

BOARD OF TRUSTEES – WASATCH FRONT WASTE AND RECYCLING DISTRICT (WFWRD)
MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

DATE/TIME	LOCATION	ATTENDEES
<p>Monday, June 26, 2023 9:00 a.m.</p> <p>Next Board Meeting Monday, August 28, 2023 9:00 a.m.</p>	<p>Public Works Building 604 West 6960 South Midvale, UT 84047</p>	<p><u>Board Members:</u> Daniel Gibbons (Chair) – City of Holladay, Greg Shelton - White City, Keith Zuspan – Town of Brighton, Phil Markham – Murray City, Robert Piñon – Emigration Canyon, Scott Bracken - Cottonwood Heights (<i>arrived at 9:56 a.m.</i>), Sherrie Ohrn – Herriman City</p> <p><u>Participating Electronically:</u> Cyndi Sharkey - Sandy, Eric Barney – Magna City, Laurie Stringham - Salt Lake County, Patrick Schaeffer - Kearns (<i>arrived at 9:33 a.m.</i>), Thom DeSirant - Millcreek City</p> <p><u>Excused:</u> Anna Barbieri (Vice Chair) – Taylorsville City, Tessa Stitzer - Copperton</p> <p><u>District & Support Staff:</u> Pam Roberts, General Manager/CEO Paul Korth, Finance Director/CFO Rachel Anderson, Legal Counsel David Ika, Operations Manager Renee Plant, Administrative Manager Catarina Garcia, Executive Assistant/Board Clerk Matt Ferguson, Controllor/Treasurer Sione Tuione, Residential Recycling Collection & Sustainability Manager Dustin Bradshaw, Residential Refuse & Special Services Collections Manager Andy King, Asset Manager Shane Norris, Safety & Emergency Preparedness Coordinator McKenna Tupa'i, Sustainability Coordinator Jorge Benitez, Data & Program Specialist Chris Grover, Equipment Operator</p> <p><u>Public:</u> Patrick Craig - Salt Lake County, Abby Evans - Salt Lake County, Pam Cotter, City Council - Murray City, Melissa Kotter, Compensation Consultant, Justun Edwards – Herriman City</p>

THE WASATCH FRONT WASTE AND RECYCLING DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING AGENDA

To be held Monday, June 26, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. at the District Offices located at 604 West 6960 South, inside the Salt Lake County Public Works Administration Building Training Room. This meeting will also be held electronically via Webex. Public login is:

<https://slco.webex.com/slco/j.php?MTID=me8c09f4d4ab5ae6cf29f6ea11cfe5f0d>

Reasonable accommodations (including auxiliary communicative aids and services) for individuals with disabilities may be provided upon receipt of a request within five working days' notice. For assistance, please call V/385-468-6332; TTY 711. Members of the Board may participate electronically.

Call to Order: Daniel Gibbons, Board Chair

Roll Call: Catarina Garcia, Board Clerk

1. Consent Items (**Approval Requested**)

1.1. May 22, 2023, Board Meeting Minutes

2. Meeting Open for Public Comments

(Comments are limited to 3 minutes) Public wishing to submit a comment to the Board of Trustees may do so by submitting their comment to the Board Clerk at cgarcia@wasatchfrontwaste.org before Monday, June 26th, 8:00 a.m. All comments must include the name and address of the individual making the comment. These comments will be read at the meeting as if the individual were present. Public comments can also be made in person or via Webex during this time.

3. Business Items:

- 3.1 Formal Acceptance of the 2022 Independent Financial Audit and ACFR as Presented During the May 22, 2023, Board Meeting: Pam Roberts, General Manager and Rachel Anderson, Legal Counsel (**Acceptance Requested**)
- 3.2 Annual Fraud Risk Assessment: Paul Korth, Finance Director (**Information/Acceptance**)
- 3.3 Equipment Operator Apprentice Program: Pam Roberts and Melissa Kotter, Compensation Consultant (**Approval Requested**)
- 3.4 Staff's Request to Cancel the July 2023, Board Meeting: Pam Roberts (**Approval Requested**)
- 3.5 General Manager's Report: Pam Roberts (**Information**)
- 3.6 Plastic Bags Discussion: Board Chair Gibbons and Board Member Markham (**Discussion**)

4. Closed Session (If Needed)
The Board of Trustees may temporarily recess the meeting to convene in a closed session to discuss the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual, pending or reasonably imminent litigation, and the purchase, exchange, or lease of real property, or other legally applicable reasons as provided by Utah Code Annotated §52-4-205.
5. Other Board Business
This time is set aside to allow Board Members to share and discuss topics.
6. Requested Items for the Next Board Meeting Monday, August 28, 2023, 9:00 a.m.
 - Review the 2nd Quarter Financial Report and Cash Projections
 - General Manager's Report:
 - Review of the 2024 Budget, Goals, and Priorities

TOPICS/ OBJECTIVES	KEY POINTS/ DECISIONS	ACTION ITEMS WHO – WHAT – BY WHEN	STATUS
Call to Order / Roll Call / Continued Staff Introductions			
	Board Chair Gibbons called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and Catarina Garcia conducted the roll call.		
1. Consent Items			
1.1. May 22, 2023, Board Meeting Minutes (Motion & Approve)	There were no questions or comments on the minutes.	Motion to Approve: Board Member Shelton Second: Board Member Markham Vote: All in favor (no opposing or abstaining votes).	Approved June 26, 2023
2. Meeting Open for Public Comments (<i>Comments are limited to 3 minutes.</i>)			
	There were no public comments, and no one present had public comments. Board Chair Gibbons closed the period for public comments.		
3. Business Items			
3.1 Formal Acceptance of the 2022 Independent Financial Audit and ACFR as Presented During the May 22, 2023, Board Meeting: Pam Roberts, General Manager and Rachel Anderson, Legal Counsel (Acceptance Requested)	Board Chair Gibbons explained that while the 2022 Independent Financial Audit and ACFR were presented to the Board at the last meeting, it was not presented for motion and formal approval.	Motion to Accept: Board Member Stringham Second: Board Member Piñon Board Member Markham abstained having been excused from the May Meeting. Vote: All in favor (no opposing votes).	Accepted June 26, 2023

<p>3.2 Annual Fraud Risk Assessment: Paul Korth, Finance Director (Information/Acceptance)</p>	<p>Paul introduced the Annual Fraud Risk Assessment. The Utah State Auditor’s Office requires an annual evaluation of an entity’s fraud risk and separation of duties. The evaluation must be presented to the entity’s governing board and submitted to the Utah State Auditor’s Office.</p> <p>Concerning question #3 on the Basic Separation of Duties Questionnaire, a mitigating control was implemented in 2020 and continues to be in place in 2023 (a monthly report is generated and reviewed).</p> <p>Based on existing policies, processes, and internal controls the management of the Wasatch Front Waste & Recycling District believes that there are adequate separation of duties and internal controls in place to minimize the risk of fraud. Based on the Fraud Risk Assessment Scorecard provided by the Utah State Auditor’s Office and completed in 2023, the Wasatch Front Waste & Recycling District has a “low” risk for potential fraud.</p> <p>He pointed out that while there are controls in place, risk is never 100% eliminated. There is always potential for risk, and we must always be aware of things going on, that things change over time, and ensure that we have separation of duties and appropriate authorizations.</p> <p>Paul reviewed the assessment and reported WFWRD’s score is “low risk” at 335 points out of a total 395 points. Regarding question number three on the Basic Separation of Duties “Are the people who are able to collect cash or check payments different from all the people who are able to adjust customer accounts.”, the District implemented a mitigating control. Our</p>	<p>Motion to Accept: Board Member Ohrn Second: Board Member Zuspan</p> <p>Vote: All in favor (no opposing or abstaining votes).</p>	<p>Accepted June 26, 2023</p>
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	<p>customer service representatives can adjust accounts and take payments. Other people review those payments and deposit them in the bank. We have a monthly report that is reviewed by a person that is not a customer service representative. The reason this is important is from an efficiency and customer service standpoint. When a customer is on the phone, CSRs can resolve or address issues and not have to pull someone in or always be dependent upon someone else. Other than that, we answered yes to all the other separation of duties questions.</p> <p>WFWRD is a rather small organization, but we know sometimes we have to get different people involved. Overall, Paul believes we have the controls in place, but there is always room for improvement.</p> <p>Board Member Zuspan asked about the internal audit functions and internal audit committee based upon WFWRD's structure being very small. On another board several Mayors get together as an internal function and review all expenditures on a quarterly basis before they go to the Board. Looking for what doesn't fit and where did expenditures go.</p> <p>Regarding employees and elected officials required to annually commit to ethical behavior, Board Member Zuspan feels it is just as easy to get a yes check mark on that answer too. We all commit to doing appropriate required training annually.</p> <p>Paul replied that we are okay points-wise. We ask ourselves how this is going to help us with risk? Does it just look good for the auditors and for the Board or is there real value there too?</p>		
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	<p>WFWRD does not have an internal audit committee as the audit is reviewed by the Board as a whole. We will develop a separate audit committee to review quarterly expenditures if that is what the Board chooses. Larger organizations like Salt Lake County and the State of Utah have internal audits. WFWRD's outside auditors review numerous transactions.</p> <p>Rachel Anderson added that it is not uncommon for districts to not check that box because it is rather awkward for a small organization. She has one district that has more or less a Finance Committee that meets as needed. She reiterated Paul's comment of a committee adding a real value.</p> <p>Board Member Stringham commented that the assessment for the Board that is listed as an option is a great training tool for new board members as well to help us understand what our obligations are and some of the ethics that go behind what it is we do as a group. The Trust has a copy of the Fraud Risk Assessment that we prepare and uses training as well. As does the State Auditor's office, which is a really good tool for the Board to look at to understand what it is we do and why we do it, and how we should be doing it.</p> <p>As far as having an audit committee is concerned, it is a good first go-round to make sure that we are doing things the way we should and understand what it is we do. Usually, an audit committee is really good if the entity is very large. This assessment is for all types of entities. They do recognize and understand that smaller entities do not have the ability or capacity, or sometimes even the need because there are so few transactions, and each transaction is being approved check-by-check. For those entities where the Board</p>		
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	<p>approves them check-by-check is not really necessary. As the entity gets larger sometimes it is good for the Board to take that cursory glance at the checks to make sure they are going where they are supposed to be going and have that confidence as we go into a regular audit. There are pros and cons to doing it and we're kind of in that middle size as an entity where we could go either way.</p> <p>Board Member Stringham is comfortable either way, noting that WFWRD has really good controls and things in place at the moment.</p> <p>Regarding question #4, Board Member Ohrn said that as far as ethics go, they are required to do continuous training and asked if those certificates would suffice.</p> <p>Pam replied it is not just for board members, it is for employees as well. Paul added that we have discussed what level of staff this applies to. Do we need all our equipment operators, and what is the value there? Management and Administration would be easy, and we can even do it with the equipment operators, but he is not sure if that is the intent either.</p> <p>Pam replied to Board Member Ohrn that no, there is not a reason we do not have an annual ethics statement and once we get our HR Manager on board this could be part of the annual training.</p> <p>Would we have every employee willing to sign off? Pam thinks they are willing to follow it, it is whether or not they would be willing to sign something like that. It might be intimidating but she thinks that we could get there. To Paul's point, it is easy for us in the</p>		
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	<p>office to be able to do that because we are the ones that are really monitoring everything.</p> <p>Pam shared that the Trust has a point value that will go along with this annual assessment. Every member of the Trust will have to submit their fraud risk assessment and we are about one point shy of what is required from the Trust.</p> <p>There is some room for improvement. Every time the Board of Directors meets, Steve Hansen, the Executive Director presents the expenditures in the packet to review. She and the other board members are tasked with that fiduciary responsibility, and it is something that they take very seriously.</p> <p>WFWRD could submit detailed expenditures as part of the packet or a separate attachment and have that be an acceptance quarterly.</p> <p>Pam responded to Board Member Ohrn that yes, we conduct annual performance evaluations that employees sign and agreed it could be a part of that process.</p> <p>One of the other Districts that Board Member Ohrn serves provides the “checkbook”, which is public record, every other month in their packet.</p> <p>Board Member Barney does not have any concerns with the risk assessment and where it fell this year. He is not sure we are shooting for 100%. If risk is being managed effectively, there are no issues, and we are not self-identifying issues, he is comfortable where we are at without having a formal audit committee. He is</p>		
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	<p>unsure whether the size of the District or the volume of transactions justifies one at this point.</p> <p>As far as requiring employees and elected officials to commit in writing to abide by a statement of ethical behavior; his career has been in banking, so risk mitigation is ingrained in the fiber of his soul.</p> <p>Board Member Barney leads a learning and development team, and this is not a very difficult thing to accomplish digitally or virtually. It's as simple as an online module where people attest, which is then digitally recorded and easily handed over to an auditor or to a committee to review once everyone has done it. It is not a tremendous expense or a lot of work or effort to be able to produce that.</p> <p>Board Member Stringham commented that the formal internal audit function can be as simple as bringing specific things in an audit format to the Board to review, such as each of the check stubs. They could send in an agreement that we all have reviewed and are comfortable with what is being paid out and why.</p> <p>WFWRD can also do something much more informal than a full formal audit committee. We can have a formal internal audit function that the Board oversees in our meetings versus a formal audit committee. This is something we might want to consider that would actually increase our score and it is good practice.</p> <p>Board Chair Gibbons suggested this topic be on the agenda for brief discussion in August or September. Options are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • go with our status quo • not create a special audit function as a Board 		
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • create an audit committee • make readily available all financial transactions to all Board members • some kind of a hybrid <p>Pam expressed her appreciation to Board Member Stringham for making the distinction between #8 and #9. There is a difference between an audit function and an audit committee. The “function” could just be making documents easily available to the Board for review.</p> <p>Paul confirmed to Board Chair Gibbons that yes, we are looking for a motion and acceptance of the assessment. It is submitted to the State Auditor’s office and shows up on their website which is part of the reason we present it to the Board.</p>		
<p>3.3 Equipment Operator Apprentice Program: Pam Roberts, General Manager, and Melissa Kotter, Compensation Consultant (Approval Requested)</p>	<p>Pam recognized Andy King, Asset Manager, who has been a big part of developing this program along with Renee Plant. He was instrumental in designing the training and the hours to go along with CDL requirements and Melissa is here to walk through the methodology of the salary and the classification.</p> <p>Pam also mentioned that we are not asking for additional allocations for equipment operators. The idea is that we are going to use at least two allocations to fill these vacant positions. Now we have seven vacancies and have not had a lot of movement with recruitment and onboarding. We have heard through the grapevine that Yellow Trucking is going to be closing their doors. We may see some activity from that, but in the meantime, we respectfully request approval for this Equipment Operator Apprentice Program.</p>	<p>Motion to Approve: Board Member Markham Second: Board Member Shelton</p> <p>Vote: All in favor (no opposing or abstaining votes).</p>	<p>Approved June 26, 2023</p>

	<p>Pam turned the time over to Renee who reiterated that these are not additional allocations but an additional recruiting path. We have our SCRIP program to bring people in on the ground crew. If they have a CDL, we have a regular on-boarding process different than this apprenticeship program.</p> <p>We can focus on career-oriented people, as young as 18 right out of high school, and as Workforce Services called “Earn to Learn”. Renee gave a big shout out to Andy for taking our current training materials and translating theirs into ours. Then we can take it to our federal contact who can potentially look at some grant money where they will potentially pay half of the apprentice’s salary for the first six months.</p> <p>Andy added that WFWRD’s minimum qualifications are a CDL and one year of experience. This program is designed to either take an employee with zero CDL experience but possibly has a CDL, or train an employee to get their CDL and give them that minimum one year experience to actually fill the position. This is a shortfall we have had in our processes.</p> <p>State and federal funding require a tiered program, meaning that we give them 2,000 hours, which is essentially a year. After approximately six months, 1,000 hours, their wage is increased.</p> <p>Renee noted that the actual job description that we have worked on which explains it all in more detail is included in the packet.</p> <p>Pam pointed out that there is no prior work experience or education required. Candidates could be high school</p>		
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	<p>graduates coming in that want to have a career in the waste industry and be an equipment operator. Andy has dubbed it the “Grow Your Own Driver” program and that is the philosophy.</p> <p>Board Member Ohrn commented that we have mentioned high school age a couple of times, so not even a high school diploma, they just have to be 18.</p> <p>Renee replied yes and that McKenna does an excellent job of going out to our schools to talk about recycling. We have already discussed this program is something else she can talk about.</p> <p>Pam turned the time over to Melissa Kotter who explained that when she met with Renee, Andy, and Pam, they talked about the need to look at a different type of compensation for the apprentice program.</p> <p>Her research has shown that there are other private and public companies that do this. Our direct competitors have an apprentice program as well as Jordan School District with their seasonal, non-benefited substitute bus drivers. How do we compensate and attract people that truly want to go into this industry and get the skills and training that they need and then also show them a career path to make them want to stay?</p> <p>Discussions included market pay, minimum isn't enough to compete in the industry, full-time pay, and full government benefits.</p> <p>Melissa reviewed the updated pay plan and is confident to offer a starting wage of \$21.84 per hour then raising to \$22.39 per hour after six months.</p>		
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	<p>Board Member Barney commented that this is an exciting program and asked how we plan to retain these employees.</p> <p>Pam replied that one of the things Workforce Services talked about was an agreement or a contract. She and Rachel Anderson have been discussing possibilities. We hope that our culture and work schedule is something that they desire. Equipment operators give regular positive feedback about the 4/10 work schedule (four days per week 10 hours per day,). There is a guaranteed day off every week and a four-day weekend every five weeks. 20% of our equipment operators are off every day.</p> <p>One of the options under consideration is for candidates to agree to reimburse WFWRD for CDL and DOT licensing costs of approximately \$200.00.</p> <p>Board Member Barney thanked Pam for her response reiterating the focus on retention as hiring and training can be an expensive process.</p> <p>Andy replied to Board Member Bracken that apprentice drivers are eligible to go solo on a route after one year with a mentor.</p> <p>Board Member Zuspan commented that we need to emphasize the value of the pension as well. It is something not readily available in the workforce almost anywhere anymore, and it is more and more important. If they understand the value of that benefit when they are discouraged or looking elsewhere, they need to feel invested and recognize it is going to pay off big in the end.</p>		
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	<p>Other discussions included considering a two-year commitment to recover some of the costs of training them, legalities, pushing home the government aspect, benefits, cash incentives, recognizing the mentors, pay equity with peers, and other employee recognition awards already in place.</p> <p>Pam added that the mentor program is a piece of this behind the scenes that Renee, Andy, David, Sione, and Dustin are developing specifically for this apprenticeship, and two Supervisors are currently being certified as CDL trainers to support this program.</p> <p>Board Member Shelton commented that while he is not familiar with pensions, he asked if we could offer a one-time contribution as a reward that would not necessarily pay out if they left early but would go directly into their pension as a bump.</p> <p>Pam replied yes, however, it would need to be done for every employee. Board Member Shelton said it would be a little bit more equitable for everybody, and this way you can say that if you stay for a year, you get this as well. Which also shows them and trains them about the pension and its value.</p> <p>Pam said we could research it to see what could be done legally through URS. Board Member Ohrn suggested a monetary award after a year with WFWRD. One thing under her purview is to increase the Years of Service Award amounts which we did last year under Paul's recommendations.</p> <p>Board Chair Gibbons recommended the Board approve this program and ask staff to research</p>		
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	contractual and financial equity for existing employees.	Staff will move forward and bring back more information for the August meeting.	
3.4 Staff's Request to Cancel the July 2023, Board Meeting: Pam Roberts (Approval Requested)	<p>Board Chair Gibbons explained that canceling the July Board Meeting has been a tradition as long as he has been on the board.</p> <p>There were no questions or comments.</p>	<p>Motion to Approve: Board Member Ohrn Second: Board Member Shelton</p> <p>Vote: All in favor (no opposing or abstaining votes).</p>	Approved June 26, 2023
3.5 General Manager's Report: Pam Roberts (Information)	<p>Pam began her report by explaining the cover photo of a gentleman who rides around on his bike and picks up random recycling materials along roads, then takes it home in his recycle bin for the District to collect:</p>  <p>She then reviewed our mission to “Provide sustainable quality integrated waste and recycling collection services for the health and safety of our community... because not everything fits in the can.”, our vision of “A sustainable organization that provides for the welfare of our communities.”, and goals to “Sustain a mid-90th percentile, Customer Satisfaction, Achieve a high 80th percentile of Employee Satisfaction, and Balance Environmental & Financial Stewardship.”</p>		

On June 15th we celebrated the National Waste and Recycling Workers Day. According to OSHA, the waste and recycling industry is ranked among the top six most dangerous jobs in the United States. WFWRD goes the extra mile to recognize our dedicated team members for their exceptional work.

We do not always think about all the moving parts that are behind waste collection. Our people are our most valued resource, and we are happy to celebrate them. She thanked the Board Members that were able to attend, noting that their presence was very meaningful to our staff.



She explained the District's other recognition programs such as the Outstanding Employee, High-Five Award, safety incentives, etc.

Pam moved on to Employee Satisfaction. As part of our annual benefit package, thanks to the Board's approval to increase the budget for 2023, we offer a robust EAP through Blunovus. One of their many perks are weekly text messages for well-being and leadership.



Pam continued with Customer Satisfaction & Appreciation.

On Thursday, May 25th, staff and Board Vice Chair, Anna Barbieri from Taylorsville visited Eric Hutchinson at Bennion Junior High School to present him with a Certificate of Appreciation. Eric is a huge help on our driver's Jr. Vigil and Gage Dekorte's routes. Eric helps pick up fallen cans and works to keep waste and recycling from flying out of cans prior to them being dumped. We greatly appreciate Eric's dedication and passion for quality waste and recycling collection services, and we hope he will join our team in the future.

Pam thanked Catarina and McKenna for their behind-the-scenes work in this wonderful event.



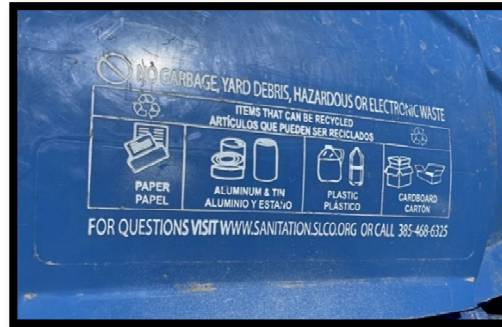


Pam then reviewed Environmental and Financial Stewardship.

As a follow up to previous Board Member requests, she presented the evolution of the recycling can lid for responsible recycling education. The lid emboss campaign rolled-out in 2019. Our contract max order is 7,500, and we will hit that in 2024. That's when we will start ordering the new sticker.



These are older models from 2010 and 2007, which will eventually be replaced with emboss:



The sticker campaign will kick-off in July 2023 with the requested updated sticker. 600 total homes: 200 each in Magna, Kearns, and Taylorsville.



Other discussions included reminder stickers for in-home recycling bins and having stickers available at community events.

3.6 Plastic Bags Discussion: Board Chair Gibbons and Board Member Markham **(Discussion)**

Board Chair Gibbons directed everyone to the plastic bag discussion summary page in their packet. He reiterated that this Board has no authority to impose any type of ban and turned the time over to Board Member Markham.

Board Member Markham explained his goal is to possibly draft a statement or a position to take back to our individual councils and see if they would sign in support of it. He feels that would be a great first step.

Board Member Barney understands localities across the United States have banned plastic grocery bags, particularly in Texas. They saw tremendous success even at a municipal level where there can be traction and gains made. He is unsure that we should wait for

	<p>the County Council to decide, but we could certainly take this back to our own councils and discuss it in our communities, which might be a better grassroots effort to get this rolling.</p> <p>Board Member Sharkey asked Pam if she heard about Waste Management potentially going to start to recycle plastic bags.</p> <p>Pam replied that she has been told that it is a future endeavor. We all understand that plastic bags are recyclable in some way, but the big issue is the tying up of the machine. She has been told by Waste Management that is something they are looking in to, but she has not heard a timeline.</p> <p>WFWRD works with two vendors and to her knowledge our other vendor has not been looking at this type of research. Neither vendor wants them, and we still get charged contamination fees so we will continue our education to keep them out of the curbside recycling cans.</p> <p>Other discussions included the timelines, banning plastic grocery bags in Sandy, the recycling markets, thinner grocery bags and the increased reuse of thicker plastic retail bags.</p> <p>Board Member Sharkey also spoke about if grocery stores actually recycle plastic bags. Some are sure that it is happening. There is hope, but we can never be sure.</p> <p>Board Member Ohrn commented that in general, whenever she is asked by Councils or Boards to sign proclamations or issues not under their purview, she is</p>		
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	<p>always opposed to signing. There are certain things under their jurisdiction to make rules which is where the focus should be. Her opinion differs a bit from putting a ban on plastic bags. We do not have enough information.</p> <p>She spoke about her work with highway cleanup and assured everyone that when you pick up a bag that has been there for a little while it is in a bunch of different pieces. She has a hard time believing that a plastic grocery bag takes 1,000 years to decompose because she has seen them broken down. They do the cleanup every six months and do not know that there are actual hard facts. Thick, heavy, black plastic bags surely take a lot longer to decompose than a plastic grocery sack. She cannot make a super-educated decision about the 1,000 years to decompose statistic because she simply does not believe it.</p> <p>Board Member Ohrn participated in a class with the Youth Council retreat at Utah State where they made sleeping mats from old grocery bags that were sent all over the world. While she understands that there is an issue, we cannot ban them, we can only educate that they are not allowed in recycle cans. Her family reuses them for multiple purposes and does not feel she is the best one to support this.</p> <p>Board Chair Gibbons commented that from the summary in the packet, there are a handful of states that have banned plastic bags, and three municipalities that we know of have banned them in their jurisdictions. Logan City has repealed their ban. The municipalities that enacted an ordinance banning plastic grocery bags are true spear carriers. We have two out of 120 cities in Utah that have done this, and</p>		
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	<p>he sensed from the discussions that we are not likely going to have unanimity from the Board to adopt any sort of formal resolution. It may not even be the wise thing to do.</p> <p>Board Chair Gibbons suggested that the Board continues these discussions and intends to take this information back to the Holladay City Council.</p> <p>Board Member Markham said that having had the subject brought to him, he is in complete agreement that a resolution is not appropriate at this time. His plan of action is to get it on the Murray City Council work session agenda to discuss the facts and information presented here and see what the feeling is. He will ask if it is something that they want to continue to discuss, look at action, or just push it aside.</p> <p>Board Member Ohrn asked if anyone knew why Logan City repealed. Elected official change was the speculation from other Board Members.</p> <p>There were discussions about education and working with grocery stores to make the recycling bins more visible.</p> <p>Board Member Piñon added that he thinks it is a discussion on sustainability. As soon as you ban it, people start bringing their own broad, heavy-duty bags. Last November his family was in Patagonia where there are no plastic bags, and you have to buy bags there. It sends a different message of more awareness. The facts may not be 100% accurate, but it is an idea of sustainability and awareness.</p>		
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	<p>Board Member Piñon recognized McKenna Tupai, sustainability coordinator. She then shared that she is from Hawaii where there is a plastic bag ban. There is also a \$0.15 tax if you want a paper bag, but <i>nobody</i> does that. Everyone brings their own bags. She feels that people do adapt. Plastic bags can be convenient and can be recyclable, but she feels reduction comes before recycling.</p> <p>Board Member Stringham added that it would be interesting to provide a recyclable bag depicting all the items that can be recycled in Salt Lake County. It could be used as an education piece as well as a piece that people can take to quit using the other bags. She thinks it would be interesting if we did some kind of advertising and marketing campaign that way.</p> <p>Board Chair Gibbons replied that there is definitely a role the District has which is education on how to dispose of bags. Previous discussions should not indicate that we do not have any role at all.</p> <p>Pam reminded the Board that WFWRD rolled out a “BYOB” Bring Your Own Bag campaign in 2018, which is still in effect.</p> <p>Board Member Ohrn added that part of the education is that if somebody told her it took 1,000 years to decompose a grocery sack, she simply would not believe it because of what she has seen first-hand. If we have an education campaign it has to be very factual. For example, what has it done for Connecticut to have banned plastic bags? It seems in government that as soon as a decision is made, there are one hundred other things impacted negatively. What are</p>		
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	<p>the pros and cons so we can properly promote a “please stop using plastic bags” campaign?</p> <p>Board Member Zuspan identified the need to define decomposition. There were discussions about knowing how to promote a believable campaign, the exception versus the rule, general rules versus worst-case scenarios, and fear and misinformation.</p> <p>Board Chair Gibbons concluded that there had been great discussions and the topic is definitely something many will take back to their respective councils.</p> <p>As a transitional topic, Board Member Piñon reported on Emigration Canyon’s annual open community Firewise event. All the different districts have their tables, the Mayor cooks pancakes, and there is great attendance. He was able to sit with McKenna at the table for WFWRD and do a quick activity. They had a bag of “stuff” and a blue lid and a black lid. Children and parents had to determine what went where. They even had a pizza box from The Pie Pizzeria© that was really dirty, and they talked about possibly recycling just the top of the box. All in all, it was a very good hands-on experience to help educate the community and at the end they received a bag. They tried to push home the idea of reduction first. He expressed his appreciation to McKenna for her time on a Saturday and encouraged everyone that has those type of events to participate together.</p>		
4. Closed Session <i>(if needed)</i>			
	No closed session needed.		
5. Other Board Business			
	There was no other Board business.		
6. Requested Items for the Next Board Meeting on Monday, August 28, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.			

	<p>Board Chair Gibbons reviewed the items for the August Board Meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the 2nd Quarter Financial Report and Cash Projections • General Manager’s Report: Review of the 2024 Budget, Goals, and Priorities. • Adding the follow-up on the Mentor Apprentice and discussions on the Board’s role with financial reviews. 		
Adjourn			
	<p>Board Chair Gibbons then entertained a motion to adjourn.</p>	<p>Motion to Adjourn: Board Member Shelton</p> <p>Second: Board Member Markham</p> <p>Vote: All in favor (no opposing or abstaining votes).</p> <p>Meeting end time: <i>10:36 a.m.</i></p>	<p>Approved June 26, 2023</p>