

Meeting: Regional Waste Advisory Committee (RWAC) Meeting
Date: Thursday, April 21, 2022
Time: 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 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 implementation of the 2030 Regional Waste Plan.*

Members in Attendance:

Roy W. Brower, Metro
Peter Brandom, City of Hillsboro
Sharetta Butcher, North by Northeast Community Health Center (NxNE)
Alondra Flores Aviña, Student [check with Alondra but I think she is with Trash for Peace]
Bunsereyrithy Kong, Oregon Cambodian Buddhist Society
Lindsay Marshall, City of Tualatin
Shannon Martin, City of Gresham
Christa McDermott, Community Environmental Services, PSU
Audrey O'Brien, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
Eben Polk, Clackamas County
Arianne Sperry, City of Portland
Thao Tu, Vietnamese Community of Oregon
Beth Vargas Duncan, Oregon Refuse and Recycling Association (ORRA)

1. CALL TO ORDER & MEETING OVERVIEW

Roy Brower (Metro) brought the virtual meeting to order at 8:34 am and previewed the agenda.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no comments from the public.

3. Garbage & Recycling System Facilities Plan

Roy Brower introduced Metro staff Will Elder.

Key points of the presentation included:

Will Elder, Metro, quickly reviewed the Garbage & Recycling System Facilities Plan. The plan will look at current and future gaps in facilities, which will then direct scenarios for solutions to present to Metro Council, followed by a plan for funding. Today's presentation is focuses on discussing values and outcomes for this plan. The values are created from the Regional Waste Plan since these documents are closely related. The outcomes are separate, and help guide our success. Hoping to get feedback on the 33 outcomes identified thus far. Mr. Elder reviewed some of the outcomes, and how they relate to values.

Member Discussion Included:

Eben Polk, Clackamas County, asked what is the extent that non-Metro facilities are taken into account in the plan? What if a county or city wants to partner with Metro? Agrees that climate

should be more visible in outcomes, and that value 6 could include an outcome such as a cost analysis?

Mr. Elder responded that using a cost analysis would resonate with Metro Council, this also correlated with the funding of the program at large. Regarding the language “Metro facilities”, needs to be thought about, this could mean facilities owned by Metro, or facilities in the Metro area.

Eben Polk, followed up asking if there should be an outcome that is, *a shared understanding of Metro roles*, and other stakeholder goals?

Estee Segal, Metro, agreed.

Luis Sandoval, Metro, agreed that this outcome should be adopted.

Beth Vargas Duncan, ORRA, agreed with Mr. Polk about the “Metro” language. Could part of this conversation be, should Metro facilities continue to be Metro owned? Should there be more partnerships with private companies?

Mr. Elder responded, that this plan accepts that this is a hybrid system, and the plan doesn’t assess the system.

Mr. Brower agrees that it has already been agreed that this is a hybrid system, but what does that look like is the question.

Audrey O’Brien, ODEQ, added that she was on the Regional Waste Plan subcommittee, and the final decision was to maintain the current private, public partnership. Perhaps when the Regional Waste Plan is updated the question could be posed then.

Ms. O’Brien added that there are certain private facilities planning changes and upgrades. She sees a great opportunity to work with them on some of the identified outcomes.

Arianne Sperry, City of Portland, asked about outcome 5, what staff’s understanding of Metro Council’s guidance is around funding, since funding through the rate system has been pushed off on this plan.

Mr. Brower confirmed, that currently trying to create stability around current services and facilities, and once this plan is finished then funding will be identified. The Council will look at a wide range of options since as bonds and taxes.

Mr. Polk asked about yard debris facilities.

Mr. Elder answered that these needs will be addressed in this plan.

4. Metro Education and Youth Leadership Program Update

Roy Brower introduced Metro staff, Darwin Eustaquio.

Key points of the presentation included:

Overview of the Community Service and Education Division, how the Education and Youth Leadership program fits in it. Highlighted elementary and secondary programming, outdoor school programs, and internship opportunities. Presenters highlighted changes and wins since the pandemic has changed delivery of these programs.

Member Discussion Included:

Bunsereyrihy Kong, Oregon Cambodian Buddhist Society, asked what are outcomes of age change in internship program? And are you looking to reach out to people in other countries, such as Cambodia?

Allison Heimowitz responded that the outcomes of the exchange was to show how lives across the world are interconnected. Would love to see more exchanging taking place, but this will require much more coordination.

Sharetta Butcher, North by Northeast Community Health Center, asked if Metro was reaching out to private schools at all, or just public schools?

Lake Thelen responded that prior to the pandemic Metro was connected with wide variety of private and public schools. Since the pandemic outreach was focused on teachers and classes that had previously scheduled with Metro because the loss of contacts and staff turnover through pandemic.

5. Healthy Homes

Roy Brower introduced Metro staff, Farrah Fatemi.

Key points of the presentation included:

Farrah Fatemi shares an update on the Healthy Homes Program. This program is focused on toxic chemicals and how to reduce their usage. Focused on current issues regarding toxics, provide training and technical support to community partners doing relevant work, and collaborate with other governments on these projects.

Member Discussion Included:

Peter Brandom, City of Hillsboro, said that Hillsboro is trying expand their own outreach, specifically other demographics. Wondering if Metro can catalogue its programs and resources where other stakeholders could engage as well.

Ms. Fatemi said she could look into this, and loop back.

Jon Mayer suggested that this is started from a previous project and could be freshened up.

6. Final Remarks

Mr. Brower put forth the March meeting minutes for approval. Ms. McDermott motioned to approve the March minutes, Ms. Butcher seconded. March minutes approved. Mr. Brower gave a few final remarks to the committee.

MEETING AJOURNED at 10:30 a.m.