

**MINUTES OF THE METRO COUNCIL
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING**

Wednesday, February 6, 2002
Council Chamber

Members Present: Susan McLain (Chair), Carl Hosticka (Vice Chair), Bill Atherton, David Bragdon, Rod Park

Also present:

Absent:

Chair McLain called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

1. Consideration of the Natural Resources Special Committee Minutes of the January 30, 2001 Special Meeting.

Motion:

Councilor Bragdon moved to adopt the minutes of the Natural Resources Committee Special Meeting of January 30, 2001.
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Vote:

Chair McLain and Councilors Hosticka, Atherton, Bragdon and Park voted to adopt the minutes as presented. The vote was 5 aye/ 0 no/ 0 abstain, and the motion passed.

2. ESEE Timeline

Andy Cotugno, Director, Planning Department, presented the draft timeline for ESEE analysis as indicated on the handout (see *Draft Metro Fish & Wildlife Habitat Protection Plan Timeline and Schedule Update* included in the permanent record of this meeting). He said they were hoping to have the basic methodologies of how to apply regional and local scale ESEE analyses defined sufficiently by February or March to go through the Request For Proposal (RFP) process but said they were just starting the discussion of the scope, so they may have to go forward with a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process while that work continued.

There was committee discussion regarding the type of work the contractors will be asked to do. Their work will include four areas, economic, social, environmental, and energy (ESEE) issues. The consultant support is to collect information for Council to make the decisions for policy.

Ken Helm, Senior Assistant Counsel, commented that state law did not give one area more weight than another in making final decisions. He said they were to look at the impacts on the resource and the identified conflicting uses.

Councilor Bragdon added there was policy already in place that might help with the hierarchy.

Mr. Cotugno agreed that 2040 and other documents already adopted would provide some guidance.

Mark Turpel said they were also looking at a number of ESEE analyses that had already been done.

Councilor Hosticka suggested including advisory committee input.

3. Ordinance No. 02-935, Enacting the Community Preservation Act and Establishing a Periodic Popular Vote that Sets Metro Fiscal Policy Relating to Paying for the Cost Impacts of Growth

Chair McLain established that the two ordinances would be considered at the same time for easier public comment.

4. Ordinance No. 02-936, For the Purpose of Amending the Future Vision and the Regional Framework Plan to Fulfill the Charter Requirement to Describe a Process for "Carrying Capacity" in the Region

Councilor Atherton introduced the ordinances and reviewed the goals of each.

Chair McLain gave a brief history of Metro's work on these issues since 1992 when the Charter was passed as she had been the vice chair of the commission then. She said the Future Vision, which was required by the Charter to be adopted by 1995, was a visionary document regarding carrying capacity and not intended to be regulatory. She explained that work had been done by local governments and advisory committees as well as the academic community dealing with carrying capacity in connection with the future vision document and the regional framework plan.

Mr. Cooper added that carrying capacity was referenced in state Goal 6 which was clearly intended to tie back to state and federal laws on air and water quality, and that Goal 14 also had a guideline that mentioned carrying capacity.

Michael Morrissey, Council Analyst pointed out that local communities also had a role in the carrying capacity process.

Pete Sandrock, Chief Operating Officer, spoke about the impact these ordinances would have on the agency (see memo to the committee from the Executive Officer regarding this issue included with the permanent record of this meeting). He directed the committee's attention to Ordinance No. 02-935, Section 070, identifying and reporting growth related expenditures. He said it would be very difficult for concurrent work on these ordinances and the work Metro is already doing due to budget constraints and staff requirements. He added that if the Council desired to go forward, staff would need early notice in order to make budget and other changes that would be needed (see speaking points included with the permanent record of this meeting).

Councilor Park asked how one could tell the difference between the monies generated from tourism dollars from, for instance, the Convention Center, from those generated from new growth as in these ordinances.

Mr. Sandrock said it was a difficult question. The current systems could not do that.

Councilor Atherton clarified that it was never his intent to address issues such as the Convention Center. His question of cost impacts was regarding subsidies necessary for expansion into

Damascus and other areas. In regard to previous comments about the Future Vision, he understood that it was to lay out the vision while the regional framework plan was how to carry out the vision.

Mr. Cooper summarized that the 1997 Council had completed those RFP steps, but the current Council had the power to amend it if they chose to. He added that any amendment would have to be consistent with state law. He pointed out that the Future Vision itself was not to be amended until the Council adopted an ordinance to provide for its review and amendment and then the council was also directed by the Charter to make sure at least every 15 years it went back and appointed another commission to revisit and revise and recommend potentially a brand new future vision.

Councilor Atherton noted testimony from the 204 Re-engagement Coffee Talks regarding rethinking assumptions of the growth concept. He felt it was altogether fitting and proper to do that now.

Chair McLain opened a public hearing on Ordinances No. 02-935 and 02-936.

Larry Derr, 53 SW Yamhill St., Portland, OR 97204 was a member of the charter commission and provided some background from the commission regarding their thoughts on carrying capacity. He said from the beginning, the commission said future planning, land use planning, and facilities planning were key functions of the regional government. He said the most important consensus of the charter commission was that there could very well be a limit to the amount of growth that could occur in the region. He felt the ordinances had some good thoughts to start that discussion. He added there were other things to look at.

Sarah Bidwell, 205 SE Grand, #203, Portland, OR, 97214, representing Alternatives to Growth Oregon, read her testimony in support of Ordinances No. 02-935 and 02-936 into the record. (See copy of written testimony attached to the permanent record of this meeting).

Councilor Hosticka wondered how this proposed process would balance population level with settlement patterns and their impact to carrying capacity.

Ms. Bidwell understood that the ordinances began a process for having a discussion of what the region valued as quality of life.

Councilor Bragdon asked what the children born to the area should be told as the birth rate was higher than the death rate so the net effect was a population increase.

Ms. Bidwell hoped to stabilize the population so it was not constantly increasing and obtain a certain carrying capacity acceptable to the citizens.

Dawn Adams, 2310 Century Lane, West Linn, OR 97068, said visions are useless unless they are put into action. People need to have some say in costs of growth. She felt the vision plan was a good idea but we need to find out what our carrying capacity is and how much growth will cost everyone. She commended Councilor Atherton for submitting the ordinances and said it was high time to let citizens decide. She urged the committee to vote in favor of the ordinances. She added that the population was still increasing rapidly and some kind of taxation or subsidy for

those who don't have families to rethink having too many children. She said it was a very interesting concept and it needed to be talked about.

Bob Adams, 2310 Century Lane, West Linn, OR 97068 supported both ordinances. He felt it was high time to open a dialogue and discuss the issues openly. He said it was time to think about carrying capacity and the ecological footprint of our region.

Betty McArdle, 3740 SW Comus St., Portland, OR 97219, testified in support of Ordinances No. 02-915 and No. 02-936. (See copy of written testimony included in permanent record of this meeting). In regard to Councilor Bragdon's question about the children, she said people could and should make sure that every birth was planned and wanted, although that was not a Metro issue. She said these issues should be talked about now, before a crisis, and take reasonable steps now.

Jamison Cavallaro, 3333 SE Alder St., Portland, OR 97214 supported the ordinances. He said addressing consumption and production issues was important and timely issue around the globe and everyone needed to address consumption now. He urged the council to develop a task force to consider details of having incentives for resources to help with the global problems. He said it would not be an easy task coming to terms with emissions from industrial production processes and global climate changes. He urged conversations about how to move toward addressing these issues. He noted work being done at the University of British Columbia, and a task force called Planning Healthy and Sustainable Communities at the University. One of their members will be at Portland State on February 25th, 6:30 p.m., second floor gallery in the Urban Center, to describe their computer modeling system for carrying capacity. He also felt that the question of emissions should be considered in land use or new industrial processes planning.

Charles Bird, 12312 SE River Rd., Milwaukie, OR, an environmental engineer, urged passage of both ordinances so the discussion could begin on the issues. He did not believe population growth was inevitable and people needed to start talking about how to handle it. He said humans have control of the population and they need to talk about that and educate people about it. He said Metro is in a tremendous position to start those discussions and noted this would be an excellent opportunity to ask questions and figure out what they want for the future.

In response to a question from Councilor Atherton regarding having a public vote on the concept of subsidized growth, all of the testifiers felt it was a good idea and a way to begin working on the issues. The idea of a task force was also mentioned as a good way to start the conversation.

Chair McLain closed the public hearing on Ordinances No. 02-935 and No. 02-936. She said, according to legal staff, at least one of these issues needed to be referred to the Metro Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC) for discussion because of the land use implications, so there would not be a vote on the ordinances at this time.

Councilor Atherton felt positive about the option to consider a task force with a specific timeframe for focused discussion with the community. He said he had heard some important comments about the carrying capacity concept. He said there was a lot of work to be done and now was the time to do it.

There was committee discussion regarding content of the ordinances. They agreed more conversation was needed, that the task force option was a good one, and that there should be input

from citizens regarding whether or not to encourage growth. They also agreed to the need to coordinate this work with other work being done, such as the urban growth boundary and greenspace issues.

5. Fish & Wildlife Habitat Protection Plan

- **“Waters of the State” policy**

Andy Cotugno, Director, Planning Department, said one issue that had been left unresolved when Resolution 01-3141C, adopting significant and regionally significant resources, was adopted was whether or not to adopt the state definition of “waters of the state”. He noted several options that could be pursued and said that Goal 5 TAC, MTAC and WRPAC would be exploring the pros and cons of each approach before coming back to the Natural Resources Committee with recommendations. He explained the options to the committee (see *Memo to Susan McLain from Andy Cotugno RE: Waters of the State – Resolution No. 01-3141C* included with the permanent record of this meeting).

- **Others**

No discussion.

6. Councilor Communications

None.

Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the committee, Chair McLain adjourned the meeting at 3:06 p.m.

Prepared by

Cheryl Grant
Council Assistant

**Attachments to the Public Record for the
Natural Resources Committee Special Meeting of February 6, 2002:**

Topic	Doc Date	Document Description	Doc Number
ESEE Timeline	2/5/02	Draft Metro Fish & Wildlife Habitat Protection Plan Timeline and Schedule Update	020602nr-01
Ords. No. 02-935 & 02-936	2/6/02	Testimony in Support of Metro Ordinances , 02-913 and 02-936	020602nr-02
Ords. No. 02-935 & 02-936	2/6/02	Natural Resource Committee Speaking Points	020602nr-03
Ords. No. 02-935 & 02-936	2/4/02	Memo to Natural Resources Committee from Mike Burton RE: effect of ordinances on staff work	020602nr-04
Ords. No. 02-935 & 02-936	2/6/02	Comments on proposed Ordinance No. 02-936 and proposed Ordinance No. 02-935	020602nr-05
Res. No. 01-3141C	Feb. 5, 2002	Memo to Susan McLain from Andy Cotugno RE: Waters of the State – Resolution No. 01-3141C	020602nr-06

Testimony Cards:

RE: Ordinance Nos. 02-935 and 02-936

Larry Derr, 53 SW Yamhill St., Portland, OR 97204
Sarah Bidwell, 205 SE Grand, #203, Portland, OR 97214
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