

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Highlights of TCEQ Municipal Solid Waste Management & Resource Recovery Advisory Council (MSWRRAC)
Meeting, Thursday, October 12, 2023

Attendance

Members Present

Mr. David Yanke
Mr. Scott Trebus
Ms. Risa Weinberger
Mr. Steve Shannon
Mr. Frank Pugsley
Mr. Charles (Chuck) Rivette
Mr. Scott Pasternak
Ms. Cheryl Mergo
Mr. Jeffrey Mayfield
Judge David Dillard
Ms. Jennifer Lutz
Judge Hoppy Haden
Mayor Ralph Gutierrez
Mr. Brocke Lively

Members Absent

Mr. Richard Abramowitz

TCEQ Staff Present

Ms. Charly Fritz
Ms. Megan Henson
Ms. Anna Lleras
Ms. Savannah Rains

Ms. Madison Howard
Mr. Santos Olivarez
Mr. Chance Robinson

Archived Webcast of the Meeting

The meeting was held online using MS Teams Webinar. The archived webcast of the meeting is available at [MSW Management and Resource Recovery Advisory Council—October 12, 2023 - YouTube](#).

Welcome and Introduction of Members and Guests—Mr. David Yanke, Council President

- Council members and TCEQ staff introduced themselves.
- Ms. Lleras took roll for the council members.
- Mr. Yanke introduced and welcomed new and returning MSWRRAC members.

Waste Permits Division (WPD) Update—Ms. Charly Fritz, Deputy Director

- Danielle Lesikar has joined the Waste Permits Division as Assistant Deputy Director.
- Legislative and Sunset Implementation
 - Public meeting formats may change as a result of Sunset. The agency will try different approaches to public meetings to see what works best.
 - TCEQ will take over posting applications to the website. Overall processes are still being developed.
 - Annual reporting details for recyclers and scrap tire facilities are still being worked out.
 - HB 3060, Advanced Recycling Bill, makes changes to 30 TAC Chapter 328, Chapter 330, and Chapter 335. The statute language will be added to the rule, and other minor changes will be made to the rules.
 - The exceptional item request for additional salaries for TCEQ employees was approved and distributed.
- Railroad Commission pre-proposed changes to oil and gas rules as well as special waste rules related to oil and gas.
- Account 549

Account 549 and Account 5000 were combined into Account 549 at the end of legislative session. Expenses are projected to continue to exceed revenue. Over the next years, revenues will be evaluated to ensure Account 549 remains solvent.

Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Permits Section Update— Ms. Megan Henson, Section Manager

- Staffing & Projects
 - Four new staff in MSW; three environmental permit specialist and one geoscientist.
 - Five MSW vacancies; one geoscientist, one environmental permit specialist, and three engineering specialist positions.
 - 22 permit and seven registration applications are currently under review.
- The FY2022 annual report was published.
 - There were 200 active landfills; 39 million tons of waste were disposed; per capita disposal rate increased to 7.25 pounds per person per day.
- Trade Fair will be in May 2024. MSW is looking for input from stakeholders to determine what topics will be covered by presenters at Trade Fair.

Business & Program Services Section Update – Mr. Santos Olivarez, Manager, Business and Program Services Section

- Three vacancies remain on the advisory council, all of which are elected official positions. The positions will remain open until filled.
- All 24 COG contracts were signed and executed. The COGs are beginning to send in program applications, which detail budgets and local projects.
- SWIFR Grant Update

The grant will be awarded for use through 2025. The funds will be distributed to the COGs to be used for contamination, education, and studies.

Request to Change Reporting of Garbage per Capita in MSW Annual Report – Barbara Coombs

Garbage per capita for each COG has historically been reported based on tons of waste received at landfills in each COG region. Landfills may serve counties outside of their COG region, so this could inflate or deflate actual garbage per capita for the COGs. Ms. Coombs requests that it be required for landfills to report how much waste is received by county.

2023 US Mayor’s Waste Management Association (MWMA) Meeting Highlights—Mr. David Yanke, Council President

The October MWMA meeting was held in Minneapolis Minnesota. Discussions about per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), and waste characterization studies in Seattle, Atlanta and Minneapolis. A topic of interest was glass coming back to some material recovery facilities. The meeting closed with a tour of the Hennepin waste to energy facility.

Judy Sheehan, US Conference of Mayors, is closely tracking PFAS regulatory and other legislative issues on a national perspective in terms of potential impact to wastewater, water, or landfill facilities.

Approval of July 13, 2023, Meeting Highlights

Chuck Rivette made a motion to accept the meeting highlights. Scott Trebus seconded the motion, and the highlights were approved by the council.

Approval of Proposed 2024 Meeting Dates

2024 meeting dates for January 11, 2024, April 11, 2024, July 11, 2024, and October 10, 2024 were approved and to be maintained in a hybrid format.

Action Items

No action items.

Public Comments

- Mr. Steve Shannon spoke to the scale of the amount of solid waste disposed of in Texas each year.
- Heather Hanson asked if the SWIFR Grant can be used for waste stream analysis.

Next Meeting

January 11, 2024