



Pinellas Partners in Recycling Meeting Notes for March 6th, 2024

Virtual Meeting

Overview and Attendance

The Pinellas Partners in Recycling (PPR) meeting was held virtually at 9:30 am on Wednesday, March 6th, 2024.

Members present included Amy Siuda, Eckerd College; Andy Henjes, City of Largo; Ashley Wyland, Pinellas County Solid Waste; Ben Cegelski, City of Oldsmar; Bill Pickrum, City of Dunedin; Cassie Cordova, City of Clearwater; Catherine Eichner, Pinellas County Solid Waste; Chris Perry, Florida Department of Environmental Protection; Danny Gallagher, Hillsborough County; Daric Hunt, Waste Pro; Diane Daniel, Vacation Donations; Emily LeMay, Pinellas County Solid Waste; Eric Morales, Manatee County; Jasmine Scott, Pinellas County Solid Waste; Jeanne Detweiler, Manatee County; Jennifer Ciaravella, Florida Department of Environmental Protection; Julianne Perez, City of Largo; Kaitlyn Roy, City of St. Pete Beach; Kelsey Grentzer, Pinellas County Communications; Kendrix Anderson, City of Gulfport; Kiana Sladicki, Pinellas County Solid Waste; Lael Giebel, KnowBe4; Mary Oquendo, Manatee County; Natalie Gass, City of Dunedin; Pat DePlasco, Keep Pinellas Beautiful; Paul Sacco, Pinellas County Dept. of Solid Waste; Rachelle Dobbs, Pasco County; Randy Rudd, Kessler Consulting, Inc.; Savannah Bennett, City of Clearwater; Shawn Shimko, City of South Pasadena; Stephanie Watson, Hillsborough County; Tyler Ward, Recycling Services of Florida; Wei-Ting Lui, CDM Smith; Wilfred Homes, City of Belleair; Melody Yin, City of Clearwater. Daric Hunt, PPR Vice Chair recorded the notes.

Call to Order

Savannah Bennett, PPR Chair called the meeting to order at 9:30 am.

Review of January 10, 2024, PPR Meeting Notes

No objections to notes as written.

Introductions

New members introduced:

Andy Henjes, City of Largo

Updates

State Updates

Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Jennifer Ciaravella

- Solid Waste Management Report season kick off. In-person training for recycling coordinators in Tallahassee Friday, March 8.

Chris Perry



- Public sectors recycling reporting season

Regional Updates

Pinellas County

Emily LeMay

- Recycling composition study completed. More information later. Study will provide countywide contamination rate.

Ashley Wyland

- 2024 Recycle Guide available for pickup. Email recycle@pinellas.gov if interested in printed copies.

Jasmine Scott

- Workforce Recognition Event for Pinellas County employees Wed. April 24, 2024. Solid Waste Disposal Complex open from 5 – 6 a.m. for haulers and municipalities only, 6 a.m. for everyone else and will close at 11 a.m. More information to come.
- Fiscal year 2024 Municipal Recycling Grant reimbursement requests due to recycle@pinellas.gov by Sept. 15, 2024.
- Volunteer Opportunity Food Recovery at SEPC Show in Tampa. Saturday, March 9 from 5:30 – 9 p.m. shift needing volunteers. [Here is the link to sign-up.](#)

Hillsborough County

Danny Gallagher

- Introducing Stephanie Watson in new role with Hillsborough County.
- Positing Recycling Coordinator and Recycling Specialist positions soon. Be on the lookout.
- Solid Waste Master Plan in the works.

Regional Updates

Pinellas County Municipal Updates

City of Clearwater

Savannah Bennet

- Thursday, March 14 from 2 – 6 p.m.: Dog Park Event to encourage folks to pick up after their dogs to avoid stormwater contamination.
- Saturday, April 27: Paper Shredding Event

City of Largo

Julianne Perez

- Making changes to Starkey recycling drop-off center. Currently open 24 hours a day seven days a week and is unstaffed. Changes in the works to help reduce illegal dumping and contamination. More to come.



- Keep Pinellas Beautiful is taking over Recycling Presentations for the city.
- Cardboard only bins in the works. More to come.

City of Dunedin

Natalie Gass

- New Environmental Specialist position within Solid Waste division created and hired. Will be joining PPR soon.

Community Updates

Keep Pinellas Beautiful

Pat DePlasco

- Good news: Number of volunteers are increasing and total tonnage of litter collected is decreasing across the board. Example: Gandy Beach 500 tons of litter collected per weekend has decreased to less than 250 tons of litter collected per weekend
- Shared 2023 data roundup including: 167,281 lbs. of litter collected, 16 new gardens created, 1,294 community projects, 641 Educational Events. All of which saved over one million dollars in labor to taxpayers by volunteer work.
- Award Luncheon in February 2024 – Looking for new place for event due to increased in attendance. Contact Pat DePlasco pdeplasco@kpbcares.org if you have a venue to donate.
- Surfing Evolution Foundation gave funding for sea oats planting. Contact info@kpbcares.org if your municipality is interested in sand dune restoration projects or is in need of sea oats.

Vacation Donations

Diane Daniel

- First citywide (Indian Rocks Beach) food drive went well, but not great. Hard to reach out to vacationers and rental property management. Doing another one on March 30, 2024.
- Hosting a How Vacations Can Boost Food Donations webinar April 2 from 3 p.m. – 3:50 p.m. through [Food Waste Prevention Week](#).

Work Group Updates

Contract Work Group

Jasmine Scott

- Stephanie Watson has stepped down as chair with new position at Hillsborough County. Jasmine Scott is Secretary. Will look for a new chair in 2025 when it is time to update the [Contract Guidance](#) resource. Meanwhile, keeping updated log of Pinellas County municipal recycling collection and processing contracts.

Contamination Work Group

Ashley Wyland



- Stephanie Watson has stepped down as chair with new position at Hillsborough County. Ashley Wyland has stepped up as the interim chair until battery ads project is complete.
- Surveying being conducted for battery contamination ads; call for help from municipalities to survey folks in community on effectiveness of the ads. Contact awyland@pinellas.gov to offer assistance.
- Next meeting March 27 at 1:30 p.m.

Waste Reduction Guide Work Group

Emily LeMay

- Conducting final round of edits to reduce text and increase use of visual elements. Getting with Pinellas County Communications for help. Hoping completed guide will be online by early summer or late spring.
- Low waste event photos needed. Send to elemay@pinellas.gov.
- Next meeting on March 21 at 10 a.m.

Open Discussion

PPR Chair

- Savannah Bennett announced she is leaving the City of Clearwater for a non-profit organization.
- New PPR Chair needed. Election will be held at next meeting. PPR Chair must be a municipal member of the Voting Membership.

Outreach on Proper Disposal of Rechargeable Batteries

- Bill Pickrum attended Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) Winter Florida Conference. Asked the group how are we handling and communicating the disposal of lithium [rechargeable] batteries? Creating hot load truck fires when placed in garbage or recycling. Noted Palm Beach County's good presentation of this topic. Called for the need to build on messaging of proper disposal of rechargeable batteries as a county to be proactive versus reactive. Disposal of solar panels is next to come, and we need to be prepared.
- Emily LeMay and Ashley Wyland touched on Contamination Work Group work with battery ads. Proposed the work group continue to help standardize battery messaging.
- Pat DePlasco offered to place battery collection bins at community Keep Pinellas Beautiful events.
- Chris Perry shared the state has been in contact with South Carolina regarding their "Be Battery Smart, Avoid the Spark" campaign. More resources to come soon.

Community Events: Earth Day and Food Waste Prevention Week

- Julianne Perez announced the City of Largo is attending school events to message about disposal wipes not being flushable.
- Chris Perry shared the calendar of [Food Waste Prevention Week](#) events local to the state.



- The City of Clearwater shared their [Earth Day events](#).

Conferences: SOAR and Compost Consortium

- University of Florida IFAS Extension is hosting a Research Compost Consortium Conference Wed, Mar 27, 2024 at 9:30 AM. Register on [Eventbrite](#).
- Pinellas County Solid Waste won an APWA award and two SWANA awards!
 - Waste Conversion and Energy Recovery Facility Excellence Award for the successful completion of the \$240M investment to extend the Waste-to-Energy Facility life.
 - Communication, Education & Marketing Game Changing Tools Award for the development and implementation of the virtual tour:
<https://pinellascountyswdc.vrticalmedia.digital/>
- Emily LeMay will be attending SWANA's SOAR (Sustainability. Operations. Action. Resources.) Conference in Phoenix, AZ April 15 – 18.

Announcements

Savannah Bennet presented PPR Draft Mission & Vision Statement.

Adjournment

Next meeting is May 15, 2024 at 9:30 am via Zoom. A special election for PPR Chair will be conducted.