

SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Summary of May 17, 1995

Members:

Jon Kvistad, Committee Chair, Metro Councilor

Anne McLaughlin, City of Portland (Alt.)

Debbie Noah, E. Mult. Cities

Lynne Storz, Washington County

Tom Miller, Washington Co. Haulers

Bruce Broussard, N-NE Citizen

Loreen Mills, Wash. Co. Cities

Susan Ziolk, Clackamas County (Alt.)

Lynda Kotta, City of Gresham (Alt.)

Ralph Gilbert, East County Recycling
(Alt. = alternate member)

Dave Kunz, DEQ (Alt.)

Daryl Worthington, City of Troutdale

Jeff Murray, Far West Fibers (Alt.)

Lexus E. Johnson, Oregon Hydrocarbon

Merle Irvine, Citizen

Jeff Grimm, Grimms Fuel

Steve Miesen, BFI

Jeanne Roy, Citizen

Bern Shanks, Metro Solid Waste Director

Metro Staff:

Terry Petersen

Scott Klag

Debbie Gorham

Doug Anderson

Jim Watkins

Jennifer Ness

Marie Nelson

Connie Kinney

Guests:

Debra Fromdahl, Sanifill Northwest

Ray Phelps, OWSI/WMO

Wendy Frizzaell, River City Resource Group

JoAnn Herrigel, City of Milwaukie

Chair Kvistad called the meeting to order. This being the day after elections, Chair Kvistad announced he was very pleased that the region's voters had approved the Metropolitan Greenspaces bond issue. He then introduced the new Metro Director of Solid Waste, Bern Shanks.

1. Approval of April 19, 1995 Minutes

Dave Kunz moved to approve the SWAC minutes from the April 19, 1995, SWAC meeting. The Committee unanimously approved the minutes.

2. Updates and Introductions

Terry Petersen responded to a recent Oregonian article which compared Portland area landfill tip fees to other parts of the country. Mr. Petersen pointed out that the "apples to oranges" comparison and had not compared local rates to cities with similar program costs (e.g., long-haul waste transfer, household hazardous waste collection, and high curbside recycling rates). When those factors were considered, Portland's rate compared favorably, he said. Staff distributed a fact sheet showing "apples to apples" rate comparisons and services included in those rates.

Bruce Broussard pointed out another article in the Oregonian, "Garbage Franchise Gold Mines." Copies of that article were distributed.

3. Year 6 Metro/Local Government Work Plan - Action Item

Debbie Gorham and Lynne Storz presented the sixth year work plan to the Committee for review and recommendation. Ms. Gorham explained that Metro would allocate \$550,000 to the region's local governments to help implement the work plan.

Ms. Gorham reported that the proposed sixth year of Metro and Local Government cooperation would result in the most ambitious, regional waste reduction efforts implemented to-date. She reviewed the process by which the plan was developed, and explained that some terminology about program implementation strategy was not the same as used in the draft Regional Solid Waste Management Plan (RSWMP). However, she said, the actual programs were consistent with the RSWMP recommendations and next year's work plan would include consistent terminology. She requested that SWAC vote to recommend the full Council adopt the Sixth Year Work Plan.

Jeanne Roy commented that after observing the program for the previous six years, she was convinced it did not get the publicity it deserved considering how much money was involved. She then distributed a summary of recommended changes to the work plan (that written summary is part of the permanent meeting record). In particular, Ms. Roy thought the work plan needed to establish more specific work priorities, such as for commercial sector recycling efforts.

Susan Ziolkowski and Ms. Gorham responded, saying the work plan had been developed through a group process which had listened to all concerns and had tried to reach a balance. Ms. Gorham further explained that the work plan needed Council review and approval in July so that Metro and Local Governments could proceed with implementing the work.

Tom Miller wanted to make sure that local governments were given the option to complete either all or some tasks and receive partial funding if needed. Ms. Gorham said that was possible.

Ms. Roy commented that this started out as a "challenge" to local governments and has been turned into an entitlement program. She said the program should set regional standards in order for the local governments to receive funding to achieve those standards.

Dave Kunz commented that the original Metro/Local Government Work Plan concept was to create new programs and to ensure the resources to maintain them. He said an expansion component was added in order to achieve more. Mr. Kunz asked that the work plan should define the word "explore" so that the intent of work objectives was more clear.

There was continued discussion by Ms. Roy on the work plan. Chair Kvistad, upon unanimous concurrence from SWAC, asked that staff work with Ms. Roy to determine which of her suggestions could be incorporated into the work plan draft before it went on to the Council for final approval.

4. Regional Solid Waste Management Plan

Marie Nelson reported that the "May 17 Discussion Draft" of the Regional Solid Waste Management Plan (RSWMP) represented the SWAC Planning Subcommittee's recommendations to SWAC to date. She said the purpose of today's meeting was to review those recommendations and receive additional comments or instructions. Based on comments received at today's meeting as well as other staff and public comments, staff would return to SWAC on June 21 with appropriate revisions. At the June 21 meeting, SWAC would be asked to release the draft RSWMP for public review and comment.

Ms. Nelson, Scott Klag and Doug Anderson then reviewed the highlights of each draft RSWMP chapter and summarized key the Subcommittee's proposed recommendations. Subcommittee members, including Lynne Storz, Tom Miller, Susan Ziolk, Dave Kunz, Merle Irvine, Lynda Kotta, and Jeanne Roy provided further information about the process of developing RSWMP recommendations. A handout of summary recommendations was distributed to committee members and guests.

Jeanne Roy was concerned that during the last several months of developing recommended solid waste practices, some of the specific targets to be achieved had lost focus. She cited the business waste prevention evaluations as an example. Ms. Roy said this practice was once envisioned as in-person "waste audits" that would reach a specific number of businesses in the region. The practice was now described as "waste evaluations" and the targets were not specific.

Ms. Roy did not think that staff had not fully evaluated the estimated cost and tonnage impacts of practices described in the draft as "additional key elements." She reviewed other concerns and provided a written summary of suggested language changes, questions and comments to staff. Chair Kvistad asked that staff meet with Ms. Roy to see if middle ground could be achieved.

Merle Irvine explained that during the Subcommittee RSWMP development process he had expressed concerns about the practices to develop recycling options for construction and demolition materials for which there currently were no markets. He remained cautious about those markets. Staff responded that it was currently gathering more information from other communities about what could realistically be achieved. Those findings would be brought back to the Committee.

Chair Kvistad noted that Metro representatives and SWAC members were conducting public meetings and discussing the draft RSWMP with local government councils during the month of June. The results of those efforts would be reported back to SWAC.

5. Other Business / Citizen Communications

None.

The next meeting will be held June 21, 1995.

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