

MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, February 16, 2012
MAG Office Building
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Christine Smith, Phoenix, Chair	Manuel Castillo, Scottsdale
Louis Andersen, Gilbert, Vice Chair	James Swanson, Surprise
Cindy Blackmore, Avondale	Mary Helen Giustizia, Tempe
Elizabeth Biggins-Ramer, Buckeye	Rick Austin, Wickenburg
# Shereen Sepulveda, Chandler	Rebecca Hudson, Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Robert Senita, El Mirage	Veronica Garcia, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
Frank Lomeli, Glendale	* Jennifer Gale, Keep Arizona Beautiful
Willy Elizondo, Goodyear	Tim Phillips, Maricopa County
* Chuck Ransom, Litchfield Park	* Dan Casiraro, Salt River Project
Will Black, Mesa	Alfred Gallegos, Valley Forward
William Mead, Paradise Valley	
Rhonda Humbles, Peoria	
Ramona Simpson, Queen Creek	
Richard Allen, Salt River	
Pima-Maricopa Indian Community	

*Those members neither present nor represented by proxy.

#Attended by telephone conference call.

OTHERS PRESENT

Julie Hoffman, Maricopa Association of Governments	Maher Hazine, Peoria
Kara Johnson, Maricopa Association of Governments	

1. Call to Order

A meeting of the MAG Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) was conducted on Thursday, February 16, 2012. Christine Smith, City of Phoenix, Chair, called the meeting to order at approximately 10:00 a.m. Shereen Sepulveda, City of Chandler, attended the meeting via telephone conference call.

2. Call to the Audience

Chair Smith provided an opportunity for members of the public to address the Committee on items not scheduled on the agenda that fall under the jurisdiction of MAG or items on the agenda for discussion, but not for action. She noted that according to the MAG public comment process, members of the audience who wish to speak are requested to fill out comment cards, which are

available on the tables adjacent to the doorways inside the meeting room. Citizens are asked not to exceed a three minute time period for their comments. Chair Smith noted that no public comment cards had been received.

3. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Smith welcomed the Committee. She stated that she was pleased to see so many people interested in the important topic of solid waste. Chair Smith added that she looks forward to some great discussions and identifying the needs of the Community with regard to the solid waste industry.

4. Approval of the January 25, 2005 Meeting Minutes

Chair Smith indicated that since there are only a few members of the current Committee that were part of the Committee in 2005, the Committee will not be taking action on the minutes. The minutes will be noted for historical record. Chair Smith stated that the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) has submitted comments that have been incorporated into the minutes. A revised copy is at each place. She asked the Committee if there were any additional comments for incorporation. Chair Smith noted that no additional comments were requested and that the minutes will be recorded for historical purposes. No action on the minutes was conducted.

5. Committee Role and Responsibilities

Chair Smith provided an opportunity for Committee member introductions. Members introduced themselves and shared their role within their jurisdiction.

Chair Smith introduced Julie Hoffman, Maricopa Association of Governments, to present on the role and responsibilities of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee. Ms. Hoffman stated that MAG is a Council of Governments that serves as the regional agency for the Phoenix metropolitan area. The membership of MAG includes 25 incorporated cities and towns, Maricopa County, and three Native American Indian Communities. She noted that the Arizona Department of Transportation and the Citizens Transportation Oversight Committee serve as ex-officio members for transportation related issues.

Ms. Hoffman discussed the MAG Committee structure. She indicated that the SWAC serves in an advisory capacity to the MAG Management Committee and MAG Regional Council on pertinent regional solid waste issues. She noted that the MAG Regional Council is the decision-making body of MAG. Ms. Hoffman stated that regional planning occurs within many areas at MAG including transportation, human services, and the environment. She stated that within Environmental Programs, MAG has been designated as the Regional Air Quality Planning Agency, the Regional Water Quality Management Planning Agency, and the Regional Solid Waste Management Planning Agency. Ms. Hoffman indicated that this designation as the regional agency responsible for undertaking area wide solid waste management planning was made by the Governor in 1979 pursuant to the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976. In accordance with this role, MAG prepared the Regional Solid Waste Management Plan. Ms. Hoffman added that the 2005 update of the plan was the last activity of the Committee.

Ms. Hoffman discussed previous Committee activities which included: preparing the Regional Solid Waste Management Plan; maintaining the plan; and information collection efforts on topics such as

facilities and programs. She noted that at the October 2011 MAG Management Committee meeting, interest was expressed in reconvening the Solid Waste Advisory Committee to discuss the performance of solid waste management facilities, best management practices, and other solid waste issues.

6. MAG Regional Solid Waste Management Plan

Ms. Hoffman provided a brief overview of the MAG Regional Solid Waste Management Plan. She stated that the Governor designated MAG as the Regional Solid Waste Management Planning Agency in 1979. The first MAG Regional Solid Waste Management Plan was completed in 1993 following a local and regional needs assessment and the 1991 Waste Stream Study. In 2005, a major revision of the MAG Regional Solid Waste Management Plan was adopted. The updated plan included new population projections, additional programs and facilities, and new State and Federal regulations. Ms. Hoffman noted that between 1993 and 2005 periodic data collection efforts were conducted to update some of the tables in the plan.

Ms. Hoffman stated that the purpose of the plan is to provide guidance for systems-level regional solid waste management planning. The overall goal of the plan is to prevent adverse effects on public health and the environment from improper solid waste collection, processing, and disposal. She stated that the plan includes many components including: historical background; goals; description of the waste stream in the region; evaluation of waste problems; current and planned facilities and programs; future needs; solid waste management strategies; financing options; and plan implementation.

Ms. Hoffman discussed some of the goals in the 2005 Regional Solid Waste Management Plan. She indicated that the plan includes goals for recycling such as: encouraging regional cooperation in market development for recycled items and public education efforts and continuing current practices with local agencies developing achievement targets consistent with local programs. The plan also contains the goal of encouraging backyard composting. In addition, the plan included goals to continue with landfilling as the primary strategy and develop transfer facilities based on need. She added that these are a few of the goals identified in the plan.

Ms. Hoffman presented a figure from the Solid Waste Management Plan that identifies the solid waste management facilities for the region. She mentioned that planned, existing, and closed facilities are depicted on the map.

Ms. Hoffman stated that the plan identifies future waste management needs and strategies on how to address them. She discussed the needs and strategies for illegal dumping, household hazardous waste, business waste reduction/recycling, and newly emerging waste types. In addition, Ms. Hoffman stated that the Solid Waste Management Plan identifies municipal, county, state, and private sector implementation responsibilities. She noted that the plan includes a process for tracking plan implementation and waste generation which was last updated in 2005 when the revision was completed.

Chair Smith inquired if the MAG solid waste database was still available for updates. Ms. Hoffman replied that the Solid Waste Information Management Systems (SWIMS) database has not been updated recently, but that she would report back to the Committee on the possibility of updating SWIMS in the future. Ms. Hoffman noted that information from the MAG member agencies and socioeconomic data feed into the database.

7. Solid Waste Advisory Committee Survey

Chair Smith stated that a draft survey for the Committee has been created to assist in stimulating future Committee discussions. She indicated that the intent of the Committee is to have sound dialogue that focuses on areas important to the region and the survey will assist with this. Chair Smith asked if the Committee had any feedback on the survey. She noted that once finalized the survey will be distributed to the Committee for completion. Once the survey results are compiled, the information will be shared with the Committee and aid in identifying future discussion items.

Tim Phillips, Maricopa County, responded that the survey will be beneficial in determining which direction the Committee wants to focus.

Elizabeth Biggins-Ramer, Town of Buckeye, requested that a solid waste statistics and data category be added to the survey. She noted that the 2005 data and statistics may not be pertinent to today.

Ramona Simpson, Town of Queen Creek, proposed the addition of a section on the survey that involves current programs that are available at each jurisdiction. For example, Queen Creek in 2005 had no programs listed, however currently the Town administers curbside trash and recycling pickup. She added that the Maricopa County landfill in Queen Creek is now closed. Ms. Simpson also noted that there are other changes throughout the region that could be updated utilizing the survey. She mentioned that knowledge of what jurisdictions offer across the region would be beneficial. Louis Andersen, Town of Gilbert, referred to question number four on the draft survey and noted that these areas mentioned by Ms. Biggins-Ramer and Ms. Simpson could potentially be updated in the MAG Regional Solid Waste Management Plan. He stated that as Ms. Hoffman looks into the SWIMS database, the intent may be to update the plan to include the activities within the cities and towns.

Mary Helen Giustizia, City of Tempe, requested that a category be added about education and community outreach to the survey. She stated that education and community outreach can have a significant impact on participation in recycling programs and also in reducing contamination. Ms. Giustizia discussed that education and community outreach is a critical component of solid waste programs.

Chair Smith commented on the addition of a “hot topics” category to the draft Solid Waste Advisory Committee Survey.

Ms. Giustizia inquired about adding the topic of regional synchronization to the survey. She stated that every municipality has its own list of acceptable recycling items for their program and often the list of acceptable items varies from municipality to municipality. She noted that this can be confusing to residents. Ms. Giustizia mentioned that the same would hold true for trash programs-what is acceptable and what is not. Ms. Giustizia stated that she would like to see discussion between jurisdictions about regional synchronization.

8. Tentative 2012 Meeting Schedule for the MAG Solid Waste Advisory Committee

Chair Smith stated that the tentative 2012 meetings of the MAG Solid Waste Advisory Committee have been scheduled for the third Thursday of every other month. A copy of the 2012 Tentative Meeting Schedule was provided in the Committee agenda packet. Chair Smith noted that the 2013 schedule will likely be set in approximately November of this year.

Richard Allen, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, noted that the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) WASTECON event may interfere with the August Committee meeting. Chair Smith indicated that the August meeting could be cancelled if necessary.

9. Call for Future Agenda Items

Chair Smith asked the Committee for suggestions on future agenda items. She mentioned regional synchronization discussed earlier by Ms. Giustizia. Chair Smith noted that a legislative update may be beneficial for the Committee to discuss. Ms. Biggins-Ramer responded that perhaps a historical perspective of legislation from when the Committee last met in 2005 to 2012 may be useful. She stated that knowledge of what is going on in the industry and what has transpired since 2005, on both a state and national level, may help the Committee understand what is directly or indirectly influencing solid waste in our region. Chair Smith replied that she would like to add to that the legal challenges that have arisen in the last few years.

James Swanson, City of Surprise, discussed the change in development fee structure. He stated that Surprise was impacted recently by how the collection of monies for their container program occurred. Mr. Swanson stated that it was tied to the most recent changes from the Legislature pushed by the Homebuilders Association. He offered this topic as a future discussion item.

Chair Smith asked Veronica Garcia, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, if ADEQ could potentially provide an update. Ms. Garcia agreed. Chair Smith asked if the Committee had any particular areas they would like Ms. Garcia to discuss.

Will Black, City of Mesa, inquired if ADEQ could discuss the recycling grants. Ms. Garcia responded that she could give an overview of the Solid Waste Program including the recycling fund.

Mr. Andersen commented that perhaps a future agenda item could be the variance allowances on refuse and recycling collection. He mentioned that they may not have been looked at for some time. Mr. Andersen stated that the cities have requirements of two times per week refuse.

Chair Smith announced that if anyone has any other potential agenda topics they can contact herself or Ms. Hoffman. Ms. Hoffman noted that the results of the survey will also be discussed at the next Committee meeting. She stated that the survey will be emailed to the Committee and members will have a couple of weeks to complete the survey.

Chair Smith inquired if there are any solid waste, recycling, or pertinent events coming up. Ms. Simpson stated that the Town of Queen Creek is hosting their first Earth Day event on April 21st of this year at their green building library. The event will showcase recycling, water conservation, and air quality while bringing together members of the community and local businesses. She noted that electronics and tire recycling will be occurring on Earth Day. Ms. Simpson indicated that Queen Creek is new to this area, but they are excited to get their residents involved in recycling and waste diversion.

Chair Smith stated that she is interested in a future agenda item regarding waste-to-energy discussions such as landfill gas-to-energy projects or any other successful projects in the region. Frank Lomeli, City of Glendale, responded that they do have a gas-to-energy project and have been approached by private companies regarding waste-to-energy projects. He stated that he is also interested in a future agenda item on waste-to-energy since there is currently little guidance on navigating through the process. Chair Smith added that the topic of working with third party entities should be included in the discussion.

Mr. Allen commented that the discussion should not be limited to waste-to-energy projects. He stated that conversion technology could be discussed as well. He also stated that SWANA is hosting their annual Rodeo on April 28, 2012. The heavy equipment operators will be at the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Landfill and the waste collection drivers will be competing at WestWorld in Scottsdale. He stated it is a great event to give them recognition.

Ms. Giustizia stated that she is interested in discussing emerging solid waste technologies. She gave the example of Tempe potentially investigating single-sided collection to see how it would benefit the city in lowering operational costs, emissions, and fuel costs. Ms. Giustizia stated that discussions on emerging technologies and also streamlining operations in this industry would be interesting.

Mr. Black stated that the City of Mesa would be willing to provide a presentation on single-sided collection and their success with that program. He discussed that single-sided collection is currently used in Mesa's mobile home and town home communities. He added that it is not optimal for all parts of the city; however, he could show the data behind their success with single-sided collection.

Mr. Andersen mentioned that Los Angeles County is currently doing a review of multiple technologies. He commented that perhaps someone from Los Angeles County could give a presentation to the Committee via video or audio conference on their findings.

Mr. Swanson commented on green waste collection. In the City of Surprise, Mr. Swanson indicated that residents have requested the green can for green waste collection, but it is currently not a program offered by the city. He mentioned that one of the issues is that their landfill does not have a green waste program. He asked if anyone on the Committee could share information about the third can program. Mr. Black responded that Mesa would be willing to share on this topic in partnership with Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community. He noted that the interesting part is where the green waste goes. Mr. Allen stated that currently the green waste goes to a Western Organics facility where the green waste is processed and then distributed to businesses that sell the material. He noted that there has now been discussions on utilizing green waste as a biomass fuel. Mr. Allen stated that they are more interested in the larger materials where composters are more interested in the finer materials. Mr. Allen mentioned a Frito-Lay facility in Casa Grande that is interested in a potential source of biomass fuel in our region. They are looking to generate a certain amount of their power through biomass fuel.

Chair Smith asked that any topics mentioned today be included in the survey to serve as future discussion topics. She commented that the topic of green waste can pose challenges. For example, she stated that oleanders and palm fronds may be accepted in some circumstances, but not others. Ms. Biggins-Ramer suggested a regional approach to the discussion of green waste. She provided the example of a regional green waste consortium in which the region could partner together to provide green waste solutions.

Mr. Phillips added that if the Committee is interested in the Crumb Rubber Manufacturers (CRM) Tire Program, he could arrange a presentation.

Chair Smith stated that the discussion of the Committee has provided a range of topics for future Committee discussion. She noted that the survey results will also provide direction for future meetings. With no further comments, Chair Smith thanked the Committee for participating and called for adjournment of the meeting at 10:45 a.m.