Regional WAste aDvisory Committee

# Meeting Worksheet

**PRESENTATION DATE:** 6/17/2021

**TOPIC: Community Cleanup Update**

**PREPARED BY: Jon Mayer**

**PRESENTERS: Jennifer Payne and Farrah Fatemi**

**RELATED REGIONAL WASTE PLAN GOALS: 2.3, 6.4, 10.4, 10.7**

## puRPOSE OF PRESENTATION

* Update RWAC members in regards to WPES efforts to address short-term community cleanup needs resulting from COVID-19 restrictions and budget reductions focusing on a onetime $1M budget proposal that has been approved by Metro Council.

**background**

* Budget impacts and safety precautions due to the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a reduction of a number of WPES services including reductions to RID Patrol crews, pausing Household Hazardous Waste community collection events and elimination of the bulky waste cleanup voucher program. As the region emerges from the COVID-19 pandemic, WPES is focused on keeping our promises to the region by supporting efforts to keep the region clean, investing in community services and planning for the future. Currently, WPES is working to expand our RID Patrol Crews from 2-6 as we also resume targeted HHW collection and outreach events in collaboration with community and local government partners.

Additionally, the department has received approval for a FY 21/22 onetime $1M investment to help address immediate, short term needs related to litter and graffiti impacts focusing on making investments within underserved communities. These short term solutions will also serve as a bridge to long-term strategic planning with our community and local government partners. The FY 21/22 investment would include the following:

* + Private/public partnership for cleanup crews $325K (estimate 2 crews/4 FTE)
  + Financial support for local community groups, small business and local governments for cleanup and disposal costs ($430K)
    - Currently, WPES is piloting a sponsorship program which will be expanded if funding is approved.
  + Increase donation of Metro paint to local groups to paint over graffiti in public spaces and other community assets ($330K)
* This proposal supports implementation of RWP Goals 2.3, 6.4, 10.4, 10.7.
* This information has been shared with Metro Council and WPES Solid Waste Directors Group.
* In addition to addressing immediate cleanup needs, WPES will be collaborating with partners to address recommendations of the 2020 Service Equity Audit.

**PROGRESS TO DATE**

* RID expansion: RFP for additional work crews near completion.
* Three new leads hired. Equipment was difficult to order but now on the way.
* Metro has supported two community events in early June (NxNE and Trash for Peace with New Columbia) with toxics reduction, natural garden, and educational activities, as well as HHW collection and bulky waste collection.
* Sponsorships pilot launched to local government and community partners we’re already working with for now.

**questions for consideration/aCTIONS REQUESTED**

* Are there any questions or additional information that WPES may provide to RWAC on this topic?

**NEXT STEPS**

* WPES will continue to expand RID Patrol Crews and support HHW collection and outreach events through summer and fall 2021. The $1M investment will be initiated beginning July 1st, 2021.

**ATTACHMENTS**

* Sponsorship pilot FAQs