

**SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SWAC)**  
Summary of the Meeting of 9/15/93

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Roger Buchanan, Chairperson  
Susan Keil, City of Portland  
James Cozzetto, Jr., MDC  
Lynne Storz, Washington Co.  
Pat Vernon, DEQ  
Susan Ziolkowski, Clackamas Co.  
John Drew, Far West Fibers  
Chris Boitano, East Co. Cities  
Emilie Kroen, City of Tualatin  
Bruce Broussard, Citizen Rep.  
Gary Hansen, Councilor, Multnomah Co.  
Brian Carlson, Clark Co.  
Ralph Gilbert, ECR  
Judy Ashley, Yamhill Co.  
Estle Harlan, OSSI/Tri-Co. Council  
Jeanne Roy, Citizen Rep.  
Robert Kincaid, City of Lake Oswego  
Elenora Fielder, Citizen, Rate Review Committee  
Shirley Coffin, Citizen-Recycler, Rate Review Committee  
Steven L. Miesen, BFI/Trans Industries

**GUESTS:**

Lexus E. Johnson, Oregon Hydrocarbon  
Keri Painter, Finley Buttes Landfill  
Kathy Kiwala, City of Lake Oswego  
Lynda Kotta, City of Gresham

**METRO:**

John Houser, Metro Council  
Bob Martin  
Terry Petersen  
Scott Klagg  
Doug Anderson  
Connie Kinney

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Roger Buchanan.

Motion made, seconded and passed to appoint 11 members to a work group to assess the information received from the consultant awarded the contract for assessment of solid waste revenue system. Jeanne Roy voted nay, wanting to limit the work group to 9 members.

Jim Cozzetto, Hauling Industry  
Doug Coenen, Facilities  
Ralph Gilbert, Processors  
Tom Zelenka, Industry  
Rod Grim, Composting  
Jeanne Roy, Citizen  
Pat Vernon, DEQ  
Sue Keil, City of Portland  
Lynda Kotta, Multnomah County  
Delyn Kies, Washington County  
Ken Spiegel, Clackamas County

Committee requested SWAC be kept informed with Minutes from the Work Group Committee.

Committee requested an analysis of Excise Fee as it relates to tip fee.

#### Assessment of Solid Waste Revenue System

Mr. Petersen said the consultant has been selected for this project. The award of the RFP is to Synergic Resources Corporation. Mr. Petersen thanked Pat Vernon and Steve Schwab for their help in review the 13 proposals from consultants.

Mr. Broussard asked why a Portland/Oregon firm had not been selected for this project.

Mr. Petersen said the award of the contract was based solely on the evaluation criteria and experience in the utility financing field.

Mr. Petersen suggested that SWAC select a work group to assess and evaluate information received from the consultant and report to the SWAC two weeks before each of the next three SWAC meetings. Mr. Petersen suggested the work group would develop a short and long list of alternatives to present to SWAC at the October 20 meeting; the work group would meet on November 3 and develop an in-depth analysis of the short list of alternatives which they would present to SWAC on November 13; and on December 1 the work group would further define those alternatives and present their final recommendations to SWAC on December 15. On the December 15, 1993 SWAC meeting, the full committee would approve a final evaluation and recommendation to Council Solid Waste Committee.

Mr. Coenen asked how the work group would dovetail with the consultant and their research?

Mr. Petersen said the consultant would be meeting with the work group. Mr. Petersen said that Council members have asked for recommendations to be presented no later than January, 1994.

Mr. Petersen said the work group could be made up exclusively of SWAC members but suggested that there are interest groups outside the committee that have expressed interest in how Metro sets its rates, particularly large industry groups, yard debris processors, contaminated soil processors.

Ms. Harlan stated her concern that the work group not be one-sided with an excessive amount of special interest groups whether that be industry or local government representatives.

Mr. Boitano suggested that Lynda Kotta be selected to represent Multnomah County.

Mr. Petersen suggested that the working group needed to include that sector of the rate payers that included industrial groups self-hauling large amounts of waste to make sure that Metro hear and listen to them. He cautioned the committee that if the working group consisted entirely of SWAC members they needed to be assured of getting that segment of the rate payers input that he mentioned.

Ms. Ziolko agreed with Mr. Petersen and said that this segment of the rate payers needed to be brought in at the beginning so they could have something they could "buy off" on at the end. The committee did not want to see the same results as last year.

Ms. Keil said she would like to have their involvement also, not just testimony to the working group.

Ms. Kroen made a motion to set up a working group of nine persons and which included two persons from special interest groups not represented from SWAC.

Ms. Keil seconded the motion.

The motion was passed unanimously.

Ms. Harlan suggested that the working group consist of both SWAC and RRC and nominated Mr. Jim Cozzetto, Jr. as a member of the working group.

More discussion on potential working group members continued and it was suggested that the number of working group members be expanded to 11 in order to include representation from each of the factions represented on SWAC and to include a member from each of the three counties and the City of Portland, DEQ, haulers, processors, citizens, recyclers, industry,

Both Jeanne Roy and Bruce Broussard volunteered as citizen representatives and Mr. Broussard elected to allow Ms. Roy to serve as the citizen representative since she volunteered first.

Ms. Harlan made a motion to change the working group total to 11 representatives.

Ms. Keil seconded the motion.

A vote was asked for and the committee passed the motion. There was one dissenting vote, Ms. Jeanne Roy who preferred the group remain at the 9 members originally decided upon.

Mr. Petersen said that when next SWAC met, October 20, the working group would be expected to bring to it a short list of alternatives.

Mr. Broussard requested that minutes be taken of the working groups meetings and distributed to this committee. He asked if the public at large would have access to the working groups meetings.

Mr. Petersen said that all meetings were open to the public.

Mr. Coenen suggested that the large industry representative be someone from Schnitzer Steel.

Ms. Harlan suggested that a yard debris processor representative be from Grimms Fuel.

Mr. Petersen then asked the committee for some direction as to what things the working group should be looking at, what are their concerns and ideas? Mr. Petersen said he had distributed a handout to the committee listing some general alternatives: the current system, broaden the rate base, rate restructuring diversify the revenue base (taxes).

Mr. Drew asked if the tipping fee at \$75.00 had reached a "natural cap". Would the public reaction to increase the cost be detrimental to the success we have experienced in the recycling trend?

Mr. Martin said he believed this was true. That to increase the tipping fee might drive people to alternatives such as illegal dumping or leaving the region for a landfill outside the region.

Mr. Drew suggested that staff prepare a report showing the experience of cities who have experienced similar crisis.

Mr. Martin said this would be one of the tasks that the consultant would be asked to undertake.



Mr. Boitano said he believed it was not unreasonable to increase the cap for such expenses as cost of living, and inflation.

Mr. Martin agreed saying future increases should be directly tied to inflation indices.

Ms. Keil suggested that staff prepare an evaluation of the tipping fee and "unbundle" any parts that were not directly tied to recycling and disposal.

Ms. Roy said that she did not agree that the tipping fee should not be raised. She suggested that recycling efforts would only be spurred. Ms. Roy also suggested that the recycling costs should not be entirely on the disposal end. She would like it moved to the purchasing end. Ms. Roy would like the responsibility of disposal to be put on the manufacturer.

Ms. Harlan said she had asked before and was asking again, how the excise fee fitted into disposal fees?

Mr. Hansen suggested that they look into universal collection (mandatory collection).

Mr. Martin said they could do that but it would require a consensus of local governments.

Ms. Harlan asked if Measure 5 would prohibit that action.

Ms. Kotta said that State law would not allow mandatory collection.

Mr. Martin said that self-haul has been growing and that tonnage at the transfer station was not a problem, but that the sheer number of cars using the transfer -- congestion was becoming a burden.

Mr. Petersen directed a staff person to list the criteria as they were mentioned:

- | ALTERNATIVES  | EVALUATION CRITERIA  |
|---|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Unbundle Solid Waste Services   | <input type="radio"/> Cap Tip Fee at Current Rate? (cost-driven increases) |
| <input type="radio"/> Metro - Local Government(s) Relationships (redefine)                              | <input type="radio"/> Incidence of Charges on Generators                   |
| <input type="radio"/> Differential Fees, to reflect disposal cost/services (customer --- class charges) | <input type="radio"/> Consider System-wide Impacts                         |
|   | <input type="radio"/> Mandatory vs. Optional Programs                      |

Mr. Martin said that two things crossed his mind with regard to continuing tipping fee at present rate: He believes we have reached a point where the public will find an alternative to paying higher fees; and most recycling programs depend on financing from the tipping

fee. We have already eliminated far too many and all will be eliminated at the current trend.

Mr. Boitano said he favored broadening the rate base. He asked Mr. Petersen to please explain what rate restructuring meant.

Mr. Petersen explained an example of rate restructuring. A tipping fee of \$90/ton was reduced to \$60/ton and a per household charge of \$18/per year was placed in lieu of an increase.

Mr. Boitano said that more and more communities and local governments are getting to the point where they are instituting only those programs they are mandated to. He believes this is a growing trend and one that will not soon be reversed.

Ms. Ziolkowski suggested instituting variable tipping fees for certain items such as construction demolition.

Mr. Martin said he was afraid that would be sending a message for more avoidance of regional disposal. Mr. Martin said it would be a better idea to charge a lower fee on those items which are beneficial to recycling such as the Schnitzer's of the world.

The joint SWAC/RRC portion of the meeting was concluded and the RRC members were thanked for their participation.

Chair Buchanan asked for a motion for passage of the 7/22/93 and 8/18/93 minutes of the SWAC.

Ms. Roy said the 8/18/93 minutes, 6th page, 4th paragraph (last sentence) should have read: "I support 56% recycling and agree that reducing pounds disposed per person should also be a goal but that figure may be determined more by economic and social trends than by government action."

Mr. Brian Carlson said that in the August 18th minutes, page 5, 5th paragraph, last sentence should have read: "single family" (not multi-family).

With those corrections, Ms. Harlan made a motion to accept minutes and Mr. Cozzetto, Jr., seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Martin quickly gave the committee a few updates: The Wilsonville facility will not be built. The Sheriff's Contract has been signed and is proceeding. Mr. Martin said a workshop will be held for alternative methods of handling compostable materials such as food on Wednesday, September 22, 1993.

Mr. Klagg presented a handout and talked about the purpose of a waste reduction assessment. Mr. Klagg presented many graphs and figures and discussed areas in which

we might be able to encourage additional recycling as well as new areas of recycling to explore.

Ms. Kiwala asked if the waste sort information mentioned by Mr. Klagg would be finished in time for consideration of opportunities in the five year plan update.

Mr. Petersen said they have had considerable help from Mr. Miesen, BFI/Trans Industries at the Central Transfer facility with the waste audit. The waste audit includes Specific Generators, Single Family, Restaurants and Multi-Family.

Ms. Roy would like assessment of past programs such as: the bins to local governments for collection of curbside recyclables; waste audits for business centers -- what had consequences and what didn't. Ms. Roy asked where the information for the tables and graphs came from and did they result from a physical waste sort?

Mr. Klagg said some of the reports were based on studies done in 1989 and 1990 in Seattle and Los Angeles.

Ms. Roy asked where the drop boxes were counted.

Mr. Klagg said they were included in "event waste".

Mr. Cozzetto Jr. asked what the current process for waste study would be.

Mr. Petersen said there would be hands on waste-auditing as well as visual auditing and they will coordinate the study with haulers, commercial generators and local governments.

Mr. Coenen asked if the waste study would be coordinated with DEQ.

Ms. Vernon said that Mr. Peter Spindelov has been involved in this task.

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be held on October 20, at 8:30 a.m. in room 370A-B.

Kim/wwc0915.mss