



600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232-2736

MINUTES OF THE METRO SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING COMMITTEE (SWAC) MEETING

Metro Regional Center, Council Chambers

Thursday, March 22, 2007

Members / Alternates Present:

Councilor Kathryn Harrington
Mike Hoglund
Mike Leichner
Bruce Walker
Glenn Zimmerman
Lori Stole
Jeff Murray

Adam Winston
Ray Phelps
Rick Winterhalter
Dave White
Anita Largent
Eric Merrill
Paul Edwards

Dave Garten
Mike Miller
Audrey O'Brien
Matt Korot
Theresa Koppang
John Lucini

Guests and Metro staff:

Janet Matthews
Wendy Fisher
Segeni Mungai
Jan O'Dell
Lee Barrett
Roy Brower
Scott Klag

Marv Fjordbeck
Easton Cross
Warren Johnson
Larry Harvey
Matt Tracy
Jim Watkins
Terrell Garrett

Norm Timmermans
Paul Ehinger
Howard Grabhorn
Jodie Scholz
Bill Metzler
Susan Moore
Gina Cubbon

I. Call to Order and Announcements.....Councilor Kathryn Harrington

- Councilor Harrington opened the meeting at 10:07 a.m.; attendees introduced themselves.
- Approval of minutes: Matt Korot of the City of Gresham moved to approve the minutes; the motion was seconded and the minutes approved unanimously.
- The Councilor asked the members for any announcements: Mr. Korot said that the City of Gresham has made a decision to begin using rollcarts for residential collection.

II. Solid Waste & Recycling Director's Update.....Mike Hoglund

- Mr. Hoglund told the group that the Rate Review Committee completed its work for the year in just two meetings. The Committee recommended that there continue to be no fee for the disposal of Household Hazardous Waste disposal at Metro's stations. Allocations making up the tip fee did not change, though the fee itself is expected to rise by to cover fixed costs. The opening of Columbia Environmental (estimated to occur in January 2008) will be incorporated into new Metro tonnage to determine how much the tip fee will go up, though it's expected to be less than \$1.00.
- Commercial waste sorts continue, as part of the effort to increase recovery in that sector. Findings will be brought before the Committee for a discussion next steps.
- Council discussed the upcoming waste transport contract request for proposals at a recent work session. Staff is weighting criteria to better examine the options, such as rail versus barge or trucking, and will report back to the Council in May. Proposals will be reviewed by the end of 2007.

III. DEQ's Waste Prevention StrategyMike Hoglund

Mr. Hoglund briefly reviewed a handout representing the comments Metro plans to give to the DEQ regarding its waste prevention strategies (as explained by David Allaway at the February SWAC meeting).

The City of Portland's Bruce Walker disagreed with Metro's comments regarding Focus Area 3 (consumer education), saying that while it's true there is a considerable amount of waste prevention information available, the challenge is in how to get that information out to the public. "Focus efforts to find the most productive way to get the information across" might be a good comment.

Mr. Korot moved to authorize Councilor Harrington (as SWAC Chair) to send a letter to the DEQ from Metro and include SWAC in support of the overall comments. The motion passed: 11 yes, 0 nays.

IV. Enhanced Dry Waste Recovery (EDWRP).....Mike Hoglund, Lee Barrett

Mr. Hoglund reiterated how the program came about, and the process thus far. He added that, through staff discussions with Councilors Park and Harrington, a decision has been made to develop a Resolution stating that Metro intends to have its transfer stations meet the EDWRP performance standards. The Resolution should be ready for Council consideration the same day as EDWRP. Regarding self-haul, Mr. Hoglund said that the Department will develop administrative procedures that will form the basis of new dry waste facility licenses and DFAs. Dry waste that falls under the EDWRP residual standard will only include self-tipping vehicles and loose drop box loads.

A study is planned that will examine how to improve recovery from self-hauled loads, ways to supply alternative public services to reduce the demand for self haul, and the economic implications that could result from those alternatives.

Regarding Lakeside Reclamation's planned closure, Mr. Hoglund continued, the EDWRP Ordinance, as written, requires that Lakeside either MRF or not accept unprocessed dry waste. However, he emphasized, discussions with DEQ, Washington County, and Lakeside will be scheduled for early April to discuss a plan that:

1. Stabilizes the economics within the solid waste system so that Lakeside is neither advantaged nor disadvantaged regarding waste coming to the facility
2. Enables Lakeside to close (potentially early) with a fully-funded closure account.

The Ordinance will be presented to MPAC on April 11, Mr. Hoglund said. Council's first read is scheduled for April 26; the second read for May 3.

The membership proceeded to discuss the EDWRP Ordinance, voicing both support and concerns. Issues raised included:

- One member felt that it's unwise public policy to be "held hostage by cheap disposal."
- Washington County voiced the concern that not only solid waste but land use issues are involved.
- Other members expressed concern with the economic uncertainties presented by Lakeside Landfill, and whether it will continue to operate.
- Another member commented that Metro and local governments have a state mandate to meet regarding recovery. It's unrealistic to think there won't be any uncertainty for companies. It's time to get going.

The membership was called upon for final comments and a vote to recommend the Ordinance to Metro Council. Results were: Yes – 6, No – 9. Most no votes expressed support in concept, but included comments of "not at this time," while many yes voters voiced wanting to get the project started.

V. RSWMP Draft DistributionJanet Matthews

Janet Matthews asked members to review the draft RSWMP document and comment in writing prior to the April 26th meeting. Responses to comments made on regional policies at the January 25 SWAC meeting are inserted in the Plan, she told the group; a few items need further discussion.

In particular, Ms. Matthews asked that members carefully consider the section concerning the role of the private sector. She is concerned it may be too vague, and would appreciate others' perspectives and input. Additionally, please check the facts on page 11 (Chapter 2), and offer suggestions regarding the tables on pages 22-25. Ms. Matthews felt the narrative works better than the tables and would like ideas to improve them.

VI. Other Business and Adjourn.....Councilor Harrington

Councilor Harrington thanked everyone for attending and for staying beyond the scheduled time. She adjourned the meeting at 12:07 pm.

Prepared by:

Gina Cubbon
Administrative Secretary
Metro Solid Waste & Recycling Department

gbc
Attachments: Metro Comments on DEQ waste Prevention Strategies
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Planned Metro Comments on DEQ Waste Prevention Strategies

Overall comments will offer:

- Kudos/congratulations to the DEQ for:
 - The detailed work that went into developing the analyses and supporting documents for the strategy.
 - Convening and conducting a project steering committee (on which Metro participated) over the past year and developing the resulting strategy.
- Support for the strategy's overall goal; in particular, to look not just at "end of life" or "downstream" impacts, but at "upstream" impacts from a resource use and product lifecycle perspective.
 - Look forward to seeing it integrated over time with other "upstream" strategies. (e.g., Oregon's greenhouse gas reduction strategy).
 - Think the "upstream" approach is very much in sync with that of the draft RSWMP update.
- Acknowledgement that DEQ's work provides insight into the complex factors behind these increases in waste generation. Work on better understanding these factors should continue.

Specific comments on Waste Generation Focus Areas

Focus Area 1, C&D

- In choosing C&D as the primary focus area, the strategy points to analyses showing that wastes from building materials and household goods are growing faster than other materials, and to trends in housing design and construction (e.g., larger house size, more durables to fill that space) that are driving up environmental impacts.
 - We agree that an assessment of the environmental benefits of "best practices" for waste prevention in the building industry would be a good first step.
 - We also support the idea of partnering with the vigorous "green building" movement underway in Oregon.
 - We believe that developing strategies in response to increasingly larger houses will be difficult, but that "green building" attributes identified for the residential sector should include emphasis on size.

Focus Area 2, Businesses

- Because of the amount of waste businesses generate and their role in product design and packaging, we agree that business practices are an important focus area.
 - The initial focus on packaging may be a good place to start as DEQ has conducted some valuable work on this topic; however, given that the background analysis doesn't point to recent increases in packaging generation, readers may be looking for more discussion of why packaging was selected as the initial project. (For example, the strategy might point out: packaging is still 20 to 30% of the waste stream; and that there are Oregon businesses that could apply the results of the DEQ pilots).

- We like the idea of focusing on how business can provide leadership in advancing a broad case for waste prevention. For example, companies emphasizing source reduction or establishing zero waste programs should be recognized through Governor's awards.
- Beyond packaging, the strategy does not provide much guidance on what business practices should be addressed. Although we acknowledge there is a project ("Project G") that will do this in depth, it would be helpful for the strategy to mention some examples of practices beyond packaging that maybe considered.

Focus Area 3, Consumer Education

- We found this the most problematic of the suggested focus areas.
 - We are concerned that a large amount of consumer waste prevention information is already available and would not want limited resources expended duplicating it. In addition, we think it important to keep focused on "upstream" issues and on the large number of activities already planned for the C&D and business sectors.
 - That said, however, we would support a narrower effort to update consumer waste prevention information already distributed by government.

Focus Area 4, Foundation Research and Analysis

- Although the background studies used to develop the strategy were quite extensive, they also revealed additional work on waste prevention needs to be done. We support the projects laid out, but it is apparent that DEQ will have a challenge in carefully managing investments of time and resources.
 - We are especially interested in the proposed analysis of the environmental impact of bottled water. The results, if widely circulated, could provide the opportunity to educate consumers about the implications of what is, for many, a common purchasing practice.

Alignment with current RSWMP draft

- C&D recommendations in DEQ WP Strategy -- consistent with the focus of RSWMP Waste Reduction / C&D on green building (Objective 2.0)
- Business recommendations (packaging and technical assistance/outreach)-- consistent with focus of RSWMP Waste Reduction / Business technical assistance and outreach (Objectives 1.0 and 2.0)
- Consumer awareness recommendations -- consistent with focus of RSWMP Education / Information Services and Adult Education (Objectives 1.0 and 2.0)

JM:gbc

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