

Solid Waste Management Committee: MEETING SUMMARY

Wednesday, April 24, 2019

1. Call to Order and Introductions

- Roll Call was taken, and the meeting called to order by Lora Hinchcliff, chairperson of the committee.
- Due to technical difficulties between the room microphones and the room phone system, we had to disconnect the audio portion of the webinar. We apologize to those of you on the call and are providing this summary to recap the meeting.
- All documents pertaining to or reviewed at the meeting are available at this link:
<https://h-gac.sharefile.com/d-s8e9da6235da4eb0a>

2. Briefing on TCEQ Municipal Solid Waste Management and Resource Recovery Advisory Council (Chuck Rivette, Waste Management)

Chuck Rivette briefed the SWMC on TCEQ Municipal Solid Waste Management and Resource Recovery Advisory Council activities.

- Chuck Rivette reported that the Council meeting was on April 11. He reported that council agenda items included an update on solid waste related legislation; an update on EPA ruling regarding the use of discarded tires in cement kilns; and a presentation on the TARC FY16/17 solid waste report to the Texas Legislature.

3. Discussion: Committee Membership Vacancies and Terms (Becki Begley, H-GAC)

Becki Begley reviewed the list of Solid Waste Management Committee members whose terms expire in May 2019 and SWMC will brainstorm potential candidates to fill vacancies nominated by the SWMC.

- List of current membership was distributed.
- The current contact list was distributed for corrections. Please review it and let Becki Begley know if you have any corrections to your information.
- A lot of members have terms expiring on May 31, 2019. Renomination letters will go out to the appropriate H-GAC Board of Director nominators in early May. Be sure to let your nominating Board member know of your interest to be renominated and encourage them to complete and return the forms.
- Even if your term expires, you can remain in your seat until board action on the expiring vacancies.
- Membership information in the Bylaws was also discussed. The bylaws are currently under review by the executive team at H-GAC for recommendations to the Board of Directors. We expect no changes in membership. Staff recommended that the committee work to fill all 35 seats on the committee. Member recommendations are being sought for these vacancies. Needs include:
 - **Industry** (8 seats --3 are vacant) Staff suggested a rep from C/D, special waste, perhaps FCC.
 - **Nonprofit** (3 seats -- Andrew Miller has left Keep Pearland Beautiful so that vacancy needs to be filled and one seat is vacant)
 - **Citizen/Environmental Groups** (3 seats -- 1-member term is expiring and has not met membership attendance requirements)
 - **At-large** (4 seats, at least one in Env. Enforcement -- 1-member term is expiring and has not met membership attendance requirements)

- **Subregions** (10 seats allocated to counties, 1 each for regions 1-7 and 3 for region 8, including a City of Houston and Harris County member – 3 are vacant)
 - Region 1 (Walker/Montgomery) – vacant
 - Region 2 (Liberty/Chambers)
 - Region 3 (Galveston)
 - Region 4 (Brazoria) - vacant
 - Region 5 (Colorado, Matagorda, Wharton)
 - Region 6 (Austin, Waller)
 - Region 7 (Fort Bend)
 - Region 8 (City of Houston, Harris County, 1 seat vacant)
- Filling all vacancies helps with grant scoring judging. Discussion was held with some ideas for nominees given. Staff is asking for continued recommendations for possible nominees.

4. Action: Vote on Use of Remaining FY18/19 Solid Waste Funds (Becki Begley, H-GAC)

Becki Begley led a discussion of staff recommendations for use of the remaining solid waste grant funds from FY18/19.

- There was money left over after the grants were awarded, there has been some grant funds returned by grantees, and H-GAC has been frugal in staffing. The result is there is some additional funding available to help current grantees. A survey was sent to all grantees asking about the need for additional funding and several grantees responded. Staff asked for discussion and a vote to approve the use of the extra funds. Staff will spend the funds to \$0 and prefer to return grant funds to grantees.
- A quorum was verified.
 - Staff recommended giving \$49,999 to the City of Bay City. They are building a new recycling center. They had to move to a new location to allow for an economic development project in their downtown. (Motion by Cheryl Burton-Fentress, seconded by Darrell Gertson, and approved by a unanimous vote)
 - Staff recommended being given authority to allocate any remaining funding to grantees as needed. (Motion by Andrew Isbell, seconded by Darrell Gertson, and approved by a unanimous vote)
- More information on specific funding will be available in early- to mid-June as grants begin to close.

5. Update: FY20/21 Solid Waste Grant Program (Cheryl Mergo, H-GAC)

Cheryl Mergo reviewed the proposed FY20/21 Solid Waste Grant Program. Additionally, she will present the proposed timeline for the next grant cycle.

- Cheryl briefly discussed the updates on the FY 20/21 funding cycle.
- Funding should remain about the same, with a similar amount passing through.
- Cheryl discussed a cost-saving change (placement of legal notices in newspapers) that will be implemented with the FY20/21 funding cycle.
- Information about the Funding is in your Sharefile packet.
- Staff will be updating the Solid Waste Management Plan in 2020. H-GAC does it in-house.
- Cheryl distributed the scoring criteria for the grants program, and it is in the Sharefile packet.
- An Action Item in July will be the approval of the application and the eligible grant categories for the FY20/21 grant cycle.

6. Presentation: University of Houston's Office of Sustainability – Waste Minimization and Recycling Initiatives, Resources, Reporting, and Events (Mike Mendoza, University of Houston)

Mike Mendoza gave a presentation on the work the University of Houston's Office of Sustainability is undertaking to further waste minimization and recycling on campus.

- Presentation is in the Sharefile.
- Very informative and comprehensive. Some discussion on Composting and Food Waste issues, as well as contamination.

7. Presentation: City of El Campo Recycling (Courtney Sladek, City of El Campo)

Courtney Sladek provided an overview of the grant they received from H-GAC and the results they have had so far.

- Presentation is in the Sharefile.
- City is doing a wonderful job with the cardboard program.

8. Discussion: The 86th Texas Legislative Session (Becki Begley, H-GAC)

Becki Begley led a discussion on solid waste related bills filed during this legislative session.

- A spreadsheet of 50+ bills related to solid waste was reviewed, with focus on the bills that had successfully passed one house.
 - There were 7 of them, including the bill supported by STAR to encourage the use of recyclable material as feedstock for processing and manufacturing. It was mentioned that there is no funding source included in this bill.
 - The “container or package” bills all remain in committees.
 - The spreadsheet is sorted by categories based on progress through the legislature as of 4/23.
- At the top of the spreadsheet, is the link to the searchable website and instructions on how to use it to see the latest action on bills.

9. Update: Solid Waste Program Activities (Becki Begley, H-GAC)

Becki Begley provided an update on the recent and upcoming activities of the Solid Waste Program and other groups we are involved with.

- H-GAC plans to use some unspent solid waste funding to purchase up to 12 MedSafe Pharmaceutical disposal kiosks for law enforcement agencies who will continue to support the drop-offs in the future. The purchase will include the steel kiosk and four postage pre-paid liner boxes to ship the medications to Sharps Compliance for incineration. Ownership will transfer to the agency. H-GAC has identified six counties with no options other than the DEA Drug Take Back Day and two counties with only two kiosks for the entire population. The Bay Area Council on Drugs & Alcohol have done a great job placing them and the Coastal Bend COG has a similar program in their region. Your Sharefile packet includes the brochures, list of existing kiosks, and some general talking points. These need to be purchased during this funding cycle, so time is of the essence.
- The Galveston Bay Watershed Trash Action Plan will be rolled out at the 3rd annual Trash Summit on May 7 at the Houston Zoo. Details and registration information can be found at DontTrashaGoodThing.org.
- Trash Free Texas is still looking for litter/illegal dumping hot spots to populate the statewide Adopt-a-Spot tool in the Houston-Galveston region. The tool allows government entities and environmental nonprofits to identify locations prone to litter and match them with

volunteers looking for a location to cleanup. See the tool and learn about the program at TrashFreeTexas.org.

- The River, Lakes, Bays 'N Bayous Trash Bash on March 30 was a great success. Nearly 4,300 volunteers cleaned 153 miles of shoreline at 16 locations. The volunteers collected 56.5 tons of trash, 2.8 tons of recycling, and 513 tires. Save the Date – the 2020 Trash Bash will be held on Saturday, March 28. Learn more at TrashBash.org.
- Dates for H-GAC hosted workshops are listed below in Item 12.

10. Roundtable

Attendees are invited to share items of interest and topic ideas for future presentations.

11. Meeting Date

Unless otherwise notified, the next scheduled meeting from 10 a.m. to noon, **Wednesday, July 24, 2019**, in H-GAC Conference Room B, Second Floor.

12. Other Business & Announcements

H-GAC Meetings

Solid Waste Workshop Series

May 16, 2019: 8:30 am – 12:30 pm

Topic: Recycling (Contamination and Challenging Markets)

Keynote speaker: [Recycle Coach](#)

Registration

For more information, contact Becki Begley at 713-993-2410 or becki.begley@h-gac.com

Future Workshops in the Series:

August 22, 2019 – Food Waste

November 21, 2019 – Special Waste

Disaster Debris Workshop Series

Webinar **May 15, 2019:** 10:00 – 11:30 am

Registration

Workshop **August 16, 2019:** 8:30 am – 12:30 pm

For more information, contact Becki Begley at 713-993-2410 or becki.begley@h-gac.com

Rural Recycling Workshop

July 25, 2019

Time and location TBD

13. Adjourn

- The meeting adjourned at 12:02 p.m.

In Compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, H-GAC provides for reasonable accommodation for persons attending H-GAC functions. Requests should be received by H-GAC 24 hours prior to the function.