

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

Tuesday, October 29, 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
Shawn Kreuzwiesner for Cindy Blackmore, Avondale	Christina Betz, Surprise
Robert van den Akker for Buckeye	Tony Miano, Tempe
# Sheree Sepulveda, Chandler	* Helen Heiden, Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry
* Robert Senita, El Mirage	Robin Thomas, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
Brad Frisk for Steven Pietrzykowsky, Gilbert	Chris Coyle, Arizona Forward
Ernie Ruiz for Glendale	Michael Denby, 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

Kara Johnson, Maricopa Association of  
Governments

JB Shaw, Arizona Department of  
Environmental Quality

Scott Bouchie, City of Mesa

Bob Wallace, WIH Resource Group

1. Call to Order

A meeting of the MAG Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) was conducted on Thursday, October 29, 2015. Ramona Simpson, Town of Queen Creek, Chair, called the meeting to order at approximately 10:05 a.m. Sheree Sepulveda, City of Chandler; Rhonda Humbles, City of Peoria; and Wendy Crites, Salt River Project, 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 May 19, 2015 Meeting Minutes

The Committee reviewed the minutes from the May 19, 2015 meeting. Patrick Murphy, City of Mesa, moved, and Chris Coyle, Arizona Forward, seconded, and the motion to approve the May 19, 2015 meeting minutes, carried unanimously.

4. Mutual Aid Agreement Update

Mr. Murphy provided an update on the efforts to develop a Mutual Aid Agreement which was discussed at the May 19, 2015 meeting. He stated that the Mutual Aid Agreement would streamline the process for communities, as well as, the private sector to provide aid during times of emergency. Mr. Murphy indicated that copies of the agreement were provided at the last meeting and are available upon request. He noted that the attorney for the City of Mesa has made some comments on the agreement that can be forwarded to those cities that are interested. He noted that to date interest has been expressed by Gilbert, Mesa, Phoenix, Queen Creek, Tempe, and Scottsdale. Mr. Murphy added that Republic Services also expressed interest in the agreement for catastrophic events. He asked that any others that may be interested to contact him. Mr. Murphy stated that he will also email MAG staff the latest draft of the Mutual Aid Agreement.

Chair Simpson asked for any questions on the Mutual Aid Agreement. Mr. Murphy stated that the next step would be for legal counsel in these communities to review the agreement and then determine a timeline for getting it to City Councils.

Chair Simpson stated that this agreement will aid the region by providing backup assistance in times of need. She encouraged that a similar agreement be developed in the West Valley. Chair Simpson noted that this resource sharing agreement is open to anyone interested.

5. Solid Waste Best Practices in the MAG Region Update

Ms. Hoffman provided an overview of the Solid Waste Best Practices in the MAG Region Update. She stated that in 2011, the MAG Management Committee had requested the MAG Solid Waste Advisory Committee be reconvened to share ideas on best practices. Ms. Hoffman indicated that in February 2012, the Committee held its first meeting and began sharing information on the many successful best practices, projects, and programs in the region. A report describing the Solid Waste Best Practices in the MAG Region was then prepared in late 2012. The MAG member agencies provided up to three best practices for their community. Ms. Hoffman noted that the Solid Waste Best Practices in the MAG Region report is available on the MAG website. When presented to the

MAG Regional Council in December 2012, a follow up report was requested after a few years to determine if the best practices from the report have been implemented in other communities across the region. Ms. Hoffman indicated that MAG staff will be working on this update. She stated that a survey will be sent out to the MAG member agencies.

Chair Simpson indicated that she appreciates MAG staff work on this update and for those communities who responded to the survey for the report. She stated that the report was helpful to see the best practices in other communities and to also share ideas on ways to manage solid waste. Chair Simpson mentioned that Queen Creek will have information to share for the update.

6. Call for Future Agenda Items

Chair Smith provided the opportunity for Committee members to suggest future agenda items. She indicated that the next Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for November 17, 2015. However, that meeting does not appear to be necessary. Chair Simpson stated that MAG staff will be working on a meeting schedule for 2016.

Chair Simpson mentioned that this is also her last meeting as Chair. Rhonda Humbles, Peoria, will be the incoming Chair of the Committee. A request for Vice Chair has been sent out to the Committee. Ms. Hoffman responded that if anyone is interested in the Vice Chair position, please submit a letter of interest to MAG. She stated that the Vice Chair term is two years.

Ginger Spencer, City of Phoenix, inquired if discussion on consistent regional messaging for recycling can be added as a future agenda item. She discussed that Phoenix utilizes Channel 11 to convey recycling messaging; however, it may not always be consistent with the recycling programs in other communities. Ms. Spencer mentioned the “Top 10 in the Bin” campaign by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA), Keep America Beautiful, and the National Waste & Recycling Association. She inquired if the Committee would be the correct platform to discuss a regional recycling message.

Chair Simpson replied that the Committee could discuss a regional recycling message. She stated that the Valleywide Recycling Partnership works on regional messaging as well. Chair Simpson added that MAG also produced the “Think Before You Shop” videos with regional holiday recycling messaging. MAG staff can email the videos to interested communities. Chair Simpson stated that Queen Creek utilizes the MAG videos every year. She mentioned that the videos featured consistent regional messaging on holiday items such as packaging, gift wrap, bows, etc. Chair Simpson indicated that she also shared the information with the Valleywide Recycling Partnership so there was consistent messaging in the region. Ms. Hoffman indicated that she will email the recycling videos to the Committee for use in the upcoming holiday season.

Mr. Murphy suggested a future agenda item on the variance requirement. He suggested discussion on if the variance requirement can be amended. Mr. Murphy mentioned that Mesa has been implementing a two barrel program for many years.

Chair Simpson asked if the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) can discuss the variance requirements at a future meeting. Robin Thomas, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, responded that she has looked into the variance rule and noted that the language is quite outdated. She stated that for many years, ADEQ has been relying on a report or an approval from the local county health authority when a community wants to make a change. In this case, if Maricopa County approves, ADEQ would generally approve; she stated that the variance rule does

not give much guidance. Ms. Thomas indicated that if the communities are looking for an opportunity to change the rule, that could be a challenge; however, bringing the variance rule up-to-date could potentially be raised as a priority at ADEQ. Ms. Thomas reported that the variance rule is the basis for the ADEQ delegation agreements with counties statewide in terms of solid waste. When looking into this rule, all of the counties must be involved to ensure operations and enforcement are maintained in all the counties. Ms. Thomas indicated that ADEQ can look at the rule, however ADEQ also relies on Maricopa County to help determine good public health practices.

Chair Simpson indicated that the Committee is interested in an agenda item on the variance rule process because many communities have a variance with Maricopa County. She stated that Queen Creek has a variance with Maricopa County and Pinal County. Chair Simpson commented that Pinal County often refers to Maricopa County for guidance. However, Maricopa County will often say that it is an ADEQ rule. Ms. Thomas responded that she would communicate with Maricopa County to determine their view on the rule. She mentioned that there may also be other options than changing the rule. Chair Simpson asked if this can be a future agenda item. Ms. Thomas responded yes and asked that Maricopa County be included on the agenda item for their input.

Brian Kehoe, Maricopa County, stated that the Maricopa County Environmental Services Department works with the variance requirements. He indicated that he can update Environmental Services on the Committee request for discussion on the variance rule. He noted that he does not work with the variance rule; however, he would inquire about someone from Maricopa County Environmental Services Department speaking at a future Committee meeting.

Chair Simpson mentioned the work by the Resource Innovation and Solutions Network and the City of Phoenix. Chair Simpson noted that communities want to make sure they are in compliance and follow the requirements. Ms. Thomas responded that the language in the rule is from the 1970's, which predates ADEQ. She stated that ADEQ did attempt to modernize the rule, however it was faced with many challenges. A change to the rule would be challenging; however, ADEQ would welcome an opportunity to look into it.

Mr. Murphy noted that the Committee discussed a regional approach for household hazardous waste disposal when MAG sent out the survey for household hazardous waste. He inquired about interest in sending out a Request for Proposals (RFP). Chair Simpson replied that the survey established a what, where, and when with regard to HHW and she would suggest informal West and East Valley meetings first to discuss a regional approach. She indicated that it could then be put on an agenda for discussion on what is included in the RFP.

Mr. Miano commented that the Arizona Recycling Coalition Conference took place on October 28, 2015 in which the issue of leaded glass (cathode ray tube glass) was discussed. He mentioned that a third party company in Arizona is closing down their facility for maintenance, however the facility may not reopen. Recycling leaded glass is a challenge for the region.

Chair Simpson replied that potentially MAG staff could send out an email inquiring how Material Recovery Facilities (MRF) process leaded glass and report back to the Committee. Communities may also share what companies process leaded glass.

Mr. Ruiz inquired what company may be closing down. Mr. Miano replied Westech Recyclers. He stated that there are discussions with Goodwill who is selling the old television sets at low cost. Once the televisions are broken, the old televisions with the leaded glass are dropped off for disposal. However, there are disposal costs for the televisions with leaded glass that communities

have to pay. Mr. Miano indicated that Goodwill also does not want to pay for the disposal. He commented that many communities utilize Westech Recyclers.

Ms. Thomas asked if Mr. Miano is speaking of the CRT glass. Mr. Miano responded yes. Chair Simpson stated that she can ask the Queen Creek service provider, Right Away Disposal, where they take the CRT glass. She mentioned that potentially other options for recycling leaded glass can be found. Chair Simpson indicated that the recycling of CRT glass is a challenge and will be until the old televisions are phased out.

Mr. Ruiz asked City of Phoenix who they work with for electronic waste. Ms. Spencer replied that she will get back with the Committee on who they contract with for electronic waste. Mr. Ruiz inquired if there is cooperative use language in the contract. Ms. Spencer responded that she will report back to the Committee on that as well; she commented that Phoenix maintains many contracts and would need to check on that information.

Christina Betz, City of Surprise, suggested a future agenda item or presentation on revamping public outreach. She stated that public outreach is always an issue, however perhaps the Committee can collaborate together. Ms. Betz mentioned that the Committee could discuss good public outreach and what is not working for communities. Chair Simpson replied that Queen Creek is working on a public outreach campaign that she can discuss at a future meeting.

Mr. Ruiz stated that Glendale is interested in partnering on community outreach to increase diversion. He indicated that Glendale is looking to reduce the contamination rates. Chair Simpson responded that the Queen Creek public outreach campaign focuses on contamination and overflow.

Mr. Miano mentioned discussions on lowering contamination where it generally focuses on what is in the recycling container. However, there needs to also be discussions on the cost and lost revenue associated. Mr. Miano inquired about the negatives when the blue bin is not utilized.

Mr. Ruiz commented on glass recycling that was discussed at a recent SWANA general membership meeting. He stated that glass recycling is a major issue at Material Recovery Facilities due to the degradation of equipment. Mr. Ruiz mentioned that glass recycling is a hot topic in that many communities discuss promoting glass recycling; however, it is a challenge from an operator standpoint when equipment is frequently damaged. He mentioned that Waste Management and ReCommunity Recycling contributed largely to the discussion.

## 7. Comments from the Committee

Chair Simpson asked for any comments from the Committee.

Brad Frisk, Town of Gilbert, stated that the SWANA Senior Executive Seminar Conference will begin June 26, 2016. He stated that SWANA has some title sponsors for the event. Mr. Frisk commented that this will be a great event.

Mr. Ruiz added that the SWANA Senior Executive Seminar Conference will be held at the Westin Kierland Resort in Scottsdale. Additional training will also be available for general SWANA members.

Chair Simpson inquired when SWANA general members can expect to receive information. Mr. Frisk replied that they are looking to have the information by the end of November. The City of

Phoenix will be speaking. Mr. Frisk added that attorneys will be speaking on labor laws, the Family and Medical Leave Act, and Americans with Disabilities Act. He commented that the lineup will be worthwhile. Chair Simpson commented that the Conference will be valuable and it is great that it is taking place in the region.

Mr. Ruiz mentioned that Glendale has spoken with ADEQ on sending out the annual surveys on a fiscal year basis instead of by calendar year. He indicated that many departments work on fiscal year. Ms. Thomas replied that she should be able to accommodate the request. She stated that ADEQ encourages survey participation, so ADEQ may be able to send out the surveys on a fiscal year to aid in participation.

Ms. Spencer discussed that the City of Phoenix and Arizona State University (ASU) have been approved for the Ellen MacArthur Foundation. She stated that Phoenix is the first city in the United States to become a member. In addition, City of Phoenix and ASU are the first city and major university in the same region to be in the group. The membership to the foundation has been approved by the Phoenix City Council. Ms. Spencer indicated that Ellen MacArthur Foundation will be in attendance at ASU's Sustainability Solutions Festival in the spring of 2016. She stated that the festival will be a great event. Ms. Spencer discussed that the information accessed through the Foundation will be shared with other communities in the region. She indicated that Phoenix will share information and opportunities for regional participation and partnerships. Ms. Spencer indicated that being a part of the Ellen MacArthur Foundation is a win for the region. Chair Simpson indicated that she appreciates Phoenix's work on this and the regional opportunity to be a part of it.

Manuel Castillo, City of Scottsdale, stated that Scottsdale will be hosting a yard event for HHW collection on November 7, 2015. He noted that next year Scottsdale will only host one yard event to increase curbside collection.

Mr. Murphy indicated that Mesa is working with the League of Cities and Towns on the law that goes into effect July 1, 2016 with regard to solid waste.

Mr. Miano discussed that Tempe hosted a compost giveaway on October 24, 2015 for residents and 175 vehicles participated in four hours. He added that the City is hosting a Zero Waste Day on November 14, 2015. The event will accept food donations and other items to be recycled such as textiles and electronic waste. Mr. Miano stated that Tempe will host two Zero Waste Day events per year. Additionally, the Tempe City Council has approved a recycling resolution. He stated that Tempe pledged to 40 percent diversion of residential, 25 percent diversion of commercial and industrial, and nine percent multi-family residential. Mr. Miano commented that the overall goal is to divert 25 percent of solid waste from the landfill.

Chair Simpson inquired how many people Tempe expects at the Zero Waste Day event. Mr. Miano replied that there were approximately 250 vehicles at previous events. He commented that in previous years residents drove past the event because of the long line and then the next morning there were drop offs stockpiled outside. Mr. Miano indicated that the City is going to operate two lines in hopes of increasing participation at the event.

Chair Simpson asked Mr. Murphy about attendance at Mesa's recent event. Mr. Murphy responded that the most recent event had approximately 1,700 vehicles. He added that the City of Mesa holds four HHW events per year.

Mr. Miano indicated that having a HHW facility is beneficial. He stated that a facility that is open to the public is an opportunity for diversion and avoids residents stockpiling HHW. Mr. Miano discussed Batteries, Oil, Paint, and Antifreeze (B.O.P.A.) events.

Ms. Spencer noted that Phoenix hosted an event on October 24, 2015 in Ahwatukee where approximately 800 vehicles participated. She stated that Phoenix hosts many events per year and attendance has doubled since last year. Chair Simpson noted that outreach is important with events.

Mr. Miano commented that grant funding from the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality and Maricopa County would be helpful. Ms. Thomas indicated that ADEQ would also like to retrieve funding that use to be provided to communities.

Robert van den Akker, City of Buckeye, reported that Buckeye is moving forward with their HHW plan of action. He stated that Buckeye has increased outreach and are working to update services.

Ms. Humbles reported that Peoria is rolling out their Bulk Trash Program that will begin year-round service in January 2016. She stated that the City is working on promotional outreach for the new program.

Chair Simpson stated that Queen Creek is celebrating America Recycles Day by hosting an electronic recycling and paper shredding event on November 14, 2015. She mentioned that the Town collects many televisions at these events. In addition, Queen Creek is working on a campaign for social media called 'Shut Your Lid'. The campaign includes: videos, banners, and print advertisements. Chair Simpson indicated that the campaign has a focus on what not to put in the trash and recycling containers, as opposed to what to put in the containers. She commented that Queen Creek would like to focus on recycling at special events next year. Chair Simpson referred to a recent Trunk or Treat event in which there was no recycling.

Mr. Kehoe inquired if Tempe has certification for their compost. Mr. Miano replied that Tempe sends the compost to a lab for certification. The compost is tested for minerals to ensure there is no harm to soils or plants where the compost is used. Mr. Miano stated that all of their compost is certified.

Ms. Betz thanked Chair Simpson for her time as Chair of the Committee. Chair Simpson thanked the Committee for their dialogue and participation. She stated that solid waste has many interesting challenges.

Chair Simpson indicated that the next Committee meeting will be in 2016. With no further comments, she thanked the Committee for participating and called for adjournment of the meeting at approximately 10:55 a.m.