

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

Tuesday, May 19, 2015
MAG Office Building
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Ramona Simpson, Queen Creek, Chair	Richard Allen, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
Rhonda Humbles, Peoria, Vice Chair	Manuel Castillo, Scottsdale
Cindy Blackmore, Avondale	* Christina Betz for Surprise
Robert van den Akker for Buckeye	Tony Miano, Tempe
# Traci Conaway for Sheree Sepulveda, Chandler	* Helen Heiden, Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry
* Robert Senita, El Mirage	Robin Thomas, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
Steven Pietrzykowsky, Gilbert	Chris Coyle, Arizona Forward
Ernie Ruiz for Glendale	Michael Denby for Arizona Public Service
Willy Elizondo, Goodyear	* Jill Bernstein, Keep Arizona Beautiful
* Chuck Ransom, Litchfield Park	Brian Kehoe, Maricopa County
Patrick Murphy, Mesa	* Wendy Crites, Salt River Project
* Jerry Cooper, Paradise Valley	
Ginger Spencer, Phoenix	

*Those members neither present nor represented by proxy.

#Attended by telephone conference call.

+Participated via video conference call.

OTHERS PRESENT

Julie Hoffman, Maricopa Association of Governments	Gretchen Wolfe, City of Phoenix
Kara Johnson, Maricopa Association of Governments	Eduardo Rodriguez, City of Phoenix
Sheri Collins, City of Mesa	John Trujillo, City of Phoenix
Les Miller, City of Avondale	Jessica Yates, City of Phoenix
	Dan O'Neill, Arizona State University Resource Innovation and Solutions Network

1. Call to Order

A meeting of the MAG Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) was conducted on Tuesday, May 19, 2015. Ramona Simpson, Town of Queen Creek, Chair, called the meeting to order at approximately 10:00 a.m. Traci Conaway, City of Chandler, attended the meeting via telephone conference call. Chair Simpson encouraged Committee members to speak into the microphones so that the audience and teleconferencing members can hear.

Chair Simpson indicated that copies of the handouts for the meeting are available. She noted for members attending through audio conference, the presentations for the meeting will be posted on the MAG website under Resources for the Committee agenda, whenever possible. If it is not possible to post them before the meeting, they will be posted after the meeting.

2. Call to the Audience

Chair Simpson 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 Simpson noted that no public comment cards had been received.

3. Approval of the February 24, 2015 Meeting Minutes

The Committee reviewed the minutes from the February 24, 2015 meeting. Patrick Murphy, City of Mesa, moved, and Richard Allen, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, seconded and the motion to approve the February 24, 2015 meeting minutes carried unanimously.

4. City of Phoenix Resource Innovation Campus and Regional Green Organics Project

Ginger Spencer, City of Phoenix, provided an overview of the City of Phoenix Resource Innovation Campus and Regional Green Organics Project. She stated that the City of Phoenix processes almost one million tons of trash each year. Ms. Spencer noted that the amount of trash Phoenix sends to the landfill each year could fill Chase Field seven times. She added that the City of Phoenix solid waste operation travels more than seven million miles every year transporting waste, which is equivalent to going to the moon and back 14 times. The contracted long haul trucks make approximately 100 to 125 trips to the landfill each day.

Ms. Spencer stated that trash is viewed as a resource in the City. She indicated that Reimagine Phoenix is working with communities, businesses, and innovators to turn trash into a resource. Ms. Spencer stated that in a linear economy, materials are extracted for a product, a product is made, and the product is discarded after use. Products generally have a start and end life. She mentioned “make, take, and waste.” Ms. Spencer discussed that in working with Arizona State University, the City learned the concept of a circular economy. In a circular economy, instead of throwing away items, items that would normally go to the landfill are re-purposed either through recycling, composting, or energy recovery. The recovery of items then starts the cycle again which is better for the environment and economy.

Ms. Spencer discussed Reimagine Phoenix. She indicated that Reimagine Phoenix has three focus areas: offer new or improved solid waste services; education and community outreach; and public and private partnerships. Ms. Spencer noted that the Committee heard a presentation in 2014 on the Save as You Reduce and Recycle Program that offers an optional smaller trash container, with a monthly savings of \$3.00 for the 65 gallon container. The Curbside Green Organics Program was implemented July 2014 that offers a tan curbside collection container for an additional \$5.00 per month. Ms. Spencer indicated that participation rate is currently low in those programs, however the City is looking into options to increase participation. She added that Phoenix recently completed a waste characterization study; the results of the study can be found at

www.phoenix.gov/reimaginephoenix. The study found that of items sent to the landfill: yard waste accounts for 30 percent, 15 percent is food waste, and six percent is compostable paper. Ms. Spencer noted that 15 percent of recyclables are being placed in trash containers. In addition, there is a 21 percent contamination rate among the recyclables. Ms. Spencer indicated that Phoenix will be doing door to door outreach to educate on recycling.

Michael Denby, Arizona Public Service, inquired what the contamination rate entailed. Ms. Spencer responded that contamination are items placed in the recycling container that cannot be processed at the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF). She added that food scraps, plastic bags, and textiles are examples of common items placed in recycling containers that cannot be processed at the MRF. Ms. Spencer mentioned that textiles can be donated to second hand clothing stores and plastic bags can be recycled through Bag Central Station.

Robert van den Akker, City of Buckeye, asked about the door to door outreach. Ms. Spencer replied that the City is currently developing the door to door program. She mentioned that when the Save as You Reduce and Recycle Program and the Curbside Green Organics Program began, they utilized presentations to the Mayor and Council, social media, word of mouth, and Talking Trash segments on Channel 11 for promotion, however mailers and leaving information at homes was not part of the outreach. The City is currently putting together information and materials for door to door outreach. The City would also like to make staff available at city events to talk about Reimagine Phoenix.

Ms. Spencer reported on the third focus area: public and private partnerships. She introduced Dan O'Neill, Arizona State University (ASU), to speak on the Resource Innovation and Solutions Network (RISN). He stated that approximately a year and a half ago, the City of Phoenix approached Arizona State University on coordinating with Reimagine Phoenix on mid to long term research and development projects and best practices. Mr. O'Neill indicated that it took approximately 18 months to plan and move through the agreement processes of Arizona State University and City of Phoenix. An Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) was signed on July 2, 2014. He stated that Phoenix would provide \$2 million and ASU would provide \$1 million over the next four years. He indicated that the partnership hopes to attract additional funding from other entities for projects as well. Mr. O'Neill stated that RISN focuses on research education and solutions to increase diversion while moving towards a circular economy. RISN will be utilizing any lessons learned in the first year moving into the second year.

Mr. O'Neill stated that as part of the partnership, ASU has convened a group of regional stakeholders with the purpose of facilitating processes to identify challenges and potential solutions and then build collaborative projects. ASU has worked with the City of Phoenix on approximately 10 projects, as well as, other organizations that are related to the same subject area. Mr. O'Neill discussed the kick off of the valleywide organics system design project. The intent of the project is to understand: where all the material is; where the material is going; how technologies could be applied to process the amount of organics; and to develop an adaptable long term system design based on current and emerging technologies. Mr. O'Neill indicated that seven faculty members and 10 students are working on this project with an advisory board of nine entities.

Mr. O'Neill introduced Gretchen Wolfe with the Community and Economic Development Department at the City of Phoenix. Ms. Wolfe stated that the City recently sent out a request for proposals (RFP) called Transforming Trash into Resources for a pilot program seeking innovators to repurpose challenging items. The following items were included in the RFP: non-rechargeable batteries; carpeting and carpet foam; furniture; latex paint; mattresses; palm fronds; residential food waste; and other trash components. Ms. Wolfe discussed that the City approached the market

inquiring if these items were valuable. Are these items valuable enough where organizations would pay for removal? Are they valuable enough for the City to offer payment to organizations for removal? Ms. Wolfe noted that the Phoenix is already paying to transfer and maintain these difficult items in the landfill; the City is exploring ways to save money or at least use the same amount of money to put the items into the economy rather than the landfill. She indicated that eight responsive proposals were submitted and reviewed by an evaluation panel. The proposals have not gone through the entire process yet, however the panel is looking to send these items to businesses, including one non profit organization, in which the materials will reenter the economy as opposed to the landfill.

Ms. Wolfe provided an example on what has been learned through research on the RFP. She stated that Lane County, Washington partnered with St. Vincent de Paul to disassemble mattresses. St. Vincent de Paul utilized their workforce development operation to disassemble the mattresses so that the wood, metal springs, and fiber could be recycled separately. However, the company that was recycling the mattress springs encountered challenges with the mattress springs jamming equipment. Therefore, St. Vincent de Paul coordinated with a local fabricator to design a mattress spring compactor in which there is now a patent pending. Ms. Wolfe indicated that this RFP asked the question, what is the next great idea and can it come from Phoenix? She stated that the City anticipates bringing the proposals to the City Council Subcommittee in June to determine the contract award recommendations.

Ms. Wolfe stated that the City of Phoenix also released a call for innovators. The call for innovators is a request to gather information from companies interested in projects about trash as resources. The call for innovators request included the following topics: market-ready manufacturing processes; market-ready waste to energy technologies, such as liquid fuel, gaseous fuel, and electricity; start-up/emerging technologies and manufacturing processes; and everything else. Ms. Wolfe stated that the request was phrased as a call for innovators because the City wanted to reach companies and organizations who do not typically respond to government solicitations. The call for innovators asked the following questions: what do you do with the trash; information about the company; what trash components are utilized; what are the benefits for the city; and is city assistance required. Ms. Wolfe noted that the information was solicited to create partnerships and agreements that will create a win-win solution for the companies, the city, and the community.

Ms. Wolfe continued discussion on the call for innovators. She stated that 118 responses were submitted. The City is reviewing the responses and a consultant is providing aid on the market-ready waste to energy conversion technologies. The consultant is lending expertise on which conversion technologies will work best for the region. Ms. Wolfe stated that many responses were received for the market-ready manufacturing processes, however they typically require many of the same materials as the waste to energy conversion technologies. She indicated that the City will wait on issuing recommendations for the market-ready manufacturing process. Ms. Wolfe added that Phoenix is looking to partner with ASU on an Operation of Technology Business Incubator in which the call for innovators was used as an opportunity to find out who may be interested and what kind of support is needed for success. The everything else category of the call for innovators request included ideas on materials exchanges, outreach programs, and more. Ms. Spencer indicated that as these projects are evaluated, the City of Phoenix will keep in touch with the cities and towns for potential partnership opportunities.

Ms. Spencer provided an overview of the Resource Innovation Campus. She indicated that brochures on the campus are available. The campus will be located with the 27th Avenue Transfer Station and Materials Recovery Facility on 27th Avenue and Lower Buckeye Road. Ms. Spencer

indicated that the campus will include a 30 acre composting facility that will be opening late summer 2016 in which an additional 50 acres of space is available at the campus for development. The City is hoping to attract businesses to the Resource Innovation Campus since materials will be readily available due to the collocation of the Transfer Station and MRF. Ms. Spencer commented that instead of sending recycling to other countries or the landfill, the City would like to work with business to foster economic development. She added that the RISN headquarters will also be housed at the Resource Innovation Campus. Ms. Spencer stated that Mr. O’Neill is working with his team to set up RISN programs in Guatemala and Lagos, Nigeria.

Brian Kehoe, Maricopa County, asked if the responses to the Transforming Trash into Resources RFP were required to bid on all of the resources listed. Ms. Wolfe responded that the RFP could be for one or more items, however each proposal was requested separately to avoid contingent proposals. She added that qualifications and experience was the lowest weighted criterion of the evaluation criteria to encourage new ideas.

Mr. Denby inquired if there are any statistics on how much the projects will save the City with regard to vehicle miles traveled or financially. Ms. Wolfe replied that the City does not have that analysis yet, the evaluation panel just completed their review of the proposals. She stated that staff will negotiate with the proposers to determine final statistics. Ms. Wolfe indicated that the City would like to have estimates for the June Subcommittee meeting.

Chair Simpson asked about RISN projects for other solid waste challenges such as household hazardous waste. Mr. O’Neill responded that RISN holds biannual workshops with stakeholders to review and prioritize upcoming projects. He indicated that RISN recently held one of those workshops in which household hazardous waste was mentioned. Mr. O’Neill commented that a regional approach to household hazardous waste is likely one of the next projects up for discussion. He added that other waste streams such as construction and demolition, as well as, electronic waste have also been mentioned.

Mr. Allen inquired about the three areas that have been recommended for contract award. Ms. Wolfe replied that for the RFP, the three areas that the City expects to make an award recommendation are: mattresses; carpet and carpeting foam; and residential food waste. She indicated that the unique component of residential food waste was the City wanted a creative way to collect the material through the business since the transfer station is not designed to collect residential food waste. Mr. Allen noted that Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community is interested in the mattress and carpeting recycling.

Ms. Spencer added that if the communities are being contacted by companies for materials such as palm fronds, furniture, or non-rechargeable batteries, the City of Phoenix would be interested in those discussions. Chair Simpson stated that she is part of a solid waste group in Pinal County in which some of those landfills have been approached on waste to energy. She stated that she will keep that in mind moving forward.

Chair Simpson thanked the City of Phoenix and ASU for the presentation.

5. Mutual Aid Agreement

Mr. Murphy provided an overview of the Mutual Aid Agreement among communities that is currently being developed. He indicated that the draft Mutual Aid Agreement, as well as, a past agreement with the Town of Gilbert to borrow equipment has been provided to the Committee. Mr.

Murphy stated that the Mutual Aid Agreement would streamline the process of providing aid during times of emergency in which the creation of the agreement would address the necessary information prior to the need of the assistance or resource. He stated that the reason for the agreement is to prepare for emergencies or when equipment is down. Emergencies often happen on the weekend or at night when staff and legal council may not be available, however the Mutual Aid Agreement addresses details and insurance information that would be needed. Mr. Murphy stated that if any other municipality is interested they could be added to the agreement. He noted that Mesa is currently updating their Emergency Operations Plan, which discusses a Mutual Aid Agreement. Mr. Murphy indicated that municipalities can email him to be included on the agreement.

Chair Simpson inquired if the agreement included equipment beyond solid waste equipment. Mr. Murphy replied that the agreement could be expanded as needed. He noted that the agreement outlines staffing details due to the experience Mesa had with the recent flood. Chair Simpson commented that some municipalities may have composting facilities or other types of facilities in which having access to backup equipment would be appreciated.

Mr. Murphy added that an agreement with private utilities is being explored in case of catastrophes. Chris Coyle, Arizona Forward, responded that Republic Services would be interested. Chair Simpson commented that the City of Chandler and Town of Queen Creek contract with private utilities and various opportunities could be explored.

Chair Simpson thanked Mr. Murphy. She indicated that this agreement could be duplicated for municipalities in different areas of the region.

Ernie Ruiz, City of Glendale, stated that some municipalities in the West Valley have coordinated on the Luke Air Force Base P-4 Assured Services Program. He commented that the West Valley can look into a Mutual Aid Agreement with Luke Air Force Base in response to a potential catastrophic event.

Steven Pietrzykowsky, Town of Gilbert, commented that the Mutual Aid Agreement is a great idea. He noted that some municipalities have a different economies of scale; however everyone could be included even if they do not have resources to contribute. Mr. Pietrzykowsky commented that no municipality would be committed to provide resources and the agreement would allow for those that do have resources to get resources where they are needed quickly. Mr. Murphy replied that is correct; the agreement does not obligate resources, just an opportunity to loan resources if they are available.

Rhonda Humbles, City of Peoria, inquired if the agreement includes personnel. Mr. Murphy responded yes.

Tony Miano, City of Tempe, asked municipalities to go back and streamline the procedures on equipment sharing. He stated that Tempe has a Storm Policy for response to major storms. Mr. Miano commented on using the Mutual Aid Agreement to avoid being unprepared for the next storm. He indicated that he would like to see commitments before the next meeting.

Ms. Humbles inquired if there was a deadline for input and comments on the Mutual Aid Agreement. Mr. Murphy responded that he would prefer comments by the end of June so that comments can be incorporated and the agreement can be brought to councils in September. He stated that it is critical to have the agreement in place for October and November.

Ms. Spencer asked if the agreement would be a master agreement or if agreements would be made separately between the cities and towns. Mr. Murphy replied that it is set up as a master agreement currently with all of the information in one place in which municipalities can call each other when the need arises. He stated that text would have to be included if a municipality requires compensation; compensation is not currently included in the agreement.

Mr. Pietrzykowsky stated that a master agreement is best and added that the sharing of resources as part of the Mutual Aid Agreement should be in kind. He noted that it is not known where micro bursts will occur. He added that perhaps a regional debris management program could be included or piggyback off the Mutual Aid Agreement. Mr. Pietrzykowsky stated that Gilbert would be happy to lead that if the region would find that beneficial. The debris collected could be provided to facilities such as the City of Phoenix composting facility. A cost per ton for different types of material could be included in a regional debris management program.

Mr. Miano stated that the regional debris management program would be a great next step. He mentioned that Tempe was hit with three storms in a row last year in which there was 1,200 tons of debris from one storm. Mr. Miano added that the City had to have a contractor help with debris management, however it would have been convenient to call upon other municipalities for assistance. He discussed that a regional debris management program could be a great opportunity where municipalities could call one another to see if they have equipment or staff that could provide assistance.

Chair Simpson stated that this can be included as an agenda item for the next meeting. She indicated that Julie Hoffman, MAG, can email the draft Mutual Aid Agreement to the Committee with a request for comments by the end of June.

Ms. Conaway requested that the speakers names and copies of materials be provided to Chandler.

6. Call for Future Agenda Items

Chair Smith provided the opportunity for Committee members to suggest future agenda items. She noted a future agenda item would be a follow up on the Mutual Aid Agreement and regional debris management program. Chair Simpson suggested a future agenda item on a follow up to the Solid Waste Best Practices Report. She stated that this had been requested by the MAG Regional Council.

Chair Simpson stated that a regional RFP is an additional future agenda item that may be addressed through RISN. Additionally, she indicated that there was discussion at the last meeting on an agenda item from the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality and Maricopa County on variance requirements. Robin Thomas, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, stated that she can address variance requirements at the next meeting. Chair Simpson indicated that Committee members can email Ms. Hoffman with any additional agenda items.

7. Comments from the Committee

Chair Simpson asked for any comments from the Committee.

Ms. Humbles provided a reminder that the America Public Works Association (APWA) Congress and Exposition Conference is coming up which is still looking for volunteers if anyone is interested. She stated that Peoria is working on an update to the City Code Chapter 22 to be brought before the City Council in June. The update incorporates updated language, definitions, and changes from

Senate Bill 1079. Ms. Humbles indicated that Peoria is continuing to provide same day collection. She added that Peoria is interested in the Mutual Aid Agreement.

Mr. Ruiz reminded the Committee that the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) International ROAD-E-O is coming up and will be held at Rawhide. He indicated that the meet and greet will be on October 2, 2015. The ROAD-E-O will be held October 3, 2015. He stated that the landfill portion of the event will be held at the Butterfield Landfill. Mr. Ruiz indicated that more information is available on the Arizona Chapter SWANA website. He added that SWANA may be adding an additional symposium in February. Chair Simpson added that a SWANA meeting is also being held May 22, 2015 in Tucson featuring green organics. She noted that a tour of the Compost Cats location will be included at the meeting.

Mr. Miano stated that Tempe is hosting a public works event for the community on May 20, 2015. He explained that 25 public works vehicles will be at the event. Mr. Miano stated that Tempe is collaborating with ASU on a waste to energy project. He mentioned that Tempe has spoken with Coca-Cola, the United Dairymen Association, and the zoo on that project. Mr. Miano added that the Tempe Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) Program has been successful. He indicated that these projects may be included in the Tempe waste to energy plan in which the City hopes to achieve 50,000 tons per year for the pilot project. Mr. Miano explained that the project may take a few years, however the City meets weekly on the project.

Mr. Murphy indicated that the City of Mesa would be interested in working with Ms. Humbles and the City of Peoria with regard to amending city code to adjust for Senate Bill 1079.

Mr. Murphy inquired if the Tempe “touch a truck” public works event was geared toward safety. Mr. Miano responded that it is a community outreach event to educate residents on different public works departments. Mr. Murphy stated that Mesa has coordinated a similar event, however it was a safety event to teach youth safety around public works vehicles. He stated that Mesa would be happy to share materials from that event.

Mr. Miano suggested Senate Bill 1079 be a future agenda item since city codes will have to be changed.

Ms. Spencer stated that an APWA event is being held on May 27, 2015 to recognize John Trujillo as one of the top ten public works directors in the United States. She added that the City may be organizing another event to coincide with the national APWA conference.

Willy Elizondo, City of Goodyear, discussed that Goodyear is looking to renew the household hazardous waste event IGA with Avondale, Tolleson, and Litchfield Park. He stated that the initial three year IGA is almost complete.

Mr. Pietrzykowsky indicated that SWANA had reached out to local chapter board members on locating the Senior Executive Seminar in Phoenix. He stated that Brad Frisk, Town of Gilbert, and himself have been coordinating with SWANA National to recommend options in the region. Mr. Pietrzykowsky noted that the final recommendation would be made to the Grand Canyon chapter to partner with SWANA National on the event. He announced that a golf tournament would be coincide with the training. The training being recommended is Integrated Solid Waste Management Certification and possibly a Manager of Landfill Operations or Construction and Demolition Certification which have not been offered before. Mr. Pietrzykowsky commented that this will likely

be a well attended Senior Executive Seminar with about 75-100 attendees for the event and an additional 75-100 for the training.

Ms. Conaway discussed that Chandler received a \$10,000 Think Green grant from Keep America Beautiful and Waste Management. She indicated that the grant is being used to purchase a customized roll off container with slots that will mainly be used to recycle cardboard during special events in the downtown area. Ms. Conaway added that Chandler does not provide commercial recycling, however the City may be working on a commercial recycling pilot for the downtown area. She stated that the City has received \$9,000 of the grant and \$1,000 will be received at the end of the project. Ms. Conaway announced that Chandler will share information on the project in the future.

Chair Simpson indicated that Queen Creek contracts with Environmental Education Exchange, an environmental education group based out of the City of Tucson, that preforms the environmental and recycling education in the classroom. She stated that this group worked on an interactive middle school education and outreach project. Chair Simpson noted that if any other municipalities are interested in the contract to let her know. She reported that the project reached 1,500 students in three weeks. Chair Simpson commented that Queen Creek provides the laptop and materials, however Environmental Education Exchange provides the presentations and coordinates with the schools. The Town has received positive feedback on the project and there was a high level of participation by students.

Chair Simpson indicated that the next Committee meeting is tentatively schedule for August 18, 2015. With no further comments, she thanked the Committee for participating and called for adjournment of the meeting at approximately 11:00 a.m.