

MINUTES OF THE METRO COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING

Tuesday, August 12, 2008
Metro Council Chamber

Councilors Present: David Bragdon (Council President), Kathryn Harrington, Rex Burkholder, Carl Hosticka

Councilors Absent: Robert Liberty (excused), Rod Park (excused), Carlotta Collette (excused)

Council President Bragdon convened the Metro Council Work Session Meeting at 2:02 p.m.

1. ADMINISTRATIVE/CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER COMMUNICATIONS

There were none.

2. LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Randy Tucker, Public Affairs and Government Relations Department, discussed items on the legislative agenda. He discussed “prevailing wage” in enterprise zones and implications for Metro. He said he would brief Councilors at a later date. Councilor Harrington talked about Cornelius’s involvement in an enterprise zone. Mr. Tucker updated topics discussed at the Vision Committee. He said the trails project was a topic of discussion. President Bragdon asked about other Vision Committee plans. Mr. Tucker discussed material in the meeting packet (see meeting packet). He discussed product stewardship, with examples including the Bottle Bill and the Electronic Waste Bill.

Scott Klag, Solid Waste and Recycling, talked about the framework of product stewardship legislation. He discussed processes involved in legislation, including what products would be included in such legislation. He talked about developing legislative language. He said pharmaceuticals were also aligned with similar legislation. Councilor Harrington said she hoped with pharmaceutical legislation, the Oregon and Regional Water Consortiums would be included in discussions, and that other regional water groups would be involved in collaborative talks. She hoped convening regional stakeholders would be worthwhile. Councilor Burkholder asked about every product having producer responsibility. He said the language was vague, and he wanted to know which products were selected for coverage. Mr. Klag went through a list of products included. Councilor Burkholder asked about participation of environmental groups. Mr. Klag talked about groups involved, as a first draft. Councilor Harrington asked about product stewardship tools as a mechanism for sustainability policy. Mr. Klag said it was one of the first mechanisms for sustainable policy. He talked about paint’s inclusion in stewardship programs.

Councilor Harrington discussed paint legislation and the absence of opponents, and asked about the downside for such legislation. Mr. Klag said a tax was the result of such legislation. He moved on to discuss the Bottle Bill. He talked about including bottled water and flavored juices as part of the Bottle Bill. He talked about difficulties in introducing new distributors into the Bottle Bill system by introducing bottled water into legislation. Councilor Hosticka asked about money handling and who would receive the money for unreturned bottles. Mr. Klag said, for bottled water, it would essentially be the same system. Councilor Hosticka asked about distribution systems. Councilor Harrington said she had heard from colleagues that redemption centers do not work. Councilor Burkholder asked how to minimize consumption in the first place

while maximizing recycling. Mr. Klag said curbside recycling programs and Bottle Bill programs complement each other. He discussed various redemption centers and systems.

Mr. Tucker discussed the “No Oregon Child Left Inside Act.” He talked about financing for the act and different specifics of the supporting coalition. He talked about environmental education components of the act. Councilor Burkholder discussed the state of Oregon’s role with the act.

Mr. Tucker talked about matching funds for the program. He said it was a new idea and had not been brought before the legislature before.

3. BREAK

4. UPCOMING REGULATORY ACTIONS AND WET WASTE ALLOCATION POLICY

Scott Robinson, Acting Solid Waste and Recycling Director and Doug Anderson, Solid Waste and Recycling Department, introduced their agenda and material. Mr. Robinson talked about aligning Solid Waste and Recycling decisions in a strategic and coherent manner. Mr. Robinson presented a Powerpoint presentation (see attachments). President Bragdon asked about directions the Council had provided, and whether those Council directions were included in Solid Waste system policy. Mr. Anderson said those directional goals were included. Councilor Burkholder asked about the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) taking appropriate action to guarantee Riverbend Landfill compliance. Mr. Robinson said all appropriate action would be taken. Councilor Burkholder asked how to foster innovation in a franchised and profit-stable industry – something as simple as new recycling practices and incentive-based mechanisms. He said there was experimentation around the world and region for how to do things differently, and said it was important to protect the interests of the public. President Bragdon talked about equity in the system. Mr. Anderson discussed ensuring continuity. Councilor Harrington asked about timeframes. Mr. Robinson said two and five years.

Mr. Anderson presented a Powerpoint presentation (see attachments). President Bragdon asked about measuring system functionality. Mr. Anderson explained an informal definition of an efficient system. President Bragdon asked about geographic sub-markets. Councilor Harrington asked about the last time a transfer station was sited. She asked about efficiencies in five-year renewal. Mr. Anderson discussed tonnage growth. Councilor Hosticka asked about reopener clauses raising capitalization issues. Mr. Anderson said that was possible. President Bragdon summarized strategic vision questions. Councilor Harrington asked about a timeline for the final draft. Councilor Hosticka wanted to know what the benefits of a strategic overhaul of the system would be, and who would benefit. Councilor Burkholder said to look at it as a continuum and it would be worthwhile to identify where Metro wanted to be on the continuum. Councilor Hosticka said it would be helpful to have a summary of what had changed in the last thirty years. President Bragdon said there was support from the Council and to draft similar resolutions.

5. COUNCIL BRIEFINGS/COMMUNICATIONS

Councilor Harrington asked about project participation in green construction. Councilor Burkholder talked about state transportation vision efforts. He talked about a budget amendment for a climate change plan, and asked whether there was Council support. President Bragdon talked about the Walker Family Foundation working to acquire land for Connecting Green trails.

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There being no further business to come before the Metro Council, Council President Bragdon adjourned the meeting at 4:45 p.m.

Prepared by,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Andersen', written in a cursive style.

Tony Andersen
Council Operations Assistant

**ATTACHMENTS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD FOR THE MEETING OF
AUGUST 12, 2008**

Item	Topic	Doc. Date	Document Description	Doc. Number
1	Agenda	8/14/08	Agenda: Metro Council regular meeting, August 14, 2008	081208cw-1
4	Powerpoint	8/12/08	Powerpoint presentation, Wet Waste Allocation Project, Douglas Anderson, Council Work Session, August 12, 2008	081208cw-2
4	Powerpoint	8/12/08	Powerpoint presentation, Regional Solid Waste System Wet Waste Allocation Policy and Regulatory Actions, Scott Robinson, Council Work Session, August 12, 2008	081208cw-3
2	Handout	5/26/08	Framework Principles for Product Stewardship Policy	081208cw-4
2	Article	6/25/08	The Oregonian, <i>Let the Healing Begin</i>	081208cw-5