

**9-14-16 JOINT MEETING, ZERO WASTE ADVISORY COMMISSION and  
WATER AND WASTEWATER COMMISSION**

**Item 1: Citizen Communication**

**Item 2: Staff Briefings, Austin Water Utility biosolids management**

**Item 3a: Discussion and Possible action: Recommendation and potential policy recommendations on biosolids management by Water and Wastewater Commission.**

**Item 3b: Discussion and Possible action: Recommendation on zero waste policy considerations to be included in biosolids management planning by Zero Waste Advisory Commission. Backup documents from item 3d. August 10, 2016 ZWAC meeting:**  
[http://austintexas.gov/cityclerk/boards\\_commissions/meetings/97\\_1.htm](http://austintexas.gov/cityclerk/boards_commissions/meetings/97_1.htm)

**William Moriarty:** Okay, we are having a little computer problem but we can get our joint meeting of the Water and Wastewater Commission and the Zero Waste Advisory Commission called to order with Chair Acuna. I will call the Water and Wastewater Commission to order and then he will call the Zero Waste Advisory Commission to order and then we will proceed with a joint meeting. So I'm calling our part of the meeting, September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016, here at the Waller Creek Center. Gerry.

**Gerry Acuna:** I'm calling the Zero Waste Advisory Commission meeting on September the 14<sup>th</sup>, to order. Thank you.

**William Moriarty:** And the first item is Citizens Communication. We have several speakers signed up, and know that you are limited to three minutes, I'll call your name starting with Paul Gregory. Mr. Gregory.

**Paul Gregory:** I would like to let Bob Gregory go first (unclear)

**William Moriarty:** Mr. Gregory, are you signed up? Oh he's giving you time so please proceed.

**Bob Gregory:** Let me ask, is it a three-minute limit regardless, you can't have more than three?

**William Moriarty:** That's right.

**Bob Gregory:** Okay. Would you pass out... I will introduce you to my concept, that I have a presentation. I want to give you a package of information, please, that includes questions that should be addressed; the policy issues of this. Let me back up. I'm Bob Gregory with Texas Disposal Systems, forgive my rush. We believe this is a policy issue that's before you today. There are questions related to the policy issues, questions for staff, an email that I sent you last month, actually, yes, in August, a definition of compost that hopefully will be helpful for your discussion today, four meeting transcripts, one being your July 13 Water and Wastewater Commission meeting transcript. And I include all of those in there because it's a migrating story from staff and Synagro on the contract related to Synagro. What started out is a, very clearly to me, a bid for the land application of biosolids, has gone to a composting contract, and I hope you'll take time to look at those four changes in the, four transcripts, excuse me, with the changes in them and you'll particularly, hope to call your attention particularly to the City Council meeting that discussed the policy issues that brought about this joint meeting of these two Commissions. And in that transcript there was discussion concerning whether the RFPs before you today meet the policy of the City, and so the question comes and I think the main issue for your discussion, if I may be so bold to say, is to consider whether the RFPs before you do meet current policy, or whether they need to be pulled down so that policy can be made, or to fit this RFP, or whether we're going to pull them down and repost them for a new RFP that does meet policy, because it's my contention that they do not meet current policy, and you can see that in the policy questions on the front of your package. So in summary I encourage you to not take action on either one of these contracts, to focus on the policy issues related to the two contracts and the two RFPs, and determine what has been addressed and whether they are consistent with current policy. Is that my time?

**William Moriarty:** She'll let you know. If that's all you've got to say we have an obviously robust meeting here, so...

**Bob Gregory:** I'll leave it at that. Thank you very much.

**William Moriarty:** Mr. Gregory, thank you, and I presume all your other colleagues feel they've been...

**Ryan Hobbs:** I'm Ryan Hobbs, I was signed up to donate time to Mr. Gregory.

**William Moriarty:** But he's saying he's finished so I'm going to assume all these donations are done, if that's okay. All right, and I have a representative from Synagro, Pam Roarie.

**Pam Racey:** Hi, I'm Pam Racey with Synagro.

**William Moriarty:** Sorry I didn't read your name right.

**Pam Racey:** No worries. I'm really just here to answer any questions you might have about the company or about our proposal. We are the nation's largest biosolids compost company; we compost over half a million tons of biosolids a year. We're very excited about the process that happened here in Austin, an open and fair procurement and we put forth a high quality proposal to make high quality compost and distribute it in the Austin area and save the ratepayers over a million dollars a year. Any questions you have for me or my colleague, Andrew Bosinger, we'll be here throughout the meeting to answer if need be.

**William Moriarty:** Thank you Ma'am. Cindy Rellin of Compost Art. Ms. Rellin, three minutes.

**Cindy Rellin:** Thank you. I'm Cindy Rellin and I have been working with children teaching them compost art. I've work with hundreds of school children and what we're doing is taking our kitchen scraps, putting them out on a cutting board and making art out of it before it gets walked to the compost bin. This is encouraging people to compost. The art itself is photographed and it's just really awesome. My proposal is more toward the Zero Waste Advisory. We are having a first ever compost art contest in Hyde Park. I have the dates and the location that I will send you all. Saturday October 22, from 1:00 – 4:00 and I invite celebrity judges, especially those involved in composting, and we're going to have presentations, teach children, and when children and adults make art out of compost, out of that scrap of carrot or out of that potato peel, and you change its form and you turn it into a piece of art, it changes the value. It follows all the lines of art; texture, value, color, all of it. And I hope that it encourages, programs like this can expand and encourage people to be wise about their environment. Thank you.

**William Moriarty:** Thank you Ms. Rellin. Andrew Dobbs, Texas Campaign for the Environment.

**Andrew Dobbs:** Am I to understand that this is the only time that the public gets to speak, we don't get to speak when the actual items are presented?

**William Moriarty:** That's correct, Sir.

**Andrew Dobbs:** I would like to go ahead and speak right now. My name is Andrew Dobbs, Program Director with Texas Campaign for the Environment. We are here today to have input. I emailed each of you. If you didn't get it please let me know, I'm happy to email you with our position, but I'm going to cover it as much as I can in three minutes here. The good news is that we're making progress on this issue and I think that we went from a place where there was a black box and a lot of decisions about policy had been made before it was presented to the public, and now we've increased public involvement and we've gotten a little bit of a look inside the box, so it's kind of a gray box now. And what we see, we like. We are glad, it's clear that the Department needs a partner in this project and Synagro is saying some things that we really like. They're saying they want to get to a hundred percent compost, and they want to help out our construction and demolition ordinance. All these things are good things. We're happy to see that. We also think that they should, we hope that the Department will choose to allow it, if they do provide a product that meets the same standards that Dillo Dirt has met to date that they will get to use that name so that we can continue that program and continue leveraging that brand. That said, there are things that we need to change before we can support this contract. Number one, redactions there. There are some of them that are really concerning, namely the exceptions to the RFP that are redacted. That could be minor, or it could open the door wide open. We need to see those before we can approve the contract. It will be public after the contract's approved anyways, let's let the public see it ahead of time. Number two is that we need to define compost and define Dillo Dirt in there, very specifically so that this Class A compost idea that was floated weeks ago is not, it doesn't muddle the issue or compete products that shouldn't be compete with one another. There needs to be concrete plans for, like we need to answer the question, What about regulation? They're talking about major site plan changes at Hornsby Bend, as we understand it, or at least some site

changes. Is this going to require a permit modification? There's needs to be contract issues for screening, for curing, for odor control, and for termination. Without these, you know, there's a wide open net that, you know I'm sure that they'll do great, and I'm sure that I'm sure that the folks that are working there now will do great, but you want to protect yourself just in case things change. There are goals. We need goals and timelines and reports for getting to 100% compost. Saying that you want to do it is great. We've all been, I've lived my life at times when I said I wanted to accomplish things, and didn't set goals, didn't set timelines, didn't set measurements, and I didn't accomplish those things. It's goals and timelines that hold us accountable and they need to report to these Commissions and to the City Council. There needs to be, with the emergency offsite land application, we need to have reports every time that happens and plans for getting it back to normal operation. That can't be a wide open door for anybody. With the charitable donations of compost, that's a great idea. In the past they have donated to people who intended to grow food in it; they need to be informed that there's biosolids in there. Very last thing, Council needs to approve any contract extensions. If we can get these changes, which are numerous and significant but I believe that they are possible, then we can all have a Kum-ba-yah moment and get this thing through. I'm happy to answer any questions.

**William Moriarty:** Thank you Mr. Dobbs, appreciate your time. That's all the speakers we've had signed up so we'll conclude Citizens Communication, and move to the second item on our agenda, Staff Briefing. The Austin Water Utility will make a presentation on the biosolids management program. And ladies and gentlemen on the table if you'd be so kind as to introduce yourselves and begin.

**Judy Musgrove:** I'm Judy Musgrove, I'm Division Manager of Process Engineering at the Austin Water Utility. I'm going to be presenting and, louder? All right, can y'all see, cuz this was really light.

**William Moriarty:** We've got handouts too.

**Judy Musgrove:** Well, this is a, I'm going to go over the Hornsby Bend, we've got some history and how we got to where we are today. I'm going to go pretty fast cuz there's a lot of slides. I tried cutting them back and I just couldn't; it was like cutting off the arm of my child, so anyway. So I'm just going to get through here really fast. Okay and that didn't work. Okay. So, Hornsby Bend started out, we had our sludge coming in from the two wastewater treatments plants, Walnut and SAR, and it went either to land application or stored onsite. So we decided to try composting; it was a new, innovative type idea. We trademarked the name Dillo Dirt and started it in 1989. Back then we used Austin Energy's cuttings for the bulking material, but it wasn't enough for our composting program, what they were giving us. So then the mid 1990's incoming solids were too much for our compost operation to keep up. We started land applying some Class B biosolids. First on just the City owned land, then we started contracting out. Meanwhile, Austin Resource Recovery had some decisions to make. The landfill near the airport - ABIA was coming - and the landfill near the airport had to be shut down. So they had their yard waste going there and they needed a place to take it. So we started a partnership; they diverted their yard trimmings to us and helped us build our first compost pad, or expand the compost pad, and everybody was happy. They got something out of it and so did we. Jumped way into the future; the contract that we have right now expires November 17<sup>th</sup>. In preparation for that date we met with Austin Resource Recovery several times trying to figure out if we could march forward together and we just, during all those talks we figured it was just not quite the right time. They provide us bulking agent from the curbside pickup which is a huge effort for the Dillo Dirt program, but the yard waste mixed with food can't come to Hornsby because of the close proximity to the Austin Bergstrom airport and FAA regulations, it attracts scavenger birds which aren't good for the airplanes going by. So we discussed options to partnering and like covering the trucks, and covering our facility, and just nothing seemed to make sense so we decided that a joint contract for food waste and biosolids wasn't the right time for that. Just to give you an idea of how it works at Hornsby, we have sludge coming in from the wastewater treatment plants and the biosolids, we start calling it biosolids when it's been treated by the digesters so with sludge coming in and then when it's treated it becomes biosolids. Okay, so the wastewater plants discharge the sludge to Hornsby Bend, we add a polymer to it, so it thickens it, the gravity built thickeners, and then the thickened sludge goes through the digesters, gas is produced and then cleaned and converted into energy. The polymer's added, another polymer is added, or the same polymer again is added and the biosolids are dewatered at the belt filter press, at this point it's 18% - 20% solids; we call it cake at that point. Chocolate cake, it's not the same thing. Anyway, Class B biosolids at this point go two different directions under our current contract; it can either go to land application or it can go to be made into compost. It is composted, then the Class B is pulled out of the basin, mixed with the woody waste and

windrows are formed. The process from sludge to Class B is defined by the EPA and TCEQ and the Class B to Class A is a stronger measurement of fecal coliform numbers. Compost that we produce is stabilized. It's a, it's Class A Compost and all compost is Class A because it has to meet that same pathogen reduction. This is our little depiction, that used to be green I don't know why it looks yellow, but the bottom is landfill, which we don't want to do, then Class B biosolids is the next in the hierarchy, and then Class A biosolids is next, and then compost is the top and that's what we are trying to achieve with this new contract, is doing all compost. I was curious about what other cities in Texas were doing and other cities in the country so I did just a quick look, San Antonio does 60% landfill, 40% compost, they're trying to head most toward compost. Dallas does landfill 100%. Fort Worth does 100% land application, they use Class A, they treat it to Class A standards. Denton does 100% compost. Houston does heat drying and then some land application. Boulder, Colorado - land apply. Denver, Eugene, Oregon - these guys all land apply. San Francisco does some reuse which I don't understand what reuse is. I'm guessing is topping on the, well they didn't say what it was, they just say they do reuse, and it's not compost, it's not land application, it's just reuse, so we're not sure what that is. New York, New York - combination of heat drying, land applying, and compost. They didn't give any percentages, they just said it's a combination. So they all have a website that touts how great their land application process is, how it helps the farmers. So in preparing for this new contract, we met with Austin Resource Recovery like I said and we found out about how their food waste program wasn't really going to help us too much with the bulking agent, that was gonna be dropping off and meanwhile we're having a lot of problems with selling Dillo Dirt. We tried all kinds of things to boost sales. We got the Seal of Testing Assurance from the US Composting Council so it can be used on TXDOT projects. That was an expensive endeavor, but, then we have to have it tested monthly, but that didn't help. We lowered the price, that didn't help. We set up to do purchases with credit card, a lot of the complaints were that people had to go down to our office and buy Dillo Dirt credits and then go out to the plant and pick them up so this way they could just pull up use their credit card, get on the phone and buy it right on the spot. We produced a brochure, sent it out, and gave to the vendors. We went by and visited with the vendors and left it for the people to pick up to let them know about Dillo Dirt. We extended our loading hours, went earlier in the morning, later in the afternoon cuz we had heard that that was a complaint that they couldn't get there during the middle of the day. We built a ramp, so the smaller trucks could load. But our sales continued to go down this is from 1990- present. There is one blip in there in 2010 we had a big sale for highway project, but as you can see the sales just weren't just doing well. So we decided to go out for proposals. We drafted a scope of work to the likely vendors and then we met with those vendors for comments, concerns and ideas on our scope. Most of them wanted use of the whole pad; they said they could do the Dillo Dirt for us. Side by side composting and selling doesn't make sense, though we didn't want to run our Dillo Dirt program next to their composting program. So we took all of their ideas and comments and we crafted a scope of work to send out, the RFP that y'all have a copy of, I guess. So what we came up with for our goals for our new contract was that we didn't want to stock pile, we wanted 100% of our biosolids to be used each year. We didn't want to leave anything onsite because of the fire that was, happened before, that this would prevent that. We wanted to save money, we wanted to structure our bid or RFP to enable the vendors to propose any cost effective solutions that they could, and we figured composting was gonna be the cheapest cuz that's what it was for San Antonio, and that's what it was for us with our current contract. We didn't want any regulatory concerns we wanted to make sure somebody had a proven track record working with biosolids and not have to worry about them not meeting the regulatory commitment. Though we said all biosolids had to be beneficially reused, we wanted all the composting areas to be utilized, except for the basin; ARR was using to grind woody waste. We said, that the bulking material ARR produced could be used but no guarantees of the amount. We didn't want any more than 50,000 cubic yards of biosolids stored onsite at any time. All beneficial reuse methods would be considered, we were scoring these so the more beneficially, you know, it was, the better it would score. We wanted dust and fire control plans, and there was an odor control plan requirement in there too. We received five proposals, one was non-responsive so we evaluated the four and Synagro scored the highest of all the proposals. They met the no stockpile options, they saved us money and they have experience. So we went to Council, well first we came to Water and Wastewater Commission and then went to Council and they directed us to work with the two commissions and identify policy considerations. And then simultaneously negotiate a framework for a contract and bring the negotiated contracts back to Council on October 6<sup>th</sup>. So we had to identify the policy issues. Through the help of the organics subcommittee, they were the highest and best use hierarchy with the goal of prioritizing Class A biosolids. Ensuring the City maintains final

disposition of biosolids with a Class B or lower classification, and preserve the Dillo Dirt trademark name. So I'm just gonna get through. Though the current contract points, their land application onsite and offsite will only occur if there's danger of fire present, or if we're close to permit violation. Only City of Austin can dictate when land application is used. The contractor has to do all the (unclear) except if we dictate the land application. And before we get to that point, we're gonna do an inventory controls every month, and so we'll see it starting to build and we'll start asking for plans to get it taken care of. Dillo Dirt will have a public-private partnership with Synagro to produce and sell the compost using the Dillo Dirt trademark, the quality standards are gonna be the same as what they are now. They have to have a Seal of Testing Assurance by the US Composting Council. That has a very rigorous testing that's done monthly. And so we would like approval from Council to negotiate to execute this contract that we're proposing which is for five years and five, one year extensions. And both Austin Resource Recovery and Austin Water recommend it with the same policy decisions that we just went over. Any questions?

**William Moriarty:** What we'd like to propose, because normally at this point, if it was just the Water and Wastewater Commission, and I'm sure the Zero Waste would be similar, we would spend a good bit of time asking questions, but Chair Acuna and I have discussed a process that we would like to recommend so that we could dig into this a little deeper. And I think, obviously, when this was brought to the Water and Wastewater Commission, I voted for the contract because I was satisfied it was in the best interest of the City of Austin. But there's some suggestions that, there's some wider City advantages that may be available, and what we would like to propose is that we create a working group composed of four members of the Zero Waste Advisory Council and four members of the Water and Wastewater Commission to spend the next six weeks studying this matter and bringing back a recommendation to our respective groups. So I have, I am going to appoint Commission member Susan Turrieta as the Chair.

**Gerry Acuna:** And I would like to nominate or select Amanda Masino as our Vice Chair.

**William Moriarty:** And Commissioner Blanding has agreed to serve and I need two others that would volunteer, and many of you are on other things and have commitments so, I'm trying to keep myself off of this, but do I have two others that would be interested? Nhat Ho, thank you, Sir. Need one more, or you're going to send me to work.

**Gerry Acuna:** All right, so Amanda, Kaiba. Shana?

**Shana Joyce:** I do not have time, I'm so sorry. Overcommitted.

**Woman:** I recommend these guys.

**Gerry Acuna:** That'll teach them not to be here. Actually we have Vice Chair Masino, then we'll have Kaiba White, would also be on this committee. And let's see, I think Stacy did express an interest in doing a little research.

**Heather-Nicole Hoffman:** I can be on it but I can't guarantee I'll make all the meetings.

**Gerry Acuna:** There you go, we have four people.

**Judy Musgrove:** Can I just say something quickly, make sure y'all are doing this with full disclosure. The contract, the proposals we have expire November 15<sup>th</sup>, so if I'm looking at six weeks out that takes us to the end of October.

**Gerry Acuna:** So, can I address that?

**Judy Musgrove:** Yes.

**Gerry Acuna:** Actually this is a, the purpose of this joint committee is to truly bring into focus some of the dynamic changes that have occurred in our policy decisions. When the original Synagro contract was let, I think what, eight years ago, is that correct? Eight years ago we didn't have a Zero Waste Advisory Commission, we didn't have a zero waste goal, I think we were still hanging out over at 812. We since have modified and changed our philosophies, much like the Water and Wastewater Commission has. What I'd like to do is make sure that we are working together as a group. Our philosophy has changed, our focus has also changed. I want to make sure that when we put an RFP together that, yes indeed both of our new policy changes and directives are considered here. Now having said that, six weeks, if I'm not mistaken

please correct me here, I think in six weeks we have a holdover period that would take us through March 16<sup>th</sup>, is that correct?

**Judy Musgrove:** Yes, but it's the proposals, it's not the contract...

**Gerry Acuna:** That's correct, the contract. So what we're hoping to do here is pretty much expedite this. The goal that Bill and I had discussed is to have something brought back to City Council that can be addressed, and answer the questions that some of the Council members have. The questions are answered, at that point Council would direct staff, Water and Wastewater staff, to present a new Request For Proposals, and at that point the actual contract would go out, or the RFP would go out, and hopefully within this timeframe we can bring back hopefully some additional responses.

**Daryl Slusher:** Chair Acuna, Daryl Slusher, Assistant Director, Austin Water, so let me make sure I understand; you're saying that the intent of this work group, well Chairman Moriarty laid out the intent I think, but you're saying the intent is also to let these, this RFP expire, and not do it, so the intent would be to kill that RFP.

**Gerry Acuna:** That could be an inadvertent result. But the intent is to make sure that we're absolutely getting the best possible, most efficient result for the ratepayers.

**William Moriarty:** I guess what he's asking is if they could hold the contract and have these meetings, and if as a result of the meetings the contract proves to be a good thing. It may not.

**Gerry Acuna:** Exactly.

**William Moriarty:** I don't think we're saying kill the contract tonight.

**Daryl Slusher:** I thought I heard you say, let it expire.

**Gerry Acuna:** Well I did refer to that, that is a possibility. Now when I mention wanting to get the most beneficial return on the ratepayers' investment here, that may end up happening. My concerns again, Assistant Director Slusher, is that we absolutely make sure that we have taken the concerns that both of our departments have expressed here. Our Zero Waste goal is at this stage not conducive to land applications, and I'm sure there are some of the things that are in here, I mean, the zero waste goal is one thing, Water and Wastewater's goal, Dillo Dirt is an absolutely fantastic, wonderful, iconic trademark. Now to see some of this not possibly go away, I should say possibly go away, is disturbing to me. And to more importantly see that we're looking at an RFP that suggests taking our current inventory and sending that away for \$64,000, that disturbs me also. The ratepayer...

**Woman:** That's a separate RFP.

**Gerry Acuna:** That is correct, but that's part of the whole process here. And as far as I'm concerned that is a ratepayer investment that we should maximize somehow, some way.

**William Moriarty:** So I'd like to craft a motion to set up this working group, and let me try to say something and you amend it. I move that we create a joint working group of the Water and Wastewater Commission and the Zero Waste Advisory Commission to study the matter of biosolids management at the Austin Water Utility in context with other City programs and the working group meet over the next six weeks and come back to our two commissions with recommendations for moving forward.

**Gerry Acuna:** And I wholeheartedly agree with that.

**William Moriarty:** You want to second?

**Gerry Acuna:** I second that motion.

**Nhat Ho:** Questions.

**William Moriarty:** Mr. Ho.

**Nhat Ho:** Can we have a discussion over that motion?

**William Moriarty:** Yes, we can.

**Gerry Acuna:** Absolutely.

**Nhat Ho:** I mean when I volunteered, I did not have the intention to jeopardize the RFP, so if that is the case I may have to withdraw that volunteer. I think staff spent a lot of time and you know, we as the Commission has approved the contract, so is there any reason why the six weeks cannot be two, given the time sensitivity?

**William Moriarty:** I don't know, I think the working group, once they start working, they may discover they can move through quicker, it may take longer, I mean, we're suggesting six weeks, it seems like a reasonable period of time; there's a lot of information to absorb but I think if it could be accomplished quicker, nobody would be against that.

**Gerry Acuna:** That was an arbitrary number that Bill and I just...

**Nhat Ho:** If it's arbitrary I feel like the decision needs to come in sooner where we decide if the RFP live or die; I don't think that should be left up to... for guessing. So I think the decision should be made where the motion comes first whether to keep the... because we have on our agenda to approve the contract tonight and if that contract getting voted down, that's I feel like the decision needs to be made now before the working group...

**William Moriarty:** I don't think we have to vote it down, we just don't have to vote on it. We're just kind of...

**Gerry Acuna:** Table it.

**William Moriarty:** ... tabling it for six weeks until we gather more information, to address what appear to be some legitimate concerns from the community that maybe some other things ought to be considered. That's all that's going on here.

**Nhat Ho:** Right, but when you...

**William Moriarty:** I think the contracts can be preserved for six weeks; I don't know that, I'm not an expert at them, but maybe there is a way they can be extended and put in the deep freeze for a few weeks.

**Nhat Ho:** So can staff answer that definitively 'cause, I mean, that effects my decision...

**Judy Musgrove:** The proposal expires; we'd have to ask the contractor or the vendor if they would extend, and I don't know if they would. The problem is they've laid this whole thing out now for the public to see, all their pricing is out there. It just seems like it's doing a disservice to them to then let it expire and then rebid.

**Gerry Acuna:** Right, I think Commissioner...

**Daryl Slusher:** I've got Danielle Lord, Purchasing, here too.

**Danielle Lord:** Good evening, my name is Danielle Lord, I'm with the Purchasing office, and in regards to the question of if the proposals can be extended, that would be something that we would have to talk to the proposer about; they can be on our part. However there is a question if Synagro would, or Allen Click, I think we're talking about both contracts here, or both proposals here, if they would be in agreement to extend those. And as Judy was saying the contracts are now available and viewable online so those are now part of the public record.

**Heather-Nicole Hoffman:** Starting with, I'm sorry that not everyone here was at the Organics Committee meeting because we went through a lot of the concerns at that committee meeting, and I know Amanda and I both felt that they addressed many of the issues that we're seeing here, now maybe not all of them, but you should have been at that committee meeting. And I'm sorry that the staff is going through this over and over again. Each time we do we get more information, which is great, and I'm glad to see that. A friendly amendment, we go down to four weeks max, so that we can continue under the current timeline of the RFPs.

**Gerry Acuna:** Let's shoot for a goal of, literally, by our next meetings, our respective meetings.

**William Moriarty:** Okay.

**Gerry Acuna:** Perhaps having a report from, four weeks.

**William Moriarty:** So the proposal is by our next meeting we have the feedback from the working group.

**Gerry Acuna:** Correct.

**Heather-Nicole Hoffman** – Friendly amendment is accepted?

**William Moriarty:** So the contracts, perhaps we wouldn't need to do anything with them, they could sit there and be available to use if that's the path forward.

**Daryl Slusher:** Would you repeat that, I'm sorry, I was talking to Ms. Burazer.

**William Moriarty:** We just shortened it up from six to four weeks, and we're saying that that still keeps the contracts alive.

**Daryl Slusher:** Yes, I think, Ms. Burazer, you want to address that.

**Jane Burazer:** Yes, one point I'd like to bring up is on the Click contract, or the unscreened compost that we have onsite. It's still... our inventory is growing and we need to get it moved and so that is a big concern. And though there are some issues about that, you know, we could be pushed into our options being very limited in how we handle that, and right now our other option would be the current contract.

**William Moriarty:** Would it keep a month?

**Jane Burazer:** Well, I believe that bid is good until about the same time in November, so we should be okay if this can go through by November.

**William Moriarty:** All right, so we're going to try to do this working group for a month, we've got members from both, we have a motion, a second, but we're taking questions, but again know that the working group's going to take a lot of the technical questions, so, but if there are no questions from Water and Wastewater...

**Shana Joyce:** I have a timeline question. So staff said that you're going to bring this contract back up on October 6<sup>th</sup>, right?

**Jane Burazer:** We were asked to...

**Shana Joyce:** You were planning it. Could you move it to the next week, because then I think both of our commissions would have met and would have been able to make a decision so then it could be brought up...

**Jessica King :** That was a Council directive to bring it by October 6<sup>th</sup>, but I believe that in practice, staff has been able to move that.

**Jane Burazer:** Jane Burazer, Assistant Director of Treatment, I believe we can ask for a postponement of it to the October 20<sup>th</sup> Council meeting, which would be following the next commission meeting, here.

**Jessica King** Which is scheduled for the 12<sup>th</sup>. The next ZWAC and, since both of you meet, that is October 12<sup>th</sup>, yes.

**Shana Joyce:** So I was just wondering that, then we can do the four weeks and decide, and then move forward, so I just wanted to bring that up.

**Jessica King:** And just for posting purposes at some point if we could get some clarification, I'm sorry, Jessica King, Austin Resource Recovery, if we could have some clarification on what the objective is with regards to what will come out, the work product that will come out of the joint working group.

**William Moriarty:** Do we need that right now?

**Jessica King:** It will be helpful for posting purposes because you will have, you'll need to post the language and what you'll be trying to accomplish.

**William Moriarty:** We have to have that like, this second?

**Jessica King:** Not the actual language but if you will give us some direction as to what that will be so that we can craft that language in preparation because if we're planning to do, if y'all want to do meetings over a period of four weeks to get to a consensus or an agreement by the 12<sup>th</sup>, we're gonna be working some quick timeframes depending upon if we're talking eight...

**William Moriarty:** Could we have a couple of days to get the objectives pulled together? I mean...

**Gerry Acuna:** You know, I can pull a couple real quick, I mean, it's again, the goal here is to become consistent with our current policies, make sure the RFP's reflect those current policies that we've adopted



as a community. That's goal number one, and a priority goal. Number two, make sure the ratepayers, again, are receiving the most efficient, cost effective service available. At the end of the day we pay for this. Those are the two main items that I currently stress, and here as a Commission, a ZWAC Commission, our zero waste goal is extremely important. We're in the process of implementing our organic collection, if all goes well. Should that happen, I'd love to have an answer real quick. Where are these bulking agents going to come from that can support two major programs. Dillo Dirt requires bulking agents. Organic processing requires bulking agent, whether we do it in-house or somebody else is doing it, where is this material going to come from? These are questions that need to be addressed today, and not wait until after we've got a contract here trying to figure it out. So those are my concerns.

**William Moriarty:** And I was going to add, probably general recommendations to improve both contracts. We'd had some testimony from the public that there's certain things in the contracts that they didn't think were completely good, so maybe we address those at the various discussions. But that's why we'll have the working group. They will dig into this, answer all the questions and come back with a recommendation. So, more questions? Mr. Ho.

**Nhat Ho:** I guess if I sign up for it, I better know what I signed up for. So to echo that, will we be provided the redacted information, and if so, will the members of the committee be under no contact period? 'Cause I know, I felt like the reason for this being kicked back has a lot more to do with procedure than the actual content and I don't want to be put in the position where this working group, it's going to be less public process, or not, it should not be. I just want to make sure I'm clear.

**Gerry Acuna:** Can I address Commissioner Ho's concerns here? And they are my concerns also. You know this is very important future item. And having said that, I mean, transparency and accountability we speak about all the time in government. Is there any way that the actual Anti-Lobby Ordinance can be relaxed to some degree so that we do have an open, transparent conversation about this? And I'm asking Purchasing.

**Danielle Lord:** Danielle Lord again. Actually there has been a request for that and a complaint from that from Synagro to have the Anti-Lobbying, but there are two issues here. There's the anti-lobbying and I believe that's what I'm hearing from you, and I'm hearing that there is an issue with maybe redacted information. That's actually under confidentiality and proprietary information, and the information that was redacted was on the request of Synagro, and it was information that they did not feel comfortable releasing on their partners, as well as various information on business decisions, that sort of thing. And I can't really speak to it so I think that Synagro would need to talk to that, but I can say that the majority of the information, including all the exceptions that were taken, which is only one that I could see that was taken, and through the contract negotiations there has only been one, are public and are viewable online.

**William Moriarty:** So I guess to the greatest extent possible we will open these things but there may be some points that we just can't get all the way there, so...

**Nhat Ho:** I don't think I was requesting those information, I just want to make sure that if we are making the decision as the committee based on the information that is available to us. I don't care one way or the other what those are, I just want to make sure that those are clear. Because that means that whatever information, I've see the information, and I guess if I (unclear) I may have some different thoughts, I just want to make sure that I'm not expecting to look at brand new information in four weeks, and what not. Just want to be clear.

**William Moriarty:** I would suggest that early in the meeting process, maybe get the City legal department to give a quick briefing on what is kosher, not kosher, with respect to Anti-Lobbying, secrecy, confidentiality, etcetera, make sure we don't trip up on that.

**Gerry Acuna:** The process that I am envisioning here, and please correct me, Commissioners. I envision something that is quickly done. Something that we can perhaps bring in some of the experts, I mean, Synagro obviously, you have an expertise in this, but you probably wouldn't feel comfortable sharing some of the questions or answers, and it may not be appropriate for us to ask you questions, but if there is other professionals in this community, which I believe there are quite a few, that we can bring to these committee meetings to answer some of these questions, I think that in itself would help make decisions and answer some of the questions.

**William Moriarty:** One other objective of the group is that we want to determine the future viability of Dillo Dirt. Let's put that down.

**Gerry Acuna:** Correct.

**William Moriarty:** All right. Let's quickly go around to get questions 'cause I'd like to get this voted on one way or the other, 'cause again, when we have the working group, if you're not on the working group you can attend the meeting and participate a little bit, so, we have a motion, we have a second; we don't want to not address questions, but if everybody's said their piece, knowing we're going to have these working group meetings, we're going to have opportunity to ask lots of questions. Should we call a vote?

**Gerry Acuna:** Call it.

**William Moriarty:** All those in favor of the working group proposal that was made and seconded, please indicate by raising your hand. And going around here, I think I show unanimous approval. So with that matter we're not going to vote on the other, so at this point I'm going to move that we complete our meeting here at 6:55 p.m. Thank you Chair Acuna, and thank you Zero Waste Advisory Commission.

**Jessica King:** Commissioners, I'm sorry, could you repeat who the working group members are again, just for the record?

**William Moriarty:** Susan Turrieta, Melissa Blanding, Nhat Ho, and for the moment put my name on as the fourth one, but I may, there's some other people that aren't here that may want to be on it. You want to do it? Chien Lee.

**Gerry Acuna:** These three right here, and Stacy.

**Jessica King:** I'm sorry Commissioners, there are only three for ZWAC.

**Heather-Nicole Hoffman:** Stacy. We volunteered her.