

Western Area Solid Waste Management Meeting, July 15, 2019

Draft Summary

Tamara Cook, NCTCOG, opened with a welcome and introductions. She noted that this is the 4th meeting of this group.

The group stated that paper titled, “Western Region Assuring Long-term Disposal Plan” was a good high-level summary of the issue. Some edits were suggested, and they are listed below, and any further comments are due to Elena Berg, eberg@nctcog.org, by July 31.

- The paper should be referred to as a Study and not a Plan, so change that word in title.
- In fourth paragraph, flip a) and b) as b) is the higher priority.
- Add sentences about the footprint of visitors to the region and the waste they leave behind at major events, conventions, etc.
- Add sentences about the commercial waste in the region, construction, etc. so that the document isn't solely focused on residential waste.
- Include a description of the studies that already exist and can be found on NCTCOG's website.
- Include information about the Regional Recycling Campaign, its focus on waste diversion, and yet the western disposal issue remains due to the region's growth.

The overall consensus of the group was to copy the framework of the Regional Recycling Campaign and apply for a regional grant. The group plans to ask NCTCOG's Resource Conservation Council (RCC) to set aside funds for a scope of study on western area disposal at its next meeting on August 6. So, the group asked attendees, who are also RCC members, to attend the August 6th RCC meeting. Immediately prior to the August 6 RCC meeting, the RCC Regional Management Plan Subcommittee is scheduled to meet. The group requested that the subcommittee recommend this scope of study to the RCC. Attendees who are members of this subcommittee will present this to the subcommittee.

Another potential option to include in the study is a do-nothing scenario and the resulting costs and benefits. What are costs of travel, etc?

Meanwhile, a clear understanding of TCEQ's grant process is needed. NCTCOG staff will gather this information.

Follow-ups

1. Add the western disposal study to the RCC Regional Management Plan Subcommittee's agenda on **August 6**. Ask this group to recommend to RCC that it set aside funds in the regional funding category for a scope of study.
2. Add the western disposal study as an action item on the agenda for the RCC's **August 6th** meeting. Western group attendees who are RCC members are asked to attend.
3. NCTCOG to find out the specifics of the TCEQ's grant requirements.
4. Comments/edits to “Western Region Assuring Long-term Disposal Plan” document are due by **July 31**.

