

Marta

Meeting: Regional Waste Advisory Committee (RWAC) Meeting

Date: Thursday, April 18th, 2024

Time: 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 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 the implementation of the 2030 Regional Waste Plan.*

Members in Attendance:

Marta McGuire, Metro

Alondra Flores-Aviña, Trash for Peace

Sharetta Butcher, North by Northeast Community Health Center (NxNE)

Jackie Kirouac-Fram, Rebuilding Center

Teresa Gaddy, system user

Christa McDermott, Community Environmental Services, PSU

Audrey O'Brien, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

Beth Vargas Duncan, Oregon Refuse and Recycling Association (ORRA)

Ryan Largura, City of Troutdale

Eben Polk, City of Portland

Andrew Bartlett, City of Hillsboro

1. CALL TO ORDER & MEETING OVERVIEW

2. Budget Development

Marta McGuire presented this topic.

Key points of the presentation included:

Marta presented on the Budget Development. She reviewed Metro's budget process, key areas of progress, investment in target areas and the proposed Waste Prevention and Environmental Services budget for 2024-2025.

Member Discussion

Sharetta Butcher, NxNE, asked for clarification on Rapid Response work. Ms. McGuire replied that Rapid Response and Inside Alliance will be staffing the cleanup crews for RID. This supports staffing of these crews.

Beth Vargas Duncan, ORRA, appreciated the bar graphs of the budget. Is there a place where this PowerPoint be available online? Ms. McGuire replied that we would send out the slide deck to the group. Ms. Vargas Duncan also asked what the indirect section of the bar chart was. Patrick Dennis, Metro, replied that those costs are HR services, central services, financial services, etc. This is calculated by a three-year look back and the costs are spread over all of Metro's departments. Because of impacts from COVID and reduction in other department reductions, WPES has carried a larger share of these costs because the WPES budget and staff have remained the same. As other revenues regain previous levels of staffing and revenues like the venues, they will start to contribute more and WPES will contribute less over time. Ms. Vargas Duncan asked what percentage increase the CAP was this year? Ms. McGuire replied that it was roughly 4%.

Ms. Butcher asked if there were duplicative services. A large part of the hazwaste budget is for staffing. How does Metro partner with the city in their hazwaste cleanup efforts?

Ms. McGuire replied that there are distinctions between the services. Metro's services are for households. The work that the city does is done on commercial properties. Ms. Butcher clarified that she is thinking of Rapid Response working at homeless camps. Ms. McGuire replied that the focus of Rapid Response is cleaning up dumped waste that are nonhazardous. Andrew Bartlett, City of Hillsboro added that their clean up efforts are picking up small scale waste, this might be what Portland is doing as well. Ryan Largura, City of Troutdale added that there is no coordination when their city responds to trash and RID Parol responding. If their City sees small dumped trash they will address that, and has a partnership that helps cleanup dumped trash. Jon Mayer, Metro, that RID does not respond to many dumps in the far east or west of the Metro region. We are working to do more promotion of services.

Mr. Bartlett asked if Metro is moving to a 60-day operating reserve, what is the minimum standard for the GFOA, and what the project of a 60 operating reserve would like? Mr. Dennis replied that the GFOA recommends a 45 day minimum operating reserve and that we have aspirations to move to a 60 operating reserve but no strict timeline to reach that goal.

Christa McDermott, PSU, asked what the plan for the expenditures to renovate Metro Central and Metro South, and how it relates to the System Facilities Plan. Ms. McGuire replied that this is in the Capital Improvement Plan, and that plan is likely to change based on Council direction on the System Facilities Plan. Ms. McDermott also asked if Metro South will have a different site, or has that idea has been tabled? Ms. McGuire replied that since the symposium in the fall there was feedback that public and commercial services should be kept separate. The System Facilities Plan is coming to Council in May to discuss policy options to discuss Metro's footprint that will guide investment priorities.

Mr. Largura asked if the bar graphs of the budget could show a three year time frame to see how the budget has changed over time. Ms. McGuire replied that Brian Kennedy does a five year financial forecast and we can provide this information. Mr. Largura also asked if there will be a discussion of how the budget will impact residents this year? Ms. McGuire replied that the budget has been released and it is on the Metro website. WPES has presented their budget to Council, there will be a series of hearing to hear feedback from stakeholders. Council will be presented the fees on April 25, 2024.

Ms. Vargas Duncan asked for clarification on the process for fees. Will the decision on fees be made in May? Ms. McGuire replied that Council will be deciding the fees on April 25, 2024. Ms. Vargas Duncan requested that this committee have a more hands on role for the fees moving forward. Ms. McGuire replied that is the intent of updating the scope of this committee, and this process would look different next year.

3. Consideration of meeting minutes

The March meeting minutes were approved.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no public comments.

Final Remarks

MEETING ADJOURNED at 9:30 a.m.