

# Hillsboro Environmental Stewardship Committee

## Meeting Summary

May 4, 2023, 3:00 - 5:00 PM

### Clean Water Services

Rock Creek Water Resource Recovery Facility

3235 SE River Road, Hillsboro



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**Present:** Anthony Martin; Brittany Contreras (for Jessica Dorsey); Laura Trunk; Mac Martin; Mia Hocking; Naim Ferris; Robin Straughan; Tasha Johnson; Tina Bailey; Vinod Singh; Zuly Muñoz; Jason Robertson

**Absent:** Allison Puch Cahuich; Audrey O'Brien; Fawn Bergen; Hannah Cruz; Jeff Pazdalski; Kieren Sikdar; Tina Chang; KJ Lewis; Nina Carlson; Dacia Bakkum

**Guests:** Debby Garman; Simone Brooks

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## Agenda

### 1. Member Spotlight: Clean Water Services

Mac Martin (15 min)

Mac Martin (host) welcomed the Committee to Clean Water Services Rock Creek Resource Recovery Facility in southwest Hillsboro. He provided a general overview of the system:

- Rock Creek facility treats, on average, 35M gallons of wastewater per day (mostly central/west Hillsboro)
- Forest Grove and Hillsboro facilities treat additional, separate wastewater flows
- Innovation driven by higher standards required for discharge to Tualatin River
- Rock Creek serves area fed by surrounding creeks and drainages feeding the Tualatin River
- Focus on temperature = proactive purchase/ leasing of upland and riparian areas to produce shade
- Use mix of Hagg Lake water release and recycled water to keep even stream flows year-round
- Goal is to use natural processes as much as possible to reduce ratepayer costs

### 2. Welcome + Introductions

Councilor Martin, Chair (10 min)

Councilor Martin led a round of introductions. He noted that Robin Straughan is the new City of Hillsboro Sustainability and Resiliency Manager. Robin shared that, while originally from eastern Oregon, she has been working on the west side for the past 25 years and, most recently, as the sustainability manager for Washington County over the past decade.

### 3. Programming + Reporting

Jason Robertson (15 min)

Jason Robertson shared project and indicator updates. He noted that partner action responses are still coming in and over half of the newly proposed stewardship indicators are still being developed (this is due to the complexity of forming new GIS layers, etc., but worthwhile as the new set will provide a more representative understanding and monitoring tool for the Committee). **Presentation slides available at [Hillsboro2035.org/environmental-stewardship-committee/](https://Hillsboro2035.org/environmental-stewardship-committee/).**

Questions and clarifications from the Committee:

- HSD sustainable ag facilities in place prior to 2022. New: a) solar array on greenhouse; and b) CSA operation – both provide a more holistic learning opportunity for students (and ensure year-round operation by paying select student interns to support operations in summer months) (FIXED)
- Solarize Hillsboro education campaign to begin this summer or fall (incentives included)
- City Public Works safety enhancements include flashing rectangular lights at select intersections
- Previously, the City and Hillsboro Sustainability Task Force tracked bird diversity as an indicator of environmental (habitat) health at Jackson Bottom Wetlands. In the transition to the Environmental Stewardship Committee, it was determined that Red Legged Frog Egg Masses may be a more suitable indicator because: a) bird diversity counts included flyovers in addition to stoppages; and b) frog eggs tell us more about on-site conditions (drought, wetland restoration success, etc.). It was also noted that 2022 counts of frog eggs omitted Rood Bridge Park and Orenco Woods not for lack of resources or interest, but due to flooding – count sites were inaccessible or clouded by silt.
- The current statistic shows outdated data (1,000 lbs of non-curbside recycle plastics intercepted), when the actual total for 2023 was 1,500 lbs. (FIXED)
- Question re commuting data: are e-bikes considered as part of bike commuting %? (TBD)
- Suggested Agenda Item: How can we better advocate for Hillsboro needs and interests at TriMet (we are not securing new routes at the rate Portland is) (NOTED)

### 4. City Council Updates

Councilor Martin (10 min)

Councilor Martin (Committee Chair) reiterated his commitment to exchanging ideas between the Committee and Council and introducing Committee recommendations or requests to the full Council. He noted that he is always open to questions and discussions, on any topic. He also provided a few Council updates, including:

- Progress continues with respect to installing more housing units adjacent to transit access
- The City purchased land to accommodate future fire response service facilities
- Washington County Sheriff confirmed new measures in place to prevent escape from courthouse
- City partnership with Hillsboro Hops will create new sports facility
- The CHIPS Act should have beneficial impacts for Hillsboro tech industry and economy
- HB3115 will require Hillsboro, and all cities, to adopt a camping ordinance
- City is pursuing low-income solid waste and recycling rate reduction – e.g., those with HH incomes below 185% of median HH income could pay 75% less

- Until courts decide case, Hillsboro will plan to abide by CFEC rule – e.g., will have to consider dropping parking space mandate (although the rule doesn't prevent a development from installing parking should they choose to do so)

**5. Water Resource Recovery Facility Tour** (60 min)

The tour was excellent. If you missed it, and ever have the opportunity to visit, ask for Chris the Chemist. Five out of five stars. Would return. Thank you, Mac, for hosting and organizing!

**6. Member Announcements/Public Comment** (10 min)

- All Partner Celebration: Thursday, June 8, 4-6pm, Hidden Creek Community Center
- Vinod shared that Far West Recycling will serve as a return site for households seeking to drop off their wood stoves (as part of Countywide efforts to reduce PM 2.5 emissions).