

STAFF REPORT

IN CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 24-5439, FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONFIRMING THE MEMBERS OF THE METRO REGIONAL WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Date: November 5, 2024	Prepared by: Carly Tabert and Rosalynn Greene
Department: Waste Prevention and Environmental Services	Presenter: Rosalynn Greene, Strategic Initiatives Manager
Meeting date: November 21, 2024	Length: Consent agenda

ISSUE STATEMENT

The Regional Waste Advisory Committee advises Metro Council on the management of the garbage and recycling system. There are currently six vacancies due to term limits and three new positions as a result of the expanded membership. Resolution No. 24-5439 appoints nine new members to serve two-year terms.

ACTION REQUESTED

Approve of Resolution No. 24-5439, confirming the appointment of new members to the Regional Waste Advisory Committee for a two-year term that will conclude on December 31, 2026.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

In June 2024, Metro Council expanded the scope and membership of the committee. These changes were made to increase collaboration and transparency and build trust in investments in regional priorities and budget and fee development. The policy committee is comprised of 17 members representing cities, counties, the public, and industry. Metro Code 2.19.130(d) gives the Metro Council President sole authority to appoint all members of the Regional Waste Advisory Committee. The appointments are confirmed by Metro Council.

PROPOSED MEMBERS

The following individuals are recommended to represent the interests of communities of color, environmental or health advocacy, users of the solid waste system, material recovery facilities, and transfer stations.

Communities of Color Representatives

Chieko Yoshihara

A certified Master Recycler (Class 88), Chieko brings expertise in event organization and education within the Japanese community in Portland. Her experience as a pharmacist in Multnomah County provides her with valuable insights into the health challenges faced by marginalized communities. Chieko is passionate about sustainable material management, inspired by her upbringing in Japan, and is active in promoting eco-oriented lifestyles.

Daisha Tate

As Operations Manager at North by Northeast Community Health Center, Daisha has partnered with Metro on waste management and health initiatives, gaining certification as a Master Recycler. She brings a strong focus on the intersection between environmental health and community disparities. Her experience includes serving on advisory committees focused on emissions reduction in Oregon.

Environmental or Human Health Advocate Representative

Fiona Conneely

Fiona is a staff member at Lift Urban Portland, a food security organization. She is passionate about waste diversion and food rescue, representing communities that are often excluded from good health due to systemic barriers. Her strong technical background and ability to interpret data will allow her to contribute valuable insights to the committee.

System User Representative

Laura Tokarski

Laura previously served as the Director of Trash for Peace and brings over a decade of experience in nonprofit management, waste reduction, and equity in multifamily housing. She has a comprehensive understanding of the region's solid waste system and has previously served on Metro's waste fee policy task force.

Private Transfer Station Representative

Kristin Leichner, Pride Recycling

Kristin is the President of Pride Disposal and Vice President of Pride Recycling, a family-owned company. She has over 20 years of experience in the solid waste and recycling industry and has worked closely with local and regional government partners. Kristin has participated in advisory roles for the implementation of the Recycling Modernization Act.

Material Recovery Facility Representative

Bill Kent, City of Roses Disposal and Recycling

Bill is responsible for growth initiatives at COR Disposal & Recycling. He leads projects on climate-positive innovations and works closely with community stakeholders. Bill has served on various advisory committees and is deeply involved in developing sustainable waste and recycling practices in Portland.

Local government representatives:

- Mayor Lacey Beaty, City of Beaverton
- Deputy City Administrator Donnie Oliveira, City of Portland
- Mayor Denyse McGriff, Oregon City

ATTACHMENTS

None