



## **Pinellas Partners in Recycling Meeting Notes for September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

Virtual

### **Overview and Attendance**

Attendees included Wilfred Holmes, City of Belleair; Jonathan Campbell, City of Clearwater; Kervin St. Aimie, City of Clearwater; Savannah Bunch, City of Dunedin; Deanna Doss, City of Gulfport; Julianne Perez, City of Largo; Raymond Adams, City of Largo; Ben Cegelski, City of Oldsmar; Colin Bartholomew, City of Safety Harbor; Rodney Due, City of Seminole; Vicki Fordyce, City of St. Petersburg; Marco Villagomez, City of Tarpon Springs; Nick Gerakios, City of Tarpon Springs; Jason Warrenfeltz, City of Temple Terrace; Joe Munoz, City of Temple Terrace; D Anspach, Coastal Waste & Recycling; Melinda Gonzalez, Coastal Waste & Recycling; Amy Suida, Eckerd College; Chris Perry, Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection; Jennifer Ciaravella, Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection; Karen S Moore, Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection; Kenneth Karbowski, Goodwill Industries-Suncoast, Inc.; Thomas Dickerson, Goodwill Industries-Suncoast, Inc.; Angela Fama, Hillsborough County; Stephanie Watson, Hillsborough County; Megan Jackson, Keep Pinellas Beautiful; Earl Gloster, Kessler Consulting; Mary Oquendo, Manatee County; Eric Morales, Manatee County Solid Waste; Rachelle Dobbs, Pasco County; Ashley Wyland, Pinellas County Solid Waste; Catherine Eichner, Pinellas County Solid Waste; Emily LeMay, Pinellas County Solid Waste; Jasmine Scott, Pinellas County Solid Waste; Jordan Luscier, Pinellas County Solid Waste; Kiana Sladicki, Pinellas County Solid Waste; Leslie Caplin, Pinellas County Solid Waste; Rachel Sullivan, Pinellas County Solid Waste; John DiNardi, Solar Sanitation; Diane Daniel, Vacation Donations; Roger Johansson, Veransa; Tim Bowers, Waste Management; Daric Hunt, Waste Pro; Chloe Tucker, ; Dara Mazzola, ; and Joohwan Kim.

Daric Hunt, Waste Pro recorded the notes.

### **Call to Order**

Vicki Fordyce, PPR Chair called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

### **Review of July 24, 2024, PPR Meeting Notes**

No objections to notes as written.

### **Introductions**

New members that introduced themselves included Jay Leshefsky, Serio-Us Lock; Jordan Luscier, Pinellas County Solid Waste; and Leslie Caplin, Pinellas County Solid Waste. Welcome, all!

## Presentation

### Remora - Amy Siuda, Associate Professor of Marine Science at Eckerd College

Amy shared a marine debris prevention tool (Remora) that is easy to use in outreach settings and sustains commitment to plastic reduction efforts. Remora is a free mobile app that allows individuals to track their single-use plastic uses and refusals. As the resulting data set from the Remora community grows, it can be used to inform environmental policy and business practices. Amy shared the impetus for the development of the tool and how to use the tool at your organization. Using the St. Petersburg straw ban as a case study, we will explore how the app can generate new policies or support existing regulations.

Remora Resources:

- <https://microplastic.eckerd.edu/>
- <https://reduce.eckerd.edu/>
- [reducesingleuse@eckerd.edu](mailto:reducesingleuse@eckerd.edu)
- [siudaan@eckerd.edu](mailto:siudaan@eckerd.edu)
- [gowanss@eckerd.edu](mailto:gowanss@eckerd.edu)

## Updates

### State Updates

- Karne Moore: Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Recycling Grants
  - <https://www.epa.gov/infrastructure/solid-waste-infrastructure-recycling-grants-tribes-and-intertribal-consortia>
  - <https://www.epa.gov/infrastructure/solid-waste-infrastructure-recycling-grants-communities>
  - <https://www.epa.gov/infrastructure/consumer-recycling-education-and-outreach-grant-program#webinars>

### Regional Updates

#### Pinellas County

- Emily LeMay: Construction on site – Citizen Hand Unload Area & Yard Waste/Metals area.
  - 9/12 Board of County Commissioners meeting with Solid Waste update around 52 min. mark: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6BM2tspM1EM>
- Ashley Wyland: Email [recycle@pinellas.gov](mailto:recycle@pinellas.gov) for paper copies of the 2024. Kicked off the 2025 Recycle Guide. Charity Free Disposal applications are wrapping up.
  - Pinellas County's Household Chemical Collection Events: <https://pinellas.gov/household-hazardous-waste-hhw-collection/#mobiles>
- Jasmine Scott: Disposal fee increasing to \$54.50/ton – If the Board of County Commissioners approves the budget in September, the disposal fee for MSW, commercial waste and yard waste



will increase by 6.8% on Oct. 1 from \$51 to \$54.50 per ton. In addition, the Out-of-County Waste Surcharge will increase to \$54.50. Solid Waste has a communication plan to aid in the announcement of the fee increase. Visit our website, <https://pinellas.gov/story/solid-waste-disposal-fee-to-increase/> for more information.

## **Pinellas County Municipal Updates**

### **City of St. Petersburg**

- Vicki Fordyce: Backyard compost program. Chemical Collection Event, TBD – residential recycling stats. Community Updates
  - o St Pete's Chemical Collection Event:  
[https://www.stpete.org/residents/utilities/residential\\_trash\\_recycling/collection\\_schedule.php](https://www.stpete.org/residents/utilities/residential_trash_recycling/collection_schedule.php)

### **City of Largo**

- Julianne Perez: City updating Strat Plan (waste information from county would be helpful, most recent resident survey?)  
Current vacancy for solid waste manager (job not posted yet)  
Used a grant for rain barrel program to purchase additional barrels  
Ask about recycle guides, mailing to MHPs and HOA's?

### **City of Clearwater**

- Jonathan Campbell: <https://www.myclearwater.com/Events-and-Meetings/World-Sustainability-Day-2024>

### **City of Lakeland**

- Written update from Nick Le: The City of Lakeland is NOT STOPPING curbside recycling. Unincorporated Polk County is stopping curbside recycling.

### **Keep Pinellas Beautiful**

- Megan Jackson: Jane Goodall Event, International Coastal Cleanup season, Battle of Bay Event

### **Waste Pro of Florida**

- 2 acquisitions – Chase'N'Green & Central Pinellas Concrete Crushing (Weintraub)
- C&D transfer station in Tampa – in final stages of construction

## **Work Group Updates**

### **Contract**

- Jasmine Scott: Contract WG keeps a database of Pinellas County municipalities' recycling collection and processing contracts. Will reach out to municipalities to request the status of contracts and updated documents. Pinellas Partners in Recycling – Guidance for Developing Recycling Collection, Processing & Commodity Marketing Contracts



(<https://pinellas.gov/pinellas-partners-in-recycling-guidance-for-developing-recycling-collection-processing-commodity-marketing-contracts/>).

## Contamination

- Ashley Wyland: Battery ads are complete and being shared. Website story, Solid Waste encourages residents to properly dispose of rechargeable batteries to keep employees safe: <https://pinellas.gov/story/solid-waste-encourages-residents-to-properly-dispose-of-rechargeable-batteries-to-keep-employees-safe/>. Met in October.

## Low Waste Event Guide

- Emily LeMay: Jasmine reviewed the draft, reimaged the organization, reduced text and pointed out areas where additional information (resources, photos, etc.) are needed. Met on July 19. Team is reviewing the updated draft and will provide feedback by 8/9. The guide will be placed on Pinellas County (PPR) website (<https://pinellas.gov/boards-councils-and-committees/pinellas-partners-in-recycling/>). Team agreed to link directly to Pinellas website and not upload the PDF directly to their own websites. Will also create a PDF that will be housed on Pinellas website.

## Open Discussion

- a. Upcoming conferences: WASTECON and Resource Recycling Conference
- b. America Recycles Day (Nov. 15) plans
- c. Great American Teach-In: Pinellas County on Nov. 13, Pasco County on Nov. 20, and Hillsborough County on Nov. 21.

## Announcements

- a. Pending Board approval on Sept. 19, Pinellas County Solid Waste's disposal fee for municipal solid waste, commercial waste and yard waste will increase by 6.8% on Oct. 1, 2024 — from \$51 to \$54.50 per ton. Visit this website for more information.
- b. Household Chemical Collection Events on Sept. 28, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. open to all Pinellas County residents:
  - i. Pinellas County Government Center, 29582 U.S. 19 N.
  - ii. SPC Allstate Center, 3200 34th St. S.

## Adjournment

Next Meeting: November 20, 2024 at 9:30 a.m.