

Executive Summary

Solid Waste Advisory Committee September 16, 2002

I. Call to Order and Announcements

Susan McLain

- Councilor McLain mentioned that she had enjoyed seeing many SWAC members at the Association of Oregon Recyclers (AOR) conference. Mr. Walker congratulated Ms. Storz for receiving a Special Board Award at AOR.
- Approval of Minutes: Mr. Irvine motioned to move the summary; Mr. Kampfer seconded the motion; none opposed; Executive Summary passed as read.

II. REM Director's Update

Terry Petersen

- Metro has a new and improved website. In the future we plan to post SWAC agendas and also reports that SWAC members may be interested in viewing. In the longer term future, REM plans to post searchable Metro Recycling Information Center information on the web and also add business functions such as paying transfer station bills online.
- REM's Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) reports to the Executive Officer, unlike SWAC, which reports to the Council. The BAC has reviewed REM's reserve account policies and will review Metro's role in handling the region's old electronic waste.

III. October Report: Preliminary Information

Terry Petersen

REM will deliver a report to the Metro Council in October related to transfer station regulation changes made last year. The 3 main changes were: removal of caps on dry waste; creation of service areas; and, wet waste caps based on a facility's service area. The 5 main policies that were intended to be addressed by these changes are: increasing dry waste recovery; improving local hauler access; reducing need for rate regulation; reducing vehicle miles traveled (VMTs); and, increasing competition to benefit ratepayers. This October Report is the first periodic review that was called for every two years, and will address how these changes are working and any recommended changes if needed.

Mr. Petersen then shared his 8 main observations to date in preparing this report. First, the forecasting and waste flow model is sound and the assumptions are reasonable. Second, there is no evidence of significant overall reduction of VMTs. Third, there has been some increase in dry waste recovery as more waste has likely been diverted from Washington County landfills. Fourth, the service area concept is useful in the decision making process and it is important to know how much waste is within each service area. Fifth, Council may want to state multiple criteria when setting the terms of a franchise, one of those criteria being VMTs. There is a need to reaffirm with Council whether they desire to consider franchises under a formula or balanced criteria system. Sixth, the goal is to keep the system simple; Metro strives to use a minimum of regulation to accomplish policy goals. Seven, over the past 5 or 10 years, the system has changed. There no longer seems to be a need for additional transfer capacity and haulers don't seem to be having the problems they were in accessing facilities. Eight, small haulers have reaffirmed that Metro transfer stations play an important role in the overall system and serve as an effective means of controlling prices without direct rate regulation.

SWAC members had few questions, but several did express interest in having a chance to review the report. Mr. Petersen and Councilor McLain agreed that SWAC members would have a chance to review the report and it would be brought back to SWAC again in October. In addition, Mr. Petersen said that if anyone had questions or disagreed with his observations, to please give him a call.

IV. Metro Regulation of Dredge Material

Terry Petersen

Mr. Petersen began by explaining that disposal options for dredging material outside of the traditional solid waste system are becoming scarce. In anticipation of increasing amounts of

these materials entering the regional solid waste system, Metro has been reviewing applicable roles and regulations. At this point it is difficult to estimate how much material there will be and what waste classifications it will fall into. However, Metro Code and state law are clear that much of this material would be classified as solid waste. As such it is subject to Metro fees and taxes, but it is likely that the lower clean-up fee would apply. Although the clean-up fee of \$3.50 is low and probably not a prohibitive cost, dredge material in the past has been disposed of for free. Mr. Petersen questioned whether Metro should exempt dredge materials under Superfund status, or if it is more important to spread the tax base out as much as possible. He noted that if Metro were to assess the clean-up fee on this material, it could possibly offer significant incentive to find useful applications. Mr. Irvine asked if the Metro forecast included dredge material. Mr. Petersen answered that REM forecasts generally look to past trends, and if anything, dredge material could compensate for the decline of petroleum-contaminated soil (PCS). In response to a question by Ms. Chaplen, he added that right now, REM is trying to educate those involved about the solid waste system, and will then see what assistance Metro can offer. Ms. Gilliland added that DEQ is reviewing the classification of dredge material and is also putting together a list of interested parties. Councilor McLain summarized by saying that Metro is trying to get ahead of this issue by determining what rules and regulations apply so any necessary Code changes can be made.

VII. Other Business and Adjourn

Susan McLain

There was no further business.

Documents to be kept with the record of the meeting:

Agenda Item IV:

1. Staff Report: Discussion of Metro's role regarding the disposal of dredge material (included in agenda packet)

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