



Pinellas Partners in Recycling Meeting Notes for January 11, 2023

Overview and Attendance

The Pinellas Partners in Recycling (PPR) meeting was held virtually via Zoom at 1:30 PM on Wednesday, January 11, 2023.

Members present included: Ashley Wyland, Pinellas County Dept. of Solid Waste; Bill Pickrum, City of Dunedin; Catherine Eichner, Pinellas County Dept. of Solid Waste; Chris Perry, Florida Department of Environmental Protection; Chris Wade, City of Pinellas Park; Deanna Doss, Gulfport; Emily LeMay, Pinellas County Dept. of Solid Waste; Evan Novell, City of Orlando Solid Waste; Jabbar Graham, Goodwill; Jack Crooks, St. Petersburg; Janie Armstrong, Pinellas County Dept. of Solid Waste; Julianne Perez, City of Largo; Jasmine Scott, Pinellas County Dept. of Solid Waste; Jennifer Ciaravella, Florida Department of Environmental Protection; Karen Moore, Florida Department of Environmental Protection; Kiana Sladicki, Pinellas County Dept. of Solid Waste; Kyle Pukylo, NuCycle Energy; Larry Della Betta, Recycling Services of Florida; Mary Oquendo, Manatee County; Natalie Betts, Balcones Resources; Natalie Gass, Dunedin; Nicole Dufva, Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority; Nik Gerakios, Tarpon Springs; Pat DePlasco, Keep Pinellas Beautiful; Patti Ludington, Safety Harbor; Randall Ceneus, Hillsboro; Rodney Due, City of Seminole; Ryan Austin, Waste Connections; Sabrina Swoy, Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority; Savannah Bennett, City of Clearwater; Shelby Lewis, City of Tampa; Stephanie Watson, Pinellas County Dept. of Solid Waste; Suzanne Boroff, Florida Department of Environmental Protection; Tessa Coulter, City of Tampa; Tracy Meehan, Waste Pro; and Wilfred Homes, Town of Belleair.

Emily LeMay, Pinellas County Department of Solid Waste recorded the meeting notes.

Call to Order

Deanna Doss, PPR Chair called the meeting to order at 1:32 PM.

Review of November 9, 2022 PPR Meeting Notes

No objections to notes as written.

Election of Officers

Deanna Doss called the Election of Officers to Order. Rollcall of the Voting Membership was taken by Emily LeMay and a quorum was reached. Voting Members not in attendance at the time of rollcall included: Largo, Group "C" Cities, Pinellas County Schools, and Private Sector Recycling Collection Representative (currently vacant).

Savannah Bennett, City of Clearwater, was elected as 2023 Chair of Pinellas Partners of Recycling by unanimous vote of the Voting Membership. A Vice Chair was not nominated at this time. If interested in serving as Vice Chair of PPR, refer to the group's [Policies and Procedures](#) for more information and contact Emily LeMay (elemay@pinellas.gov).

Updates

State Updates

Florida Department of Environmental Protection

- Karen Moore shared that the United States Environmental Protection Agency is seeking applications for various grants, including the [Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grant Program](#) and the [Consumer Recycling Education and Outreach Grant Program](#). Eligible entities must apply by February 15, 2023.
- Suzanne Boroff shared that it is reporting season for Solid Waste Management Reports and that county reports are due to the state on April 1, 2023. There is a training on preparing the report for recycling coordinators in Orlando prior to the Recycle Florida Today 2023 Winter Summit.

Regional Updates

Pinellas County

- Stephanie Watson announced that the county is setting meetings with stakeholders to discuss the proposed revisions to the Pinellas County Code of Ordinances [Chapter 106: Solid Waste](#) and that vendor responses are due on February 7 for the [Request for Proposals for Countywide Recyclable Materials Processing and Marketing](#).
- Emily LeMay shared that the [2023 Recycle Guide](#) is complete. If interested in printed copies, contact Ashley Wyland (awyland@pinellas.gov).
- Ashley Wyland shared that the [Where Does It Go? Search Tool](#) has been updated to include an “Additional Resources” tab. The Search Tool can be embedded on your websites. Ashley also shared that the Search Tool can be accessed from various pages on the [County’s website](#). Ashley will be reaching out to municipalities to provide suggested edits regarding Pinellas County programs.
- Jasmine Scott shared that the County has added [Christmas Tree](#) disposal information on the Where Does It Go? Search Tool. Jasmine thanked the municipalities and haulers for providing the information to her. Jasmine also shared that municipalities will be receiving information about the Municipal Recycling Reimbursement Grant shortly.

City of Tampa

- Shelby Lewis introduced Tessa Coulter as the new Student Intern. Student Intern Tatum Flowers is graduating in May and is seeking employment in the solid waste industry. Please share any opportunities you are aware of.
- Shelby shared that the 3Rs Art in Poetry Contest has begun.
- Shelby noted that the City of Tampa is participating in Gasparilla cleanup efforts with Keep Tampa Bay Beautiful. They collect beads for a reuse program.



City of Orlando

- Evan Novell shared that the city is looking at public compost drop-off locations for recycling infrastructure grants.

Manatee County

- Mary Oquendo shared that the Manatee County fair is taking place mid-January.

Pinellas County Municipal Updates

City of Clearwater

- Savannah Bennett noted that the city will offer composting services via Pinellas Community Compost to reduce waste during Neighborhoods Day, a day for organized neighborhoods to have block parties. The city is making an instructional video to tell people what should go in the compost, what should go in the recycling, and what should go in the trash.

City of Largo

- Julianne Perez shared that Sheridan Gemuendt is the new Sustainability Administrator for the City of Largo. Sheridan previously worked for the City of Clearwater. The city is working on a social media and education campaign to bust myths about recycling.

Community Updates

Keep Pinellas Beautiful

- Pat DePlasco shared that Keep Pinellas Beautiful's Devon Francke is presenting their 400-page microplastics curriculum to Keep America Beautiful at the national conference.
- Pat noted that Great American Cleanup season is March 1 through June 31. The kickoff event will be March 3 at Gandy Beach. There will be about 50 community improvement initiatives throughout the county. The goal is to have at least one cleanup event in each city. Training and materials are provided, but site captains are needed to lead various events. Contact Pat for more information at pdeplasco@kpbcare.org.
- Pat invited the group to attend Keep Pinellas Beautiful's [Annual Awards Luncheon](#) on February 10, 2023 from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm at Anona United Methodist Church, Largo.

Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA)

- Nicole Dufva noted that PSTA is working on a recycling program for busses and terminals.
- Nicole shared that PSTA toured the Solid Waste Disposal Complex, and they had a great time – so you should, too!

Work Group Updates

Contract Work Group

- Jasmine Scott shared that the group met in December to review the [Contract Guidance Document](#). They are finalizing the 2023 document, which will be added to the website. The annual group meeting will be in September 2023.



Contamination Work Group

- Ashley Wyland shared that the first meeting of the year is January 31, 2023, at 10:30 am. Ashley will send out a draft of the Survey Monkey survey (public impressions of ads) prior to the meeting.

Open Discussion

- Jasmine Scott shared that she attended a social media summit and training. She shared some lessons learned about building trust in government. It's important to respond to comments with facts. You can't beat emotion with logic. Jasmine also asked the group what social media plans they have for this year.
- Emily LeMay shared that she attended SWANA WASTECON, and that the Florida chapter is hosting their [Winter Conference](#) in Orlando February 20-22, 2023.
- Jabbar Graham noted that Goodwill is offering human trafficking training programs. The City of Clearwater is also doing training on human trafficking. If interested, reach out to Jabbar at jabbar.graham@goodwill-suncoast.com.

Announcements

- The Voting Membership seats for Non-Governmental Advocacy Organization related to Recycling and the Environment, Private Sector Recycling Processing Representative, and Private Sector Recycling Collection Representative have been vacated to comply with the two-year term limits in Section D. of the Policies and Procedures (prior to November 2021, there were no term limits for these Voting Member seats). Interested organizations can contact Emily LeMay (elemay@pinellas.gov) for more information.
- [Take a tour of the Solid Waste Disposal Complex!](#) There is a tour on February 22 at 1:00 PM available to all PPR members.

Adjournment

The next meeting will be held virtually over Zoom on Wednesday, March 15, 2023, at 9:30 am.