

SOLID WASTE POLICY COMMITTEE
August 14, 1992, Meeting Minutes

Members and Alternates Present:

Judy Wyers, Chair, Metro Council
Jack Adams, Cities of Multnomah County
Sharron Kelley, Multnomah County
Martin Pillon, DEQ
Cecilia Petrocco, City of Hillsboro
Susan Keil, City of Portland

Guests Present:

Bob Martin, Director, Metro Solid Waste Department
Mark Buscher, Metro
Terry Petersen, Metro

Chair Judy Wyers brought the meeting to order

I. Committee Member and Citizen Communication

There were no committee member or citizen communications.

II. Approval of May 8 Meeting Minutes

Martin Pillon moved the Minutes of May 8 be approved, the motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

III. Updates

Mr. Martin said he would briefly touch on several items and he would be glad to elaborate on any subject if anyone were interested.

Progress on closure of the St. Johns Landfill is now at a nearly completed stage for Sub-Area 1; the geo-membrane cover has been placed, the topsoil will be placed on top of it and re-vegetation will then take place. In addition to that, a gas collection system has been installed and the last two monitoring wells will be dug shortly.

Mr. Martin said the tour of the St. Johns Landfill, Sub-Area 1 has been planned, primarily for the benefit of Metro Council. Mr. Martin said anyone on the Policy Committee wishing to attend should contact him.

Mr. Martin reminded the Committee that the Willamette Industries proposal for the Washington County Transfer Station near Wilsonville is now being reviewed. It was the only proposal Metro received and the issue to resolve is: How does it compare with the alternative of a publicly owned facility and what issues need to be explored with the proposer. Mr. Martin said it was his opinion that a fair amount of work needed to be done in order to construct a workable agreement for that facility.

Mr. Martin continued, saying that Credit Suisse has received 13 proposals from major firms for the compost facility and they have narrowed those proposals to a "short" list. He had no details as to how many and who was on the list. They will ask the short list of proposers to submit a more detailed, final, proposal. They will then review the proposals the first week of September, and then begin negotiating. Credit Suisse anticipates a 1-month negotiation after selection. Mr. Martin said he has been assured that the odor control issue has been addressed by all proposers and they all seem to have come up with the same solution to the problem that Credit Suisse's Engineers proposed. Mr. Martin stated that they are aimed toward a system that involves a Stage 1 Scrubber, a Stage 2 Bio-filter and a Stage 3 Stack which would essentially reduce the odor producing elements by 90% at each stage.

Ms. Kiel asked Mr. Martin what the Compost Facility would be processing. Mr. Martin replied that he has not reviewed all of the proposals, but he did not believe any of the proposers on the "short" list are proposing to do any co-composting with sewage sludge.

Chair Wyers asked if an update on yard debris collection was timely now and how the City of Portland's decision affects the overall Plan. Mr. Martin answered that he would ask Ms. Kiel for her input and put together a joint report at an early date and include how collection is going, how processing is going, etc.

Chair Wyers asked if sometime in the future the Committee would discuss a proposal to treat contaminated soils rather than place in the landfill. Mr. Martin said that was a timely subject: Metro presently has franchise agreements with four processors presently which will treat soils in a variety of ways to render it relatively clean of hydrocarbons. In addition, there are at least two or more firms interested in bio-remediation of soils. Mr. Martin said this entailed introducing bacterial agents which will destroy the hydrocarbons as opposed to cooking the soil. The SW Dept. has recently completed a survey of contaminated soils being removed as a result of the underground tank storage program. He said 92 sites were surveyed and the soils were being remediated on-site, which essentially means they are being "aerated" on-site. In 75% of those cases, there was either no treatment or the soils were being managed improperly. Mr. Martin stated that Metro is working closely with DEQ on the PCS issue as the ability of Metro to exercise any type of regulatory control with regard to PCS is vague. Information is still being gathered on this subject.

Review and Comment on the Model Zoning Ordinance for Mixed Solid Waste and Recyclables Storage Areas in New Multi-Unit and Non-Residential Buildings.

Mr. Buscher said the purpose of the ordinance was to provide space in new development and any major expansion for solid waste storage and recyclable storage by providing physical space. Most

of the focus heretofore with regard to recycling had been on single family housing. He said that Metro's goal was to help local governments in an effort to reduce duplication of developing research and background information necessary to implement the ordinance. Metro was desirous to implement uniformity of standards throughout the region which would help developers respond to requirements for siting solid waste and recyclable storage areas and incorporate the provisions in their architectural plans. The ordinance was fashioned more towards a guide. The input received from local governments indicated that sight plan review and zoning ordinances vary significantly in their format and it was hoped that this approach would facilitate fitting the ordinance into an existing program.

Mr. Buscher stated he had been working with the Joint Land Use and Waste Reduction Subcommittee in order to receive input from local governments and the hauling community on how to best develop the model ordinance so it can be implemented efficiently and so that the resultant storage areas can be served efficiently. In addition, inquiries were sent to local governments to determine if they had existing recycling standards in their ordinances, and if not, what ideas they would like incorporated in the development of an ordinance. Mr. Buscher said their research indicated very few ordinances existed within local governments which deal with recycling standards. He said they received overwhelming comments indicating they desired an ordinance with objective and measurable standards in it rather than an ordinance geared toward performance standards. Local governments desired something easy to review and implement with the site plan review process, which is often lengthy and complicated.

Continuing, he stated that the committee also developed four focus groups for multi-family, retail, institutional, and industrial development. He said individuals from these groups were interested in an aggressive ordinance. Mr. Buscher said after they developed the ordinance they requested input from these groups to determine they were not unduly impacting the development community and issues related to taking away space dedicated for retail sales, industrial development and apartment complexes.

Mr. Buscher directed the Committee's attention to the documents accompanying the model ordinance: Waste Assessment form, as well as design examples for storage areas. He said the ordinance was being presented to the Solid Waste Technical Committee members for any new input they might develop and that they were continuing to receive input from other sources as well. There was no adoption action necessary for the document. He said it would be presented to local governments and that implementation of the ordinance would be through local governments taking the ordinance and putting it into their site plan review ordinance and then implementation.

Mr. Buscher said he and Steve Kraten of the Solid Waste Department Waste Reduction staff will help local governments to implement the ordinance. Their assistance will go as far as helping to rewrite ordinances for smaller cities if they feel it necessary.

Ms. Kiel remarked that the ordinance looked very good that it was thoughtful, flexible and helpful. The City of Portland was requiring that new, multi-family have a recycling depot and the document will be helpful in that regard.

Chair Wyers noted that "haulers" was not defined, does that term mean haulers including people who haul recyclables. Mr. Buscher said that was correct. He pointed out that the ordinance was developed with the help of Mary Dorman.

The meeting was adjourned.