

Executive Summary

Solid Waste Advisory Committee March 17, 2003

I. Call to Order and Announcements

Susan McLain

- Councilor McLain introduced three new SWAC members: Anita Largent, Clark County's Solid Waste Manager; Dr. Pam Pavalonis, a Naturopath representing regional businesses; and, Wade Lange of Ashforth Pacific also representing regional businesses.
- A response to inquiry regarding repeat customers of Metro hazardous waste services was included in the packet.
- Approval of Minutes: None opposed; the Executive Summary stands as read.

II. Solid Waste & Recycling Director's Update

Mike Hoglund

- Mr. Hoglund announced that the Rate Review Committee (RRC) had recommended a rate of \$67.75 and suggested moving toward a rate based on cost of service and steps to ensure meeting bond covenants. Councilor McLain added that the rate-setting ordinance to be considered by Council contains a slightly different rate than was recommended by the RRC. The Council President concurred with the RRC's assumptions, but choose to recommend a rate of \$67.25.
- Metro is still working with Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to find an equitable solution to ODOT's weighting of trucks at transfer stations.
- The Solid Waste & Recycling Department is also still working towards having CSU trucks retrofitted with filters that reduce emissions and particulate matter.
- The Solid Waste & Recycling Department's proposed budget will be presented at a Council Informal meeting March 26.
- Metro is accepting applications for grants for organics infrastructure development; however, the deadline is in a couple of days.
- A request for proposals (RFP) to select an ad agency to develop an advertising campaign focused on increasing paper recycling in the commercial sector has been issued.

III. Regional Solid Waste Management Plan (RSWMP) Amendment

Scott Klag

Mr. Klag explained that the RSWMP provides a framework for coordinating solid waste programs in the region by establishing regional recycling goals, policies and strategies, and roles and responsibilities. The RSWMP also functions as the waste reduction plan DEQ requires of all wastesheds. This RSWMP amendment is intended to align regional strategies, policies and programs to try and meet the 2005 waste recovery goals. Specifically, this amendment would incorporate the "New Initiatives for Waste Reduction", that target businesses, building industries and commercial organics. The amendment will also incorporate the updated recovery goal and establish a contingency plan process for required recycling that could be implemented if progress toward the 2005 goal has stalled.

In order to meet the 2005 recovery goals, the Initiatives aim to recovery 97,000 additional tons from the business sector, 35,000 additional tons from the building industries (i.e., construction & demolition debris, or C&D) and 45,000 additional tons of commercial organics. The opportunity model for reaching these goals includes the following strategies: emphasize waste prevention; provide information and technical assistance; aim to increase access and use of services; and, support market development.

The contingency plan work group identified in the amendment will be convened and charged with developing recommendations that will include requirements on generators or facilities. This component satisfies an agreement between Metro and DEQ.

Mr. Korot urged caution in having recommendations in place by January 1, 2004, particularly for the commercial organics. He suggests waiting to see how the City of Portland model for commercial organics works.

Mr. Gilbert asked how new initiatives are incorporated into the Plan. Councilor McLain explained that this amendment is a short-term amendment, and that long-term amendments would be considered by Council during the next major RSWMP update. She suggested that ideas could always be submitted to herself or the Waste Reduction Manager, however.

Mr. Merrill suggested that incorporating disposal bans as a contingency plan into the RSWMP would be putting the cart in front of the horse. A work group should make recommendations for a contingency plan, not figure out how to implement this one. Mr. Lucini asked if the work group would be convened to work on the objectives, and not necessarily to implement a disposal ban. Councilor McLain agreed that that is correct.

Mr. Merrill expressed discomfort with the idea of implementing mandatory programs. But, he said that Metro has a pretty successful track record of putting together stakeholder groups to flesh things out, and cautioned Metro not to get too far in front of a stakeholder group's recommendations.

Mr. White asked to clarify the work group's charge. Councilor McLain said that, like the Rate Review Committee, this work group would be an advisory committee to work with staff and make a recommendation to Council. The Council President could then make a decision, taking the recommendation into consideration. Mr. White then expressed concern that by approving this, the "appropriate government" would have too much authority to implement a disposal ban no matter how close to meeting recycling goals the region is. Councilor McLain said that Metro already has the authority to implement a disposal ban, yet the only time the authority has been used it to ban the use of detergents containing phosphorus many years ago. What is being asked is if the Committee is willing to form a workgroup to look at this issue, whether or not the proposed RSWMP amendments are agreed upon.

Mr. Kampfer expressed uneasiness with the two ways identified to increase recovery and asked why other ways were not named. Councilor McLain said that they are additional tools, and there are other ideas already in RSWMP. Mr. Kampfer then asked if the ban would be a disposal ban at the landfill or on the customer. Councilor McLain answered that Metro has authority to ban disposal only at the landfill.

Mr. Winterhalter pointed out that this is a contingency plan, and suggested that rather than continuing to express "fear and loathing of disposal bans," people should suggest other alternatives if they have them. He said he thinks the alternative are in the front-end of the document, and understands that disposal bans are only proposed as a last resort.

Mr. Murray suggested that proposed region-wide advertising be given a chance to succeed before more severe steps are taken. Mr. Lucini agrees that this language seems to recommend extreme action, and perhaps the language should be amended to reflect that banning disposal is just one of many options, and it may not be exercised.

Mr. Walker, while acknowledging that there are still questions, offered to move for adoption of the recommendation and asks about the timing. Councilor McLain says that the Council will be discussing this at the Council Informal meeting the next day, and that it would be nice for her to say that SWAC has reviewed the recommendations, made some comments, generally appreciated the scope, understood that it is a contingency plan, had comments about disposal bans and wanted further opportunity to talk about them and make sure Metro does not see it as the only resort. Mr. Walker motioned to adopt this recommendation. Mr. Gilbert seconded the motion.

Councilor McLain clarified that the Council, like SWAC, would only be discussing this draft staff report tomorrow, and that based on comments, staff would then draft an ordinance and staff report. SWAC members then passed the recommendation by a vote of eleven aye, one abstention and one nay.

IV. Annual Waste Reduction Program Plan (Year 14)

Lee Barrett

Mr. Barrett explained that the Annual Partnership Plan for Waste Reduction is basically our agreement with local governments of how to go about meeting waste reduction goals. This is Year 14 of the Plan, and it is similar to last year's. Metro has \$2.8 million in the annual waste reduction program budget, about \$1.3 million budgeted in the Year 14 program and local governments spend about \$12 for every \$1 that they received from Metro in per capita grants. Metro also has a targeted competitive grant program with \$200,000 available to local governments. The three waste reduction initiatives - construction and demolition debris, commercial, and organics - are budgeted for a little over \$1.5 million. Currently, there is also an organics infrastructure grant program with \$1 million available.

Mr. Barrett said that the recovery rate has gone up according to the latest information from DEQ (from 2001) – from 50.6 percent to 54.8 percent. The overall increase reflects an increase in food recovery, an 11 percent increase in C&D recovery and an 150 ton increase in commercial recovery. He expressed interest in Metro working with local governments to have more timely reporting of recoverables, to better adjust or plan programs.

Mr. White expressed frustration at how expensive waste reduction is, and if citizens only knew they might recycle more. Councilor McLain agreed that we need to continue to put our money where it is most cost effective, whether that is in educating citizens or working on the system.

Ms. Chaplen said that local governments really appreciate the per capita grants, and noted that it takes time to get waste reduction messages across.

Mr. Walker suggests that a motion be made to acknowledge that this is a good program, in that it is a cooperative and effective regional plan developed as a way for Metro to work with the local governments. He acknowledged that these plans have helped develop one of the most successful recycling programs in the country. Mr. Gilbert motions to move this recommendation. Mr. Murray seconded the motion. Thirteen SWAC members voted aye, with no abstentions or nays.

V. Other Business and Adjourn

Susan McLain

Mr. Lucini announced that Mr. Barrett had recently delivered a presentation on contamination and loss of recyclables at the American Forest and Paper Association conference in New York. Mr. Lucini heard positive feedback that reflects well on Portland.

Documents to be kept with the record of the meeting:

Agenda Item III:

1. PowerPoint slides: "Regional Solid Waste Management Plan: 2003 Waste Reduction Amendments" (copy available upon request)