

## Texas Metals Recycling Advisory Committee (TMRAC)

### Meeting Notes

October 14, 2025

#### **1. Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Texas Metals Recycling Advisory Committee (TMRAC) was called to order at 10:04 a.m. on October 14, 2025, both in-person at 5806 Guadalupe St and via video conference call.

#### **2. Roll Call**

Arnold Gachman	Chairman	Metals Recycling Representative
David Bayouth	Member	Metals Recycling Representative
Stewart Prentice	Member	Metals Recycling Representative
Jim Shapiro	Member	Metals Recycling Representative
Joshua Dean	Member	CPS Energy Representative
Osvaldo Alaniz	Member	AT&T Representative
Robert Carson	Sergeant	Houston Police Department
Bo Stallman	Sheriff	Brazoria County Sheriff Dept.
Anthony White	Sergeant	Fort Worth Police Department
Ron Joy	Service Director	Texas Department of Public Safety
Audrey Rosales	Service Director	Texas Department of Public Safety
Mark Berry	Captain	Texas Department of Public Safety
Amanda Contrino	Sr. Policy Analyst, RSD	Texas Department of Public Safety
Lisa Cargill	CES Manager	Texas Department of Public Safety
Christopher Lyons	CES Manager	Texas Department of Public Safety
Josh Martin	Compliance & Enforcement Spec	Texas Department of Public Safety
Lawrence Cortez	RCS Manager	Texas Department of Public Safety
Robert Hawkins	RCS Manager	Texas Department of Public Safety
Ryan Garcia	LRS Manager	Texas Department of Public Safety
Jennifer Wessels	Supervisor	Texas Department of Public Safety
Samantha Coronel	Admin Operations Team Lead	Texas Department of Public Safety
Carlos Romero	Admin Operations Specialist	Texas Department of Public Safety
Leslie Stevens	Sr. Personnel Admin Specialist	Texas Department of Public Safety
Reneé Davis	Personnel Admin Specialist	Texas Department of Public Safety
Deborah Failey	Personnel Admin Specialist	Texas Department of Public Safety

#### **3. Approval of minutes from previous meeting on May 6, 2025**

Chairman Gachman stated a correction to the minutes needed to be made on page 6 under Possible Recommendation Items, changing the words 'award program' to 'reward program'. After the correction the minutes were unanimously approved as written and distributed.

#### **4. Reports from Regulatory Services Division**

##### **a. SB1646 Training Revisions**

Josh Martin addressed the committee regarding required training on Senate Bill 1646. He stated that since this bill passed into law RSD has been developing some educational and training materials with the purpose of assisting Metals Recycling Entities (MREs) with identifying certain copper and brass materials, particularly material from communications industries and public utilities. Josh presented the developed training draft power point to the committee. He stated that this would be emailed to the members of the committee for further review and input. Furthermore, Mr. Martin stated the finalized version would be published on the DPS website and be available to MREs to view and print. In addition, Ron Joy stated that the guide would be available for the field staff to distribute to the MREs during onsite visits and asked Sergeant Robert Carson and Sheriff Bo Stallman to share this training material with their local district attorney offices for input as well.

##### **b. Law Enforcement intelligence gathering from metal thefts**

Captain Mark Berry addressed the committee regarding metal thefts stating the Texas Department of Public Safety has a division known as Homeland Security Division. They are a repository for information for people that report things throughout the state, both commissioned officers and citizens alike. He stated you can access iWatch Texas online or using a mobile application to report suspicious activity. Captain Berry explained that he and Service Director Ron Joy recently submitted a request to the entity who oversee iWatch Texas and requested for a box to be added for reporting suspicious metals activity. Service Director Joy stated, once the Metals information is added RSD would send a link to the committee members as well as the MREs so they can utilize the Report Suspicious Activity app.

##### **c. SB1646 Admin Rules**

Amanda Contrino addressed the committee regarding rule changes that are necessary due to bills passed during the last legislative session. Amanda stated changes were being made to 36.33 outlining the type of documentation a seller of insulated communication wire must provide to an MRE to establish that the wire was salvaged from a fire. In addition, under that same subsection, 36.39 was added which establishes the type of required documentation that the seller must provide and ensure it is in a retrievable format for ease during audits. Lastly, a penalty schedule has been added, making penalties for stolen copper and brass materials. Amanda stated the rules will be available in the Texas Register beginning October 24<sup>th</sup> and will be open to public comment until November 24<sup>th</sup>.

Discussion continued regarding the changes made due to SB1646. RSD stated that the new changes will require accurate documentation regarding where brass and copper wire were obtained during audits by RSD inspectors. Members of the committee expressed varying levels of concern regarding the difficulty of this requirement. Service Director Ron Joy addressed the committee members stating there will be a 6 (six) month re-education period for all involved.

## **5. Report from Committee Member Representatives**

### **a. Metal Recycling Entity Members**

No report at this time.

### **b. Law Enforcement Representative Members**

No report at this time.

### **c. Industry Representative Members**

No report at this time.

## **6. Discussion and Possible Recommendation Items**

David Bayouth stated the computer software company he uses informed him that they spoke with someone from DPS regarding issuing cash cards and were told that if DPS receives the application and is approved the MRE can pay cash to a customer until they receive the card in the mail. Service Director Joy stated the information he was given is not correct. Mr. Bayouth stated he would try to find out the individual who was giving that false information. Service Director Joy stated if anyone encounters operational issues with DPS employees to report it directly to him and he will investigate the matter.

## **7. Future agenda items**

No future agenda items were discussed at this time.

## **8. Identification of next advisory committee date**

Date of next meeting of the TMRAC will take place May 12, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.

## **9. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 11:54 a.m.