



## Pinellas Partners in Recycling Meeting Notes for May 4, 2023

### Overview and Attendance

The Pinellas Partners in Recycling (PPR) meeting was held both in-person at the City of Pinellas Park Public Works Operation Center, [6250 82nd Ave N, Pinellas Park, FL 33781](#) and virtually via Zoom at 1:00 PM on Thursday, May 4, 2023.

Tim Bowers of Waste Management and Amanda Ergler of the City of Pinellas Park introduced themselves as new attendees.

### Attendance:

Savannah Bennett, City of Clearwater; Deanna Doss, City of Gulfport; Amanda Ergler, City of Pinellas Park; Chris Wade, City of Pinellas Park; Patti Ludington, City of Safety Harbor; Andrew Butterfield, City of St. Pete Beach; Nick Gerakios, City of Tarpon Springs; Madison Avery, Coca-Cola Beverages Florida; Chris Perry, Florida Department of Environmental Protection; Karen Moore, Florida Department of Environmental Protection; Jennifer Ciaravella, Florida Department of Environmental Protection; Jabbar Graham, Goodwill; Danny Gallagher, Hillsborough County; Pat DePlasco, Keep Pinellas Beautiful; Rachelle Dobbs, Pasco County; Ashley Wyland, Pinellas County Dept. of Solid Waste; Jasmine Scott, Pinellas County Dept. of Solid Waste; Emily LeMay, Pinellas County Dept. of Solid Waste; Stephanie Watson, Pinellas County Dept. of Solid Waste; Kiana Sladicki, Pinellas County Dept. of Solid Waste; Stephanie Heffner, Pinellas County Dept. of Solid Waste; Anthony DiNardi, Solar Sanitation; Ian Boyle, Waste Connections; Tim Bowers, Waste Management; Ed Farmer, Waste Pro; and Randy Rudd, Kessler Consulting.

Emily LeMay and Ashley Wyland, Pinellas County Dept. of Solid Waste recorded the meeting notes.

### Call to Order

Savannah Bennett, PPR Chair called the meeting to order at 1:15 PM.

### Review of March 15, 2023 PPR Meeting Notes

No objections to notes as written.

### Presentation

#### **Danny Gallagher, Hillsborough County Recycling Coordinator**

Danny discussed Hillsborough County's pilot program with Goodwill Suncoast that collects usable materials from customers dropping off at Community Collection Centers (CCC). [The presentation slides are available on SharePoint.](#)

- Since September 2022, >773 donors have donated >16,543 items to Goodwill, diverting >28,640 pounds of material from disposal.
- To prepare for the pilot program, Hillsborough County had in-person meetings with Goodwill and executed a 1-year agreement with two 1-year renewals at no cost for both parties.



- Accepted items include clothes, shoes, purses, accessories, décor, tools, toys, electronics, and small furniture. The program does not accept TVs, computer monitors, mattresses, appliances, large furniture, adult bikes, any broken or damaged items that cannot be sold.
- Danny can be reached by email at [GallagherD@hillsboroughcounty.org](mailto:GallagherD@hillsboroughcounty.org)

## Updates

### State Updates

#### Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)

- Karen Moore shared that the DEP conducted a scrap tire workshop.
- The state is looking at the impact of the [giant blob of sargassum](#) that's heading towards Florida and determining if it can be composted.

### Regional Updates

#### Pinellas County

- Emily LeMay shared an [interview](#) she was in with WTSP (10 Tampa Bay) regarding the importance of reducing waste to save landfill space. Emily also showed the new [Kindergarten – Grade 2 Educational Resources](#) on the county's website. These resources help fill an educational gap for students in this age range as tours and presentations are only available to students in Grade 3 and above. The activities were created by department staff and are aligned with the Florida Standards. Please share any feedback via [recycle@pinellas.gov](mailto:recycle@pinellas.gov).
- Jasmine Scott shared that the Department of Solid Waste (DSW) would like to partner with our regional partners to promote waste reduction and recycling. DSW will have monthly recurring posts on the County's social media platforms and is looking to feature videos or images showing collaboration with DSW.
- Jasmine shared that the Municipal Recycling Grant reimbursement requests for fiscal year 2023 are due no later than 9/15/23. Email [recycle@pinellas.gov](mailto:recycle@pinellas.gov) if you have questions.
- Ashley Wyland shared the new [How Mixed Recycling Works](#) webpage and noted that an email was sent out to municipalities and private haulers to verify their information is correct.
- Ashley shared that the communication plan for the operational changes with the Pinellas County Household Hazardous Waste Center (formerly known as the Household Electronics and Chemical Collection Center) is underway. More information about the changes can be found online.
- Stephanie Watson shared a [podcast episode](#) that Stephanie and Ashley Wyland are featured on regarding interpretation. Stephanie recommended Certified Interpretive Guide courses through the [National Association of Interpretation](#) for educators.

## Pinellas County Municipal Updates

### City of Clearwater

- Savannah Bennett shared the City of Clearwater's [dashboard](#) that includes how much of the City's waste is being recycled and where it is being processed.

### City of St. Petersburg

- Jack Crooks provided the following written updates:
  - The City of St. Petersburg has relaunched the compost program to include classes for the composter. Part of Green Thumb display and outreach. Have received a lot of inquiries about other municipalities' programs or potential programs
  - Attended the Green Thumb Festival and provided recycling education and games.

### City of Gulfport

- Deanna Doss shared that there will be a "junk drop" event May 6 for Gulfport residents.

## Community Updates

### Keep Pinellas Beautiful (KPB)

- Pat DePlasco shared that, in the month of April 2023, KPB held 79 cleanup events, 9 beautification events, and worked with 2,600 volunteers.
- A City of St. Petersburg group working well with the events to help the community, volunteer numbers are increasing.
- For information on events, visit <https://www.kpbcares.org/upcoming-events>.

### Eckerd College

- Amy Siuda and Shannon Gowans provided a written update that their waste reduction app called Remora is now live. Please see the attached flyer. An app [launch event](#) is being held at 3 Daughters Brewing in St. Petersburg on May 17.

## Work Group Updates

### Contract Work Group

- Jasmine Scott shared that the Work Group's annual meeting will be on September 13 from 10:00 to 11:00 am virtually. The Contract Guidance document has been added to the [PPR website](#).

### Contamination Work Group

- Ashley Wyland shared that the Work Group is finalizing the survey for 9 different ads to help reduce contamination. Ashley will be interviewing people to see what initial thoughts are on the ads to see if the message about no batteries in garbage or recycling is getting through. The next meeting is May 10.

### Low Waste Event Guide Work Group

- Emily LeMay shared that the Low Waste Event Guide Work Group's next meeting is May 25 and 10 am. Recurring meetings are being held on the last Thursday of the month. The group is



developing a Charter and currently researching existing low waste/zero waste/sustainable event guides. If interested in joining the group, email [elemay@pinellas.gov](mailto:elemay@pinellas.gov) or [Savannah.Bennett@MyClearwater.com](mailto:Savannah.Bennett@MyClearwater.com).

## Open Discussion

### Outreach

- Earth Day events were discussed. The City of Clearwater did a tabling event and held a shredding event on Earth Day. They shredded more paper than any other event in the past and all paper was recycled.
- Pinellas County's Department of Solid Waste did a volunteer cleanup on Earth Day with Keep Pinellas Beautiful. The group removed 360 lbs of trash from Gandy Beach.
- DSW participated in the first few tabling events since the pandemic. Stephanie Watson noted the importance of setting event objectives to help you measure the success of the events. DSW has an event tabling guide and can share it with you, if interested. Email [recycle@pinellas.gov](mailto:recycle@pinellas.gov) to inquire.
- Emily LeMay shared kudos to Julianne Perez from the City of Largo. Emily attended a presentation by Julianne where the audience was about 75% Spanish speaking. Julianne flawlessly delivered the presentation in English and Spanish. Emily brought DSW's new [Where Does It Go? Search Tool](#) business cards that are in Spanish. The tool itself can also be toggled to Spanish. The 2024 Recycle Guide will be in both English and Spanish. This further reiterates the importance of producing outreach materials in multiple languages.

### Announcements

- Keep Pinellas Beautiful's Environmental Leadership summer camps for high schoolers are coming back this year. They will be held for one week in June and one week in July. For more information, visit [www.kpbcares.org/upcoming-events](http://www.kpbcares.org/upcoming-events).
- The Pinellas County Solid Waste Disposal Complex achieved accreditation with the American Public Works Association (APWA). [Learn more here.](#)

### Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:26 pm. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 12, 2023, at 9:30 – 11:00 am via Zoom.

# WE CAN DO **MOR** WITH LESS



**REMORA**

RECORD WHAT YOU USE & REDUCE SINGLE-USE.

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