

SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SWAC)
RATE REVIEW COMMITTEE (RRC)
FINANCIAL ASSESSMENT GROUP
Summary of Meeting of December 15, 1993

MEMBERS PRESENT

Judy Wyers, Metro Council
Ruth McFarland, Metro Council
Dave Kunz, DEQ
Jeanne Roy, Citizen
Kathy Kiwala, City of Lake Oswego
Jeff Grimm, Grimms Fuel
Steve Miesen, BFI
Susan Ziolko, Clackamas County
Delyn Kies, Washington County
Estle Harlan, OSSI, Tri-Co. Counsel
Emilie Kroen, City of Tualatin
Gary Hansen, Multnomah County
Doug Coenen, OWS
Merle Irvine, Willamette Resources
James Cozzetto, Jr., MDC
Jeff Murray, Far West Fiver
Brian Carlson, Clark County
Ralph Gilbert, ECR
Orphal Keil, City of Gresham
Bruce Broussard, Citizen
Jack Deines, Clackamas County
Susan Keil, City of Portland
Greg DiLoreto, City of Gresham

OTHERS

Dave Adams, OSU
Bob Peterson, Citizen
Ray Phelps, OWSI
Diana Godwin, Regional Disposal
Joe Cassin, Sanifill
Dennis Griesing, Soap & Detergent Assoc.
Paul Cosgrove, Gardner, Cosgrove & Gardner
Tom Zelenka, Schnitzer Steel
Harold Rodinsky, Schnitzer Steel

METRO
Terry Petersen
Jeep Reid
Scott Klag
Doug Anderson
Lauren Ettlin
Connie Kinney

Councilperson Judy Wyers brought the meeting to order in the absence of Chair Buchanan and Chair McFarland. She asked Mr. Petersen for any solid waste update items he might wish to share with the committee.

Mr. Petersen updated the Committee on the status of the Washington County Transfer Station and the plan for redirecting haulers from Metro South to Metro Central.

Ms. Ettlin briefed the committee on "Standards for Yard Debris Compost Products," which are proposed for adoption as a resolution by Council. Standards are necessary to: 1) increase the markets for yard debris compost, 2) provide greater assurance that it will cause no harm to the environment or human health and 3) accommodate increased curbside collection and other recovery programs which have resulted in a greater amount of material for composting than ever before.

Ms. Ettlin said the Yard Debris Compost Standards Committee has been working diligently since June, 1993 to develop compost standards for pH, heavy metals, pesticide residue, plant nutrients, foreign materials, salts and viable seeds. The committee is comprised of soil scientists, extension agents, yard debris processors and local government representatives.

The Metro region includes ten yard debris processors. Processors want to stabilize and increase markets for their compost products by assuring customers and potential users their products are of a consistent quality from season to season and between processors. To that end, the Yard Debris Compost Standards Committee determined what parameters of compost required standardization, set levels, and established protocol for testing compost samples. The testing program is voluntary and would be implemented twice a year by a company on contract to Metro. Costs for testing are paid by the processors. Metro would act as an independent party to compare test results to standards and determine if product meets or exceeds standards and can be designated as *Earth-Wise*. Metro would provide information on compost products designated as *Earth-Wise* through Recycling Information, articles in trade magazines and requests for information.

Jeff Grimm, Vice President for Grimms Fuel reported some facts regarding YD collection, marketing and processing. Mr. Grimm said his company had experienced an 8% decline in sales and 6% decline in materials due to weather over the past year.

Dave Adams, Professor of Horticulture has worked in Extension Services for Oregon State University over the past 20 years, providing expertise for the entire north end of the Willamette Valley. Mr. Adams said that Metro has conducted testing on YD compost for processors for the past several years and has a good understanding of what comprises YD compost in the region. Mr. Adams said he believed the proposed YD compost standards are reasonable and accurate.

Ms. Ziolkowski asked what sample size will be used to measure for weed seeds in YD compost?

Mr. Adams said that was yet to be worked out. Ms. Ettlins said samples taken by Metro between 1986 and 1993 (19 of them) revealed only one viable weed seed.

Ms. Roy asked if voluntary standards would be acceptable by the buyers of YD compost, i.e., nurseries?

Ms. Kiel asked if all of the processors in the region could easily meet the proposed standards or would the standards test prohibit some of the processors from complying?

Ms. Ettlins replied that the committee believed the proposed standards testing would be acceptable to processors. Tests on compost samples, although costly, would not preclude the small businessman from participating in the Earth-Wise program.

Mr. Gilbert said he noticed that the standards testing would only be conducted twice yearly and he felt this was not enough.

Ms. Ettlins commented that twice yearly was about as much as the small business man could afford because the testing proposed would cost approximately \$1,000.00 each per year.

Mr. Adams commented that the proposed standards should be considered as more of a guideline; due to weather conditions, seasons, etc., the YD compost is constantly changing in the region.

Mr. Carlson, from the Clark County area said that Washington was still working on their standards. He said they currently test quarterly for the larger volume composter and asked the YD standards committee why their standards were limited to monitoring in the three counties. Mr. Carlson also questioned the use of standards for YD compost made outside the region and marketed here.

Ms. Ettlins said the charge to their committee was limited to those processors of YD compost within the Metro region. She said the committee agreed to reconvene in December, 1994 to assess any problems which might be encountered. She said this would be a test period.

There were no further questions with regard to yard debris compost and the committee progressed to discussion of the Organic Waste Conference and Workshops.

Mr. Petersen discussed criteria resulting from the two organic waste workshops. He said it was the consensus of the workshop groups that residential organic waste programs currently in place be given a chance to be effective before implementation of new programs. He said that because we currently have no programs in place for the commercial generators of organic waste there was some suggestions generated by the groups.

Ms. Kies said that we could put together a program but that without developing a market there is no guaranty that a program will work.

Ms. Kiel commented that a consortium of persons with financial help will be needed before a successful program of this type can be successful. Ms. Kiel said that the City of Portland did a similar study of organic waste from restaurants a few years ago and they concluded that a program would definitely need the assistance of the private sector.

Ms. Harlan suggested that by removing commercial organic waste from the haulers it would further impact their revenue. Ms. Harlan said you cannot fund the system from the can. She said that commercial accounts subsidize residential service.

Mr. Deines suggested "build it and we can take care of it. Siting is and remains the problem."

Ms. Kiwala said that local governments would be able to assist in that regard. She would like to see a program implemented beginning with the restaurants, etc. -- larger generators.

Mr. Petersen said the Organic Waste Conference would be held on January 12 at the Convention Center. He hoped everyone would be able to attend.

Ms. Wyers had a previous commitment and Councilor McFarland chaired the remainder of the committee meeting.

Chair McFarland said the next agenda item was continuation of assessing the revenue system. Chair McFarland said that staff had set forth their interpretation of the Staff Report to be submitted to Council in January, 1994, as set forth in the agenda packet. Chair McFarland asked for further comments.

Ms. Harlan was in agreement of using a system that does not have a negative impact on waste reduction. In referring to Page 3(b), and more specifically recommendation (4), it is her opinion that cannot happen. Ms. Harlan said it is a view of the public that if they recycle, garbage rates should decrease and if they instead increase, they will no longer have an incentive to recycle. Ms. Harlan suggests the wording ". . . to the least extent possible, have a negative impact . . ."

Chair McFarland said that unfortunately it is going to take years to educate the public. Metro has undertaken the task of education, realizing that recycling costs money. She said that when recycling becomes profitable, i.e., processing of yard debris for compost, newsprint, metals, private industry takes over. Subsidization in the form of education, marketing, etc., of these

Mr. Peterson said we would be able to collect from them the same way we do not, when the visit one of our facilities, they will have to pay the going fee.

Mr. DiLoreto said he was convinced this system would not work because it was in violation of Measure #5.

Ms. Harlan said billing through hauler billing systems would not work because in some jurisdictions there is as much as a 30% self haul.

Ms. Kroen said she felt it incumbent on the committee to reach a consensus on some type of system or fee and move forward with the idea, and forget for the moment that it might not pass Measure #5 standards. Ms. Kroen said she agreed that hauler billing information was no more accurate at reaching 100% of the population than was sewer or water billings.

Chair McFarland suggested the committee make its decision on a system and present their methods to in-house counsel for an opinion.

Ms. Roy said she agreed. But she was no certain on exactly what "fixed costs" the committee was talking about this fee covering.

Mr. Anderson asked the committee if they felt it was their charge to allocate those costs?

Ms. Kroen suggested that should be done by the Rate Review Committee.

Mr. Rodinsky said he was unclear as to exactly what the Committee was trying to collect fees on -- waste and recyclables?

Ms. Kroen said she felt this fee went beyond what went into the garbage can.

Chair McFarland commented that she set little "garbage" or putrescible waste on the curb, and that the haulers received no compensation for the recycling efforts they were making.

Mr. Anderson stated that a universal type fee could be assessed on the basis that hauling of garbage benefits everyone in the region.

Ms. Kies said she felt she needed to see a better level of detail on all of the options that Mr. Anderson was discussing. She also felt it was important to get a legal opinion on any generator fee to be assessed on all citizens in the jurisdiction.

Chair McFarland said the meeting would have to conclude because of the time. The next meeting will be January 19, 1994, 8:30 - 10:30 in Room 370, Metro Headquarters.

said staff in the Planning and Technical Services division of the Solid Waste Department have been kept quite busy providing tonnage information to Mr. Irvine. Staff's attention has been divided with that plus the endeavors towards finalizing the tip fee financial assessment and endeavoring to find a workable solution to the Metro South Transfer Station tonnage problem. Mr. Petersen said that if the Wilsonville transfer station was definitely out of the picture, it appeared that Metro would definitely have to redirect tonnage from Metro South. He said this could be accomplished through voluntary means or by way of a directed use order. Mr. Petersen said Metro would first need to determine the exact problem as perceived by Oregon City local government officials.

Mr. Petersen said Metro had held a couple of meetings with haulers and hauler association representatives with regard to redirecting tonnage from Metro South to Metro Central. He said that the haulers did not seem to have any ideas to offer Metro in contrast to directed use orders but that the haulers specifically asked Metro not to implement any such measures until after the Wilsonville transfer station was finally decided.