

SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING SUMMARY
October 16, 1996

Voting Members Present

Committee Chair: Ruth McFarland, Metro Councilor
Hauling Industry: David White, Oregon Refuse & Recycling Assoc./Tri-County Council
Jim Cozzetto, Jr., Metropolitan Disposal & Recycling Corporation
Tom Miller, Miller's Sanitary Service, Inc.
Government: Loreen Mills, Washington County Cities
Sue Keil, City of Portland
Citizens: Jeanne Roy, Recycling Advocates
Recycling Industry:

Alternate Members Present

Solid Waste Facilities: Daryl Lyons, Oregon Waste Systems
Recycling Industry: Jeff Murray, Farwest Fibers
Government: Tam Driscoll, Multnomah County Cities

Non-Voting Members Present

Government: Dave Kunz, DEQ
Carol Devenir, Clark County

Voting Members Absent

Recycling Industry: John Drew, Far West Fibers
Hauling Industry: Steve Schwab, Sunset Garbage Collection Company
Facilities: Steve Miesen, BFI / Trans Industries
Gary Penning, Oregon Waste Systems
Government: Gary Hansen, Multnomah County Commissioner
Ken Spiegle, Clackamas County
Lynne Storz, Washington County
Bob Kincaid, Clackamas County Cities
Debra Noah, Multnomah County Cities

Metro Staff and Guests

Tim Raphael	Easton Cross	Richard K. Jones	Cory Ann Chang
Kelly Shafer Hossaini	Cindy Hovind	Diana Godwin	Andre Bjornskov
Jennifer Erickson	Joe Hertzberg	Debra Fromdahl	Vicki Kolberg
Bill Metzler	Bruce Macpherson	Ray Phelps	Steve Emmons
Marie Nelson	Tom Wyatt	Councilor Kvistad	Frank McEntarffer
Doug Anderson	Leo Kenyon	Scott Klag	Bill Watkins
Bryce Jacobson	Paul Ehinger	Gina Cubbon	

1. Updates and Introductions

Councilor McFarland called the meeting to order and announced that because of a staff meeting scheduled for 10:30 a.m. in the adjoining room, the meeting would need adjourn 15 minutes sooner than originally planned. She skipped to Agenda Item 3 and gave the floor to Marie Nelson.

3. Illegal Dumping Plan

Marie Nelson requested that SWAC approve the draft Illegal Dumping Plan for public review and comment. She briefed the committee on key elements of the draft plan which had been developed by the Illegal Disposal Task Force: a regional group to implement the plan; a regional call referral service for the public; a computerized database of dump sites, suspects, perpetrators, and cases; and targeted public education. She then introduced Illegal Disposal Task Force members who were present at the meeting and identified those who were not at the meeting. She also introduced Joe Hertzberg, the project facilitator.

Dave White discussed the section of the plan relating to the theft of recyclables. He said the theft issue had been incorporated into the Illegal Dumping Plan because it seemed the most logical place to address it. He acknowledged that the laws relating to theft were different than those relating to illegal dumping. He had drafted the language in the theft section and thought it addressed his concerns. He added that appropriate Metro and Local Government roles and responsibilities had been worked out as a result of the planning process.

Andre Bjornskov, enforcement officer with Washington County and task force member, said he was pleased with the draft plan. His goal from the outset was to improve communication and cooperation between local governments and Metro. He thought the draft plan would help accomplish that objective because it acknowledged that local jurisdictions have authority and control over illegal dumping. They can also elect to work with Metro and ask for help if they need to.

Mr. Bjornskov reported he had created a computer database for Washington County that could serve as a model for the regional database recommended in the plan. He thought the database was a good example of how regional cooperation would help solve a problem. In his words, "Illegal dumpers cross jurisdictions; so should our information."

Dave Kunz commented that DEQ is currently targeting illegal landfills, and the proposed plan would help identify the roles and responsibilities that governments and the private sector would take on to solve other problems related to illegal dumping.

Loreen Mills said she appreciated the work that had gone into this project. The draft plan looked good, she said, and would help get ahead of the illegal dumping problem. Councilor McFarland noted that communication between Metro and local governments had already improved.

Steve Kraten, Metro enforcement officer, explained that the Illegal Dumping Plan described only one part of the Metro Solid Waste Enforcement Unit's activities. Other activities, such as enforcement of designated facility agreements and flow control, were not addressed in the plan.

Joe Hertzberg, project facilitator, said the plan represented a good collaborative effort and the beginning of consensus. To carry out the plan would require people to face the problem in spite of other priorities. Sue Keil stressed that illegal dumping was one of the few areas of solid waste management that the public considered a top priority.

Marie Nelson requested that SWAC members review the plan between now and November 22 -- the public involvement phase -- and submit any comments to her in writing.

Councilor McFarland commended the Task Force on its work. Sue Keil moved that the proposed Illegal Dumping Plan be approved for release to the public for review and comment. Loreen Mills seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. Ms. Nelson said SWAC would be asked to recommend Council adoption of the Illegal Dumping Plan in January.

2. Approval of Minutes of September 18, 1996

Mills moved, Keil seconded, a motion to approve the minutes. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

4. FY 1997-98 Metro / Local Government Waste Reduction Work Plans Regional Solid Waste Management Plan (RSWMP) Implementation

Marie Nelson explained that Metro and Local Government staff had completed work to develop draft implementation plans for the upcoming fiscal year. This meeting would launch a period of public review, would provide an opportunity for staff to present highlights of the proposed work plan, and an opportunity for SWAC members to ask questions to provide comments about the proposed work plans. She introduced Jennifer Ness Erickson and Bryce Jacobson, Metro staff involved in the work plan's development and the public involvement process.

Jennifer Erickson reported that the work plan's format has evolved to show its correlation to the RSWMP. A schedule had been developed for getting the proposed work plan out to interested parties for review by the public. Comments will then be incorporated into a report that the Committee can discuss at the next meeting. A final draft should be ready for discussion / adoption in January 1997.

Jeanne Roy remarked that the schedule looks very good and commended staff for following the RSWMP format. The Work Plan is much easier to follow now, she said.

Sue Keil suggested the work plan might have included too much detail, especially concerning the types of information commercial waste haulers need to provide to governments. The plan should identify the results to be achieved, she said, but did not need to specify all the details of how each local government would achieve them. Tom Miller mentioned that the City of Gresham developed a tracking system for recycling collection registration of non-designated haulers (charity recycling collections, for instance).

Bryce Jacobson reported on the public involvement efforts. Announcement letters have been sent out to haulers, recyclers, and other interested parties (800 total). Of those, 140 have called and asked for a full work plan packet.

Jeanne Roy expressed concerns related to the commercial recycling and waste prevention work plan elements - in particular that there is no definition of what will make up a "waste evaluation."

5. Rate Restructure Options

Doug Anderson provided a brief update regarding the recent process to evaluate rate restructure options. Staff's objective, he said, had been to keep an open mind to the options throughout the process. He learned that the current rate structure had problems; and that comments from stakeholders repeatedly called for rate relief and equity with the industrial segment. He said that work toward equity will continue, but in the meantime, there is strong consensus for keeping the status quo. He also said that ADFs (advance disposal fees) would continue to be considered by the Executive Officer.

Councilor McFarland pointed out that, because the rate has not increased over the last few years, it actually reflected a reduction in the face of rising costs and inflation. Sue Keil voiced concern, however, that the rate didn't provide

much benefit to the residential customer. Jeff Murray said that "it came down to going to a lot of work for a very small portion of the populace." It would cost an enormous amount of money to implement measures that wouldn't affect most of the rate payers. Tom Miller commented that because no clearly better option has been identified, the status quo remains "by default".

6. State of the Plan Report - FY 1995-96 Annual RSWMP Tracking and Reporting

Doug Anderson introduced the draft State of the Plan Report saying that this type of progress report had been contemplated in the new RSWMP. Since this was the first report, he asked that SWAC review its format and content and get back to staff with any questions or comments. Staff were working to release the completed report in November.

Jeanne Roy commented that she liked the format. She asked when Table 1.1 would be complete. Mr. Anderson responded that the information would be provided upon completion of several major studies -- the single and multi family information would be provided in about two months; the business sector information should be available by the end of the fiscal year; and the construction information by December, 1997.

7. Facility Regulation

a. Code Revision. Councilor McFarland reported that Metro would soon propose names for a Metro Facility Code Revision Task Force. SWAC would be asked to approve task force members at the November meeting. After discussion, Dave Kunz was volunteered to represent DEQ. Sue Keil suggested that staff contact a wider group of environmental organizations, such as OSPIRG or the OEC, to broaden the task force's perspective.

b. Yard Debris Facility Licensing: Scott's Hyponex. Bill Metzler reported that Scott's Hyponex had applied for a yard debris processing permit and staff would recommend that the Council grant that permit. He explained that Scott's Hyponex was the first of approximately nine facilities expected to request a permit. Staff had received all necessary documents and had completed its inspections and reviews. The request would be considered by the Council and REMCOM in November.

c. Yard Debris Facility Licensing: General. Mr. Metzler said staff would soon recommend to the Metro Council that yard debris facility licenses be granted as an administrative, rather than Council action. This request would include an emergency clause which would enable facilities to begin operations three days after administrative approval, rather than the currently required three months. If a facility is owned or operated by a local government (such as River City, or Portland Leaf), they would be exempted via an intergovernmental agreement, he explained.

8. Proposed Remodel of Metro South Transfer Station to Alleviate Wait Times

Paul Ehinger reviewed key elements of a proposed transfer station capital improvement plan, and focused on those that would shorten wait times for haulers. He explained the improvements would provide more flexibility for material recovery, better conditions for employees, additional hazardous waste collection capabilities, and mitigate future flood damage.

The top three causes of longer wait times:

- Insufficient tip capacity.
- Deficiency in outbound scale capability.
- Basic traffic conflicts.

Proposed construction that will help alleviate the problems:

- Add another in-bound lane.

- Add an out-bound scale.
- Add tipping space for wood, etc.
- Put in a recycling area that customers would reach *before* the scale area.
- Create a separate area for self-haul customers. Currently, the facility is just not “self-haul friendly”.
- Relocate wash rack.

Sue Keil questioned what measures could be taken immediately to shorten wait times. Paul Ehinger replied that Metro has contracted with St. Vincent dePaul for temporary staff to help unload self-haul and direct traffic. The two unused bays are located at each end of the pit, and are not usable because of space constraints for maneuvering large commercial vehicles. Scalehouse staffing is only a problem when there are illnesses, so doesn't warrant additional staff. Automation will help the situation somewhat, but most of the transactions are public/self-haul rather than tare-weighted commercial vehicles. Currently, there is an average of one transaction every 30 seconds.

Merle Irvine said that if his materials processing facility were a designated re-load facility, 26 trucks a day could be diverted from Metro South. He said he had submitted to reload facility application to Metro staff and added that residual waste from his MRF would be sent to the landfill at Arlington.

9. Tentative Agenda for November 20 Meeting

Dave Kunz asked that a DEQ update be added. The agency has awarded Metro an \$11,000 recycling grant for plastic.

Sue Keil requested a report from Terry Peterson regarding any operational changes to shorten wait times.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

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