

**Solid Waste Advisory Committee
February 25, 2002**

Executive Summary

I. Call to Order and Announcements

Councilor McLain

- Approval of Minutes: no corrections; Mr. White motioned to move the minutes; Mr. Misovetz seconded the motion; Executive Summary of Transcript passed.
- Councilor McLain passed out a memo concerning a \$1/ton increase in the solid waste excise tax in order to address a critical funding need facing the parks and open spaces program.
- Councilor McLain announced that the Metro "Let's Talk" conference about growth is March 15 & 16 at the Convention Center.

II. REM Director's Update

Terry Petersen

- At the last Solid Waste & Recycling Committee, monitoring of rates at Metro facilities versus private regional facilities was discussed.
- The REM Department will report to the SW&R Committee at the next meeting on triggers for Metro rate regulation and also present a preliminary report addressing changes made to the system last fall (i.e., service areas).

III. Excise Tax Proposal

Mike Burton

Mr. Burton explained that the Parks Department is in a deficit situation. The budget he will soon present to the Council proposes a \$1/ton increase in the solid waste excise tax to raise \$1.2 million for Parks operation and maintenance at current facilities. Mr. Burton hopes the Council will pass this in March so that local jurisdictions can adjust the franchise fees that will go into effect next July 1. This \$1/ton tax will sunset when a permanent funding source is found.

IV. Recovery Incentives Work Group Report (Action Item)

Tom Chaimov

Mr. Chaimov began with an explanation of the objectives of the group which were to: improve recovery in the region; boost regional recovery rate by targeting high-priority materials; de-emphasize low priority materials without hurting source separated system; and, if possible, simplify administration of the program.

The final recommendations of the group are: count only materials that DEQ counts towards the regional recovery rate; count only mixed loads (no credit on residual from source-separated loads); boost recovery with higher incentives (using resources freed up from recommendations above); the region must recover from currently landfilled loads; Metro should coordinate targeted incentives, if any, with market development; program sunsets when the tip fee reaches \$75/ton; shift mandatory recovery levels to reflect different methods of calculating 5% residual – from 30% keeps franchise/35% eligible for credits, to 25/30% respectively.

Mr. Barrett motioned to move the recommendation as follows: count only materials that DEQ counts; count only recovery from mixed loads; Metro clarifies and enforces distinction between mixed and source-separated loads; use income that currently pays for 5% residual from source-separated and rubble to increase recovery (higher the facility recovery rate, the larger the credit); dry waste loads from the Metro region should be MRFd prior to landfilling; incentives should be available to facilities outside of the region if they satisfy the same eligibility requirements as facilities within the Metro region and Metro has auditing and inspection authority comparable to Metro regional facilities; facilities are eligible for credits if recovering at a rate at 30% not counting source-separated residual or rubble; a sunset clause be pegged at \$75/ton.

Mr. Misovetz seconded the motion.

Motion passed 17 – 0, no abstentions.

V. Other Business and Adjourn

Councilor McLain

- Ms. Matthews reminded the group to notify Metro if their current SWAC terms are up and they wish to be reappointed for another two-year term.
- Meeting adjourned

Copies of the full transcript are available upon request.