



Pinellas Partners in Recycling

Meeting Notes for March 19th, 2025

Virtual

Overview and Attendance

Caroline Ogburn, Balcones Resources, SSR Sarasota; Wilfred Holmes, City of Belleair; Jonathan Campbell, City of Clearwater; Bill Pickrum, City of Dunedin; Natalie Gass, City of Dunedin; Deanna Doss, City of Gulfport; John Benton, City of Largo; Colin Bartholomew, City of Safety Harbor; Rodney Due, City of Seminole; Vicki Fordyce, City of St. Petersburg; Edgar Castro Tello, City of Tampa; Nick Gerakios, City of Tarpon Springs; Joe Munoz, City of Temple Terrace; Chris Perry, Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection; Jennifer Ciaravella, Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection; Karen S Moore, Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection; Sommer Turner, Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection; Angela Fama, Hillsborough County; Stephanie Watson, Hillsborough County; Toni Bailey, Hillsborough County; Victoria Durand, Hillsborough County; Pat DePlasco, Keep Pinellas Beautiful; Don King, Kenneth City; Nikki McNew, Kessler Consulting; Eric Morales, Manatee County; Cari Mesa, Miami-Dade County; Kelsey Grentzer, Pinellas County Communications; Ashley Wyland, Pinellas County Solid Waste; Emily LeMay, Pinellas County Solid Waste; Jasmine Scott, Pinellas County Solid Waste; Leslie Caplin, Pinellas County Solid Waste; Paul Sacco, Pinellas County Solid Waste; Sam Dietrich, Prairie Robotics; Alita Kane, Recycling Partnership; Kaitlyn Roy Nielsen, St. Pete Beach Public Works; Jennifer Angelo, Town of Indian Shores; Diane Daniel, Vacation Donations; Tim Bowers, Waste Management; Daric Hunt, Waste Pro; Jeff ; Mera K ; and Novoa A.

Daric Hunt, Waste Pro, recorded the notes.

Call to Order

Vicki Fordyce, PPR Chair called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

Review of January 29th, 2024, PPR Meeting Notes

No objections to notes as written.

Introductions

- New members that introductions
 - Caroline Ogburn – Balcones
 - Sommer Turner – FDEP
 - Toni Bailey – Hillsborough County
 - Cari Mesa – Miami Dade Solid Waste



Presentation

Sam Dietrich, Prairie Robotics

Prairie Robotics is working with more than 30 communities across the US and Canada to reduce recycling contamination. Specifically, this involves installing smart cameras on each recycling collection truck to identify items that don't belong and then providing highly personalized education to residents. Beyond the behavior change, Prairie Robotics also works with operations and dispatch to leverage their platform for reducing missed collection calls and improving cart management.

Updates

State Updates

- Jennifer Ciaravella
 - 2024 SWMR data season has kicked off as of March 1st. Reports due April 1st. Reach out to Jennifer if any assistance is needed.
- Chris Perry
 - Food Waste Prevention Week: April 7th, 2025
 - <https://www.foodwastepreventionweek.com/>
 - <https://foodrecoveryforum.org/>

Regional Updates

Pinellas County

- Emily LeMay:
 - Master Plan Refresh update
 - Emily presented on the virtual tour at the Recycle Florida Today's Spring summit on March 18
- Ashley Wyland:
 - Tire Amnesty Day details – April 19th, 2025, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM
 - <https://pinellas.gov/event/free-tire-disposal-event/>
- Jasmine Scott:
 - Waste composition study details – Starting on March 17th, 2025
 - MRG – Municipal Recycling Reimbursement Grant Reimbursement Requests are due September 15, 2025. Please reach out to recycle@pinellas.gov with any questions
 - HHW Spring Cleaning – In the months of April and May, we are planning a spring-cleaning campaign to encourage Pinellas County residents to drop-off



their household chemicals, including gasoline, at the Household Hazardous Waste Center and the HHW North. The reasoning behind this push is to encourage customers to utilize the HHW programs ahead of hurricane season

- Leslie Caplin:
 - Over 5,000 copies of the Recycle Guide are available! If you want copies, email recycle@pinellas.gov.

City of Tampa (Edgar Castro Tello)

- Working with Prairie Robotics
- Winners of poetry contest – hosting ceremony in April

Hillsborough County (Angela Fama)

- The Hillsborough team has finalized the 2025 Recycling Guide with Tampa Bay Times Newspaper in Education, and we look forward to sharing it with our partners and our residents in the coming weeks. If you are interested in obtaining a digital link, please email Recycling@hcfl.gov and we will share once it's available.
- The Donation & Waste Diversion program, which started as a pilot program with Goodwill in 2022 to rescue items from the waste-to-energy facility and the landfill, has recently expanded to a third location due to its success. To date, over 103 tons of items have been diverted through donation. The Northwest County Solid Waste Facility receives 40% of waste entering our solid waste management system, making it our most highly used Community Collection Center. The donation trailer at Northwest was filled within its first 12 days of operating, and no advertising has been done yet. Here Hillsborough solid waste customers can meet with a Goodwill attendant to determine if their item is in good enough condition to donate; this helps recover good, quality items and saves disposal space with Goodwill Suncoast Industries, a first of its kind program partnership.
- Due to the dangers of compressed batteries causing fires in franchise collector's collection vehicles, Hillsborough is developing a battery campaign to promote safe and proper disposal of non-alkaline batteries. Important resources include the battery ads created by the PPR Contamination Work Group and information on fires and damage to facilities provided by its municipalities.

Pinellas County Municipal Updates

City of St. Petersburg (Vicki Fordyce and Louie)

- Chemical Collection Event – March 29 @ SPC Gibbs Campus
- Green Thumb – April 26-27
https://www.stpeteparksrec.org/programs_events/events/green_thumb/index.php



- Composting events, working with local arborist on projects – Louie
- Deliver mulch and soil Tuesday – Friday
- Composting workshops
https://www.stpete.org/residents/utilities/residential_trash_recycling/composting_waste_reduction.php
- looking to do more collaboration with more local farms and organizations
- planting shade trees at city sites – planted 18 trees at one site so far
 - lost a lot of canopy from the storm
- If anyone knows any City of St. Pete residents interested in mulch
<https://form.jotform.com/240366701805049>.

City of Clearwater (Jonathan Campbell)

- March 22nd, 2025 – Neighborhoods Day
 - Jonathan will be there talking about recycling

Community Updates

Keep Pinellas Beautiful (Pat DePlasco)

- KPB Annual Thank You Event on February 19th, 2025. Wonderful event. 350 people in attendance.
- March 1st – June 30th, 2025: Great American Cleanup – Major Cleanup Push for all of the United States due to 250th Anniversary of the United States of Americas Independence on July 4th, 2026.
- Peddle Pub Fundraiser Event Completed – successful!
- World Oceans Day Event on June 7th, 2025 – Partnering with Clearwater Aquarium
 - <https://www.kpbcares.org/upcoming-events>
- Summer high school workshops (two – one in north county, one in south county)

Vacation Donations (Diane Daniel)

- IRB – Green Fest 16th Annual Event – Pinellas County Solid Waste & KPB will hosting events for Recycling
- Actively collecting food from vacationers to donate to food banks

Waste Pro of Florida (Daric Hunt)



- Big Guava in Tampa – soft rollout opening (starting to accept C&D material at that location)
- Seaside Bird Sanctuary Volunteer Event upcoming – Volunteers Needed – March 28th – 30th & April 4th – 7th, 2025. Please reach out to Melissa Edwards if interested in volunteering @ melissa@seasideseabirdsanctuary.org

Work Group Updates

Contract (Jasmine Scott)

- Jasmine is reaching out to municipalities for updated contracts for recycling collection & processing

Contamination (Ashley Wyland)

- Next meeting scheduled for March, working on March 27. WG is working on the Communication Plan and trying to standardize messaging. Share the social post we posted, mentioned questions that we have been receiving

Low Waste Event Guide (Jasmine Scott)

- Low Waste Event Guide is live. Working with Pinellas County Parks & Conservation Resources to implement the guide for events at Pinellas County Parks.
 - <https://pinellas.gov/tampa-bay-area-low-waste-event-guide/>

Open Discussion

None

Announcements

- Pinellas County Employee Appreciation Event on Wednesday, April 30. Solid Waste Disposal Complex closing at 11:00 a.m. More information to come
- Next Meeting: May 21, 2025 @ 9:30 am via Zoom