

**Solid Waste Advisory Committee
May 20, 2002**

Executive Summary

I. Call to Order and Announcements

Councilor McLain

- Bruce Walker was introduced as the new City of Portland representative on the committee.
- Approval of Minutes: Mr. Irvine motioned to move the summary; Mr. Korot seconded the motion; none opposed; Executive Summary passed as read.
- The Recycling Information Center Update was postponed until the next meeting.

II. REM Director's Update

Terry Petersen

- Mr. Petersen introduced two new employees of the Regional Environmental Management Department. Mr. Lee Barrett is the new Waste Reduction & Outreach Department Manager. Mr. Kevin Six will perform facility audits to ensure compliance with Metro rules and regulations.
- The Tire Recycling Task Force continues to meet to develop a recommendation to the Governor on how best to manage scrap tires in Oregon. On a related note, Metro is examining fee and tax policies on tires going to the landfill.
- The Regional Environmental Management Department has produced a Quarterly Financial Report and an updated Tonnage Forecast. They will be posted on Metro's web site soon.
- Metro sold over 8,000 bins during the annual compost bin sale held the weekend before last. Mr. Petersen thanked the SWAC members who participated in that event.

III. Draft Ordinance (Action Item)

Susan McLain

In November of 2000 Metro adopted Ordinance 00-860A, which established term limits for advisory committees. Councilor McLain is proposing with this draft ordinance to extend the term limit exemption granted to local government representatives to any members representing non-profit associations or cooperatives. In addition, this ordinance will add one non-voting member to SWAC – a hauler representative from Clark County. This will still allow citizens and the business community to be more involved, while allowing non-profit associations and cooperatives to select their representative. Mr. White supports this amendment. Mr. Irvine questioned why other governments that border the region would not also be invited to the table. Councilor McLain said that other bordering governments, such as Marion County, would be welcome if they were interested. Ms. Schaefer asked about the status of recruiting citizen members of SWAC. Councilor McLain and Janet answered that no progress had been made to date. Mr. White motioned for the Committee to approve this and move it forward in the process. Mr. Murray seconded the motion. The Committee voted 13 – 0 to approve this ordinance.

IV. Commercial Recyclables Processing Capacity Study

Susan McLain/Steve Engel

Councilor McLain introduced the issues that this study will address, including collection methods and what markets are available, and if they are limited depending on the collection method of recyclables. Mr. Engel reminds the group that this study is called for in the Waste Reduction Initiatives three-year plan for commercial recycling. The study will focus on how well processing facilities keep contaminants out of recyclable commodities and keep recyclables from being disposed. Eight processing facilities that handle most of the region's source-separated supply will be studied by Environmental Practices, Metro's consultant. Fiber and glass commodities will be most closely studied. Metro is interested in what factors (e.g., handling, equipment, sorters) create better results. The clarity provided by this study will help Metro and the local governments promote best practices for commercial recycling. A final report will be publicly available by the end of July. Mr. Irvine cautioned that the information this consultant expects is sensitive. Mr. White cautioned Metro from getting involved in collection; Metro should be partnering with local governments because they regulate the haulers. Mr. Korot said that this is a nice way to link collection in his jurisdiction with the end product. Mr. Kampfer said that they do things for a reason at their facilities, but that he welcomes any advice for improvement that this study can provide. He added that advertising and promotion would do more to increase recycling than this study. Councilor McLain added that she is interested in seeing how the outcomes of this study can be related to the overall system. Mr. Walker stated that focus groups convened by the City of Portland showed that public perception is that most

of the recyclables collected don't actually get recycled. He believes that this study could also be used to show the public that if they put the right stuff on the curb, it will get recycled.

V. Food Donation Progress Report

Marta McGuire/Jennifer Erickson

Councilor McLain stated that this information was previously introduced at a Committee meeting, and that the Councilors are impressed with the performance measure type information contained in this report. Ms. Erickson provided background for this report, explaining that it assesses Track One programs for food recovery. Ms. McGuire prepared this report, the executive summary of which was distributed with the agenda. Essentially, there are two approaches to food recovery – a food recovery infrastructure grant program and outreach materials and presentations. These efforts have resulted in over 5,000 tons of food being recovered with a value to agencies of over \$17 million. The benefit-cost ratio is estimated to be a \$31 benefit for every \$1 in grant money.

Several Committee members had specific questions about the program, and expressed support. Mr. Walker asked if there was more education needed, particularly for the grocery industry. He also asked what analysis process is used to determine future resource allocations. Ms. Erickson responded that a comprehensive review of the entire organics program would be done next year. There is an on-going need, but the program won't continue forever. Ms. McGuire added that grocery stores are hesitant to donate prepared food and more work is needed in that area. Mr. White and Ms. Storz added that ORRA and AOR would help advocate for recycling credits for food diversion.

VI. Review of Transfer Station Provisions

Terry Petersen

Mr. Petersen introduced the scope of work for a report on transfer station service areas to be presented to Council in October. A review of the existing code and policies, as well as proposed analysis of the Code requirements, was included in the agenda packet. Mr. Petersen asked for feedback on the kinds of questions that need to be answered in order to prepare for the October report to Council. Committee members expressed concern about the impact that implementation of these policies will have on rates. Mr. Petersen acknowledged that there are trade-offs and that policies should address the whole system. He added that Metro would like input during this process and that this topic will be addressed before the SWAC again before a final report is presented to Council.

VII. Other Business and Adjourn

Councilor McLain

- The next meeting, scheduled for June 17, may need to be rescheduled.
- Meeting adjourned.

Documents to be kept with the record of the meeting:

Agenda Item III:

1. Draft Ordinance for the Purpose of Amending the Term Limitations Provisions of Metro Code Chapter 2.19, Metro Advisory Committees, and adding a Member to the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (included in agenda packet)

Agenda Item V:

1. Executive Summary of Food Donation Initiatives Assessment and Food Recovery Infrastructure Evaluation report (included in agenda packet)
2. Brochures: Food Donation Resource Guide (one for each of the tri-counties); Restaurant and Food Service Guide to Food Donation

Agenda Item VI:

1. Policy & Technical Analysis of Metro Transfer Station Policies (included in agenda packet)