:*

### **What do you think about DEQ's specific proposals for recovery and waste generation goals for the metro region?**

- DEQ's proposal is a step in the right direction.
- Goals are modest and achievable.
- It is time to move on from the "bonus points" system.
- How do we compare to other west coast jurisdictions?
- The Environmental Quality Commission will have the ability to adjust rates as needed.
- Zoning and code requirements should be put in place for new multi-family construction.

### **What do you think would be the implications of the draft legislation for the Metro region's solid waste system?**

- Not much impact short term.
- Rates will be the biggest change, and challenge. A bigger impact would be to the counties outside the region that don't have a specific funding base.
- Metro has already set a high standard of working together; need to strive for continuous improvement and innovation through ongoing partnerships.
- Environmental and cost benefits are important factors.
- Education is important to illustrate potentially hidden costs and benefits.

### **How would the proposed legislation specifically affect your jurisdiction and its residents, or your business and industry?**

- Will encourage the industry to maintain a mindset for innovation and going forward.
- Must be attentive to the sum of all of the costs, not just rate increases.

## **6. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS TO SWAAC AGENDA ITEMS**

*Dave White, representing Oregon Refuse and Recycling Association, regarding DEQ presentation:*

- DEQ will need to clearly illustrate how it will spend the additional \$3.5 million in revenue and show what the individual wastesheds will receive in increased financial support and program assistance.

- DEQ will need to make a strong effort to understand the impacts of these changes on local government programs and ratepayers.
- Metro has partners in local governments and should get input from local elected officials before taking a position on state legislation. I would think this is an example of something that should go to MPAC for comment.

*Response from Mr. Allaway:* Implementing new services typically has a cost impact. The requirement for new elements is not a requirement for new action, but that local governments provide seven or eight elements of the thirteen. In the Metro region, those elements are already in place and built into rate base.

*Thane Tienson, representing NatureWorks, regarding DEQ presentation:*

What are the implications of the DEQ proposals for compostable serviceware types of products and, specifically, the impact of the proposed fee on compostable feedstocks?

*Response from Mr. Allaway:* Regarding the fee, there is interest in diversifying the funding base by spreading rate impacts across all materials, not just those disposed as garbage. Proposal is that if, and only if, disposal tonnage continues to fall and stays below recent baseline levels, then the Environmental Quality Commission will have authority to impose a per ton fee on compostable feedstocks. That per ton fee can be no higher than a proposed increase on fee at landfills. Regarding the impact on compostable products, the Materials Management Vision looks at the lifecycle of materials and compostable products may offer significant environmental benefits that have nothing to do with how they are managed at their end of life.

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

The next meeting is scheduled for Oct. 8, 2014 and is expected to include discussion on the stakeholder feedback process that Doug Anderson is leading on the transfer system configuration project.

#### **8. ADJOURN**

Acting Chair Brower adjourned the meeting at noon.