



# Pinellas Partners in Recycling

## Meeting Notes for January 10, 2024

Virtual Meeting

### Overview and Attendance

The Pinellas Partners in Recycling (PPR) meeting was held virtually at 9:30 am on Wednesday, January 10, 2024.

**Members present included** Ashley Wyland, Pinellas County Solid Waste; Ben Cegelski, City of Oldsmar; Bill Pickrum, City of Dunedin; Brian Ulbricht, Pinellas County IMCA Fellow; Cassie Cardova, City of Clearwater; Cathy Culp, City of Seminole; Colin Bartholomew, City of Safety Harbor; Danny Gallagher, Hillsborough County; Daric Hunt, Waste Pro; Devon Francke, Keep Pinellas Beautiful; Diane Daniel, Vacation Donations; Ed Farmer, Waste Pro; Emily LeMay, Pinellas County Solid Waste; Eric Morales, Manatee County; Jabbar Buggs-Graham, Goodwill; Jasmine Scott, Pinellas County Solid Waste; Jennifer Ciaravella, Florida Department of Environmental Protection; Joe Vitale, City of St. Petersburg; Kelsey Grentzer, Pinellas County Communications; Lauren Fatkin, City of Largo; Marissa Segundo, Transformations PR; Mary Oquendo, Manatee County; Natalie Gass, City of Dunedin; Nick Gerakios, City of Tarpon Springs; Randy Rudd, Kessler Consulting, Inc.; Savannah Bennett, City of Clearwater; Shauwn Clark, City of Largo; Shawn Shimko, City of South Pasadena; Stephanie Lawler-Ellington, Keep Pinellas Beautiful; Stephanie Watson, Pinellas County Solid Waste; Tim Bowers, Waste Management; Tyler Ward, Recycling Services of Florida; Wei-Ting Lui, CDM Smith; Wilfred Homes, City of Belleair.

Jasmine Scott, Pinellas County Solid Waste recorded the notes.

### Call to Order

Savannah Bennett, PPR Chair called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m.

### Review of November 8, 2023 PPR Meeting Notes

No objections to notes as written.

### Introductions

New members introduced:

Tyler Ward, Recycling Services of Florida.

### Election of Officers

Savannah Bennett 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 roll call included: the City of Pinellas Park, Group "C" Cities and Pinellas County Schools. Non-Governmental Advocacy Organization Related to Recycling and the Environment, Private Sector Recycling Processing Representative and Private Sector Recycling Collection Representative positions were vacant.

- Marissa Segundo, PR Transformations was elected as Non-Governmental Advocacy Organization Related to Recycling and the Environment by unanimous vote of the Voting Membership.



- Tyler Ward, Recycling Services of Florida was elected as Private Sector Recycling Processing Representative by the Voting Membership.
- Daric Hunt, Waste Pro was elected as Private Sector Recycling Collection Representative by unanimous vote of the Voting Membership.
- Savannah Bennett was elected as 2024 Chair of PPR by unanimous vote of the Voting Membership.
- Daric Hunt, Waste Pro was elected as 2024 Vice Chair of PPR by unanimous vote of the Voting Membership.

## Presentations

Devon Francke gave a presentation on [Keep Pinellas Beautiful's](#) (KPB) work related to microplastics and community engagement to address microplastics in the community. Devon can be reached by email at [education@kpbcares.org](mailto:education@kpbcares.org). The presentation [slides](#) and [recording](#) are available on [SharePoint](#).

- Marine debris and plastic pollution originates inland and washes into the ocean at an estimated rate of 8 million metric tons every year or 1 garbage truck of garbage per minute.
- The negative effects of ocean pollution include habitat destruction, navigation/safety hazards and negative tourism impacts. Plastic in the environment breaks down into smaller and smaller pieces of plastic or microplastics and can be found everywhere; in freshwater, ocean water, the air, bottled water, tap water and the food we eat.
- Microplastics are more dangerous than other pollution because they contain and attract chemical contaminants, can lead to marine life population decrease and have negative ecological and biological health effects. Humans are consuming one credit card worth of plastic every year, but the effects of microplastics on humans are still unclear.
- KPB has a microplastics program; volunteers are citizen scientists who collect countywide samples and study contents for microplastics. KPB uses this data in their education program that includes handouts, videos, outreach events, presentations, clean-ups and their new curriculum "The Story of Plastics" available to the public for free at <https://tinyurl.com/kpbcurriculum>. KPB's education program encourages the community to prevent pollution and help educate others.

Diane Daniel, a part- and long-time resident of Indian Rocks Beach started Vacation Donations as a passion project organization that serves as an information resource to help vacation rentals and tourists reduce their waste. The presentation [slides](#) and [recording](#) are available on [SharePoint](#). Diane can be reached by email at [diane@bydianedaniel.com](mailto:diane@bydianedaniel.com).

- Pinellas County has about 10,000 vacation rentals. The problem Diane noticed is that tourists in vacation rentals purchase food, beach toys and other household products that end up going to waste once they return home.
- Vacation Donations is a non-profit organization that connects tourists and vacation rental property managers to reuse and recycling outlets for commonly used vacation items online at <https://www.vacationdonations.org/>.



- Some programs that Vacation Donations facilitates are take a toy and leave a toy bins, a food pantry bin for non-perishable unopened food at Indian Rocks Beach City Hall and refrigerator magnets for vacation rentals.

## Updates

### State Updates

#### Florida Department of Environmental Protection

*Jennifer Ciaravella*

- County Recycling Coordinator Training for the calendar year 2023 Solid Waste Management Report will be hosted in Tallahassee on Saturday, March 8, 2024 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. For more information, visit <https://floridadep.gov/waste/waste-reduction/content/recycling>.

### Regional Updates

#### Pinellas County

*Stephanie Watson*

- Stephanie Watson has been promoted to Section Manager 2, Hazardous Waste Manager of Hazardous Waste Programs; Emily LeMay has been promoted to Interim Program Manager of Recycling and Outreach Programs; Catherine Eichner has been promoted to Section Manager 3, Infrastructure and Support Services Manager.
- The next [Household Chemical Collection](#) events are at Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) North on January 13 and January 27.
- Businesses, hobbyists, government agencies, etc. are invited to properly dispose of unwasted chemicals and electronics at [Business Electronics and Chemical Collection events](#); the next one is February 10.

*Emily LeMay*

- The scope for the Countywide Recyclable Materials Composition Study is finalized and Solid Waste expects the sampling plan this week. Solid Waste will reach out to municipalities to formally ask for participation and will give estimated cost and number of total samples needed for countywide statistical significance. Municipalities can request additional samples to get more accurate data. The study gives the county countywide contamination rate and top contaminants.

*Ashley Wyland*

- New section on the [Collection: Garbage and Recycling](#) webpage: “What to do if you think recyclables are being mixed with garbage.”
- The 2024 Recycle Guide is out for delivery. Email [recycle@pinellas.gov](mailto:recycle@pinellas.gov) to request copies. Solid Waste emailed municipalities about obtaining copies; please respond if you haven’t already. The virtual copy is available at [Pinellas.gov/recycle](https://Pinellas.gov/recycle).



*Jasmine Scott*

- The fiscal year 2024 Municipal Recycling Grant program reimbursement request packet was sent to all municipalities in December. Reimbursement requests are due Sep. 15, 2024. Municipalities have the option to use their allocation to pay for participation in the recyclables composition study. If you wish to do so, wait for additional instructions.
- The Residential Recycling Awareness survey will be kicking off in the next 2 months. The last report was in [2020](#). The purpose is to gauge residents' understanding of and participation in recycling programs, learn where residents get their information and understand their recycling habits.

## **Regional Updates**

### **Pinellas County Municipal Updates**

#### **City of Clearwater**

*Savannah Bennett*

- Held a dog park event to encourage folks to pick up after their dogs to avoid stormwater contamination in September. The event was successful, so they are hosting another at a different dog park. They will be at Enterprise Dog Park on Thursday, March 14 from 2 - 6 p.m.
- Hiring an [intern in the sustainability division](#). It will be in-person and the hours are flexible.

#### **City of Dunedin**

*Natalie Gass*

- Hiring for [Environmental Specialist I \(Sanitation & Recycling\) and Environmental Specialist I \(Stormwater\)](#).
- Soft launch of a bead reuse program for Mardi Gras – details coming soon.
- [SHREDFEST](#) on Sat., Jan. 20 from 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. at Achieva Credit Union. Free and all Pinellas County residents are welcome.
- [Hope Spot Festival](#) on Feb. 17 from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. at Edgewater Park. Zero-waste, ocean conservation event.

## **Community Updates**

#### **Keep Pinellas Beautiful**

*Stephanie Lawler Ellington*

- Great American Clean-up season starting March 1. [Upcoming KPB Events](#).
- Annual Awards Luncheon on Feb. 9 at 11 a.m. at Anona United Methodist Church, 13233 Indian Rocks Road, Largo, FL 33774 to celebrate volunteers and partners. If you plan to attend, [please register on Eventbrite](#).

## Work Group Updates

### Contract Work Group

*Jasmine Scott*

- Stephanie Watson will be stepping down as Chair as the role of Household Hazardous Waste Programs Manager does not align with the focus of the group on contracting for mixed recycling collection, processing and marketing.
- Seeking a new chair and members. Do not need to be a member of the work group. There is no application, but those interested are encouraged to read the [Charter](#). Chair would be best fit if they have experience with recycling collection, processing and marketing. Jasmine Scott is the Secretary and does most administrative tasks including scheduling meetings, taking notes and coordinating reviews. The group focuses on maintaining the [Contract Guidance Document](#). If you're interested, please message [jscott@pinellas.gov](mailto:jscott@pinellas.gov) or [recycle@pinellas.gov](mailto:recycle@pinellas.gov).

### Contamination Work Group

*Ashley Wyland*

- The Work Group needs your help! We are looking for volunteers to help us complete surveys (English and Spanish) with the public on the current ads. Will send an email soon with more details and asking for volunteers.

### Low Waste Event Guide

*Brian Ulbricht and Emily LeMay*

- Next meeting is Thursday, Jan. 11 at 10 am. Wrapping up draft and need to format it. Brian is with Solid Waste through Jan. 19.
- We need photos from events – what to do (good labeling, volunteers at waste stations, reusable décor, sustainable giveaways, etc.) and what not to do (overflowing containers, recyclables in garbage, wasteful giveaways, single use plastics at vendor booths, etc.).

## Open Discussion

No comments.

## Announcements

- Savannah Bennett, PPR Chair announced that she's leading a task force to create a mission and vision statement for PPR and called for volunteers to reach out to her at [Savannah.Bennett@MyClearwater.com](mailto:Savannah.Bennett@MyClearwater.com). She will be setting a meeting for the group to develop a draft.

## Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m. Next meeting is Wed. March 6, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. on Zoom.