

**SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING SUMMARY OF: March 20, 1996**

Voting Members Present

Committee Chair: Ruth McFarland, Metro Councilor
Hauling Industry: Tom Miller, Washington County Haulers Assoc.
David White, Oregon Refuse & Recycling Assoc.,
Tri-County Council
James Cozzetto, Jr., MDC/ERI
Steve Schwab, Clackamas County Haulers
Solid Waste Facilities: Doug Coenen, Waste Management of Oregon
Steve Miesen, BFI/Trans Industries
Citizens: Jeanne Roy, Recycling Advocates
Government: Loreen Mills, Washington County Cities (Staff, City of Tigard)
Lynne Storz, Washington County (Staff, Washington County)
Recycling Industry: Ralph Gilbert, East County Recycling

Alternate Members Present

Recycling Industry: Jeff Murray, Farwest Fibers
Government: Susan Ziolkowski, Clackamas County

Non-Voting Members Present

DEQ Ed Druback

Non-Voting Members Absent

Government: Dave Kunz, DEQ
Carol Devenir Clark County, Washington (Staff, Clark County)

Voting Members Absent

Solid Waste Facilities: Doug Coenen, Oregon Waste Systems
Recycling Industry: John Drew, Far West Fibers
Bruce Broussard, Cad Tek
Government: Gary Hansen, Multnomah County (County Commissioner)
Bob Kincaid, Clackamas County Cities (Staff, City of Oregon City)
Susan Keil, City of Portland (City Staff)
Debbie Noah, Mult. County Cities (Gresham Commissioner)
Lynda Kotta, Mult. County Cities (Staff, City of Gresham)
Citizens: Merle Irvine, United Disposal

Guests Present

Easton Cross, Consultant
JoAnn Herrigel, City of Milwaukie
Debbie Fromdall, Sanifill NW
Dick Jones, Citizen
Jeff Jones, Sanifill Northwest

Metro Staff Present

Bern Shanks	Kelly Shafer Hossaini	Connie Kinney	Jennifer Ness
Marie Nelson	Scott Klag	Jim Goddard	Jim Quinn
Steve Kraten			

1. Updates and Introductions

Household Hazardous Waste Facility at the Metro South Transfer Station

Bern Shanks told the Committee that recent estimates indicate it will cost \$400,000 to repair the household hazardous waste facility at the Metro South Transfer Station, which was damaged in the February flood. There is ongoing discussion about whether to repair the facility or move it altogether onto higher ground. The decision will depend upon how much reimbursement money is available from FEMA, as well as how much FEMA mitigation money might be available for the project.

Metro Budget

Mr. Shanks reported that the Regional Environmental Management budget for FY '96-'97 reflects a \$2.6 million reduction over the current fiscal year. Materials and services have been cut by over \$2 million and one-half an FTE has also been cut. The budget assumes that 30,000 fewer tons will go to Metro transfer stations during FY '96-'97. Metro staff is still working on a rate proposal to submit to the Executive Officer in July. Mr. Shanks stated that he will give a more detailed update on the rate process later on this agenda.

Materials Recovery Facilities (MRFs)

Mr. Shanks told the Committee that several MRF applications have been received by Metro that have the combined capacity to divert approximately 300,000 tons a year from the wastestream. This number reflects design capacity of the facilities, and not expected throughput. Over half of the diverted tonnage will be returned to the waste stream, in any case, based on the recovery capabilities of the MRFs. About half of the actual diversion may be from Metro transfer stations, but Metro would still receive the Regional User Fee on the process residual, assuming no change in the rate structure. Also, the MRFs will take a couple of years to get up and running to their expected levels.

Dry Waste Processing at Metro Central

Mr. Shanks reported that the trial dry waste diversion project at Metro Central is proceeding. Metro and BFI / Trans Industries are collaborating on the project.

Resignation of Debbie Gorham

Mr. Shanks told the Committee that Debbie Gorham resigned as of March 15, 1996 to pursue other interests and opportunities. Jim Goddard will be the acting manager in her place. A full-time replacement for the position will be sought later in the spring.

Waste Flow Trends

Councilor McFarland mentioned that after looking through Metro waste flow reports through November 1996, she noticed what seemed to be a continuing trend of decreasing waste flow through Metro-owned facilities. The revenue is up slightly because tonnage to non-Metro facilities is up somewhat, but Metro is looking carefully at the FY '96-'97 solid waste budget. She also said that there is no move to raise rates, and Metro is looking closely at contingency and reserve fund policies should there be future shortfalls.

2. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the February 21, 1996 SWAC meeting. The Committee unanimously approved the minutes.

3. Year 7 Metro / Local Government Work Plan

Jennifer Ness, Solid Waste Planner, presented the Year 7 Metro / Local Government Work Plan for approval by SWAC. She introduced the Work Plan to the Committee by stating that the format for Year 7 is much like that of Year 6. There are foundation items that all local governments must complete, and there are expansion elements they can choose from to meet their commitment for the year. Ms. Ness told the Committee that the Work Plan is a result of group consensus and reflects a working partnership between Metro and local governments.

Susan Ziolk, Clackamas County, told the Committee that efforts on the Year 7 Work Plan were begun early and reflected the policies of the Regional Solid Waste Management Plan (RSWMP). She then said that some of the elements of the Year 6 Work Plan that did not tie into the RSWMP were not included in the Year 7 Work Plan.

JoAnn Herrigel, City of Milwaukie, said that she thought the cooperative process used to develop the Year 7 Work Plan was very effective, and made for a positive experience. She also said that the Year 7 Work Plan allows for flexibility and creativity in program development.

Jeanne Roy then distributed a memo to the Committee outlining her concerns about the Year 7 Work Plan and, subsequently, her recommendations for amendments. Her first concern was that the Work Plan elements describing applicable RSWMP Recommended Practices were not specific enough and recommended three ways to achieve more specificity. Her second concern was that the Year 7 Work Plan did not identify programs to be evaluated or evaluation methods, as required by RSWMP. In her memo, she included a recommendation for an amendment to address the issue.

Jennifer Ness responded that Ms. Roy has had significant input in the process of developing the Year 7 Work Plan. She said that, previously, Ms. Roy agreed to the wording of certain sections that she now has asked to be changed. Ms. Ness said that Ms. Roy's recommended changes to the Work Plan regarding evaluation,

especially in the area of business recycling, are not consistent with the fact that recycling is largely voluntary in the region. The City of Portland is the only jurisdiction with mandatory commercial recycling.

Ms. Roy responded that the amendments she asked for during the development process, and Ms. Ness said she included, were not exactly what were included in the Work Plan. For example, she had asked for the language about quarterly notification of recycling to garbage customers that appears in State law. She said her concern was that in the Work Plan there is no assurance that programs will be carried out to reach stated goals.

There was a motion and a second, to amend the Year 7 Work Plan per Ms. Roy's written proposal. Discussion on the issue continued. Councilor McFarland asked the Committee if they wanted to consider the motion to amend, but no action was taken. Councilor McFarland then asked if there was a motion to approve the Year 7 Work Plan, as submitted. The motion was made and seconded, and the Work Plan was approved, with Jeanne Roy dissenting.

4. Metro Rate Proposal - Discussion of Objectives and Process

Bern Shanks spoke to the Committee about the process to initiate rate reform for the region's solid waste system. He distributed a handout that described the process and timeline. He announced that Doug Anderson will be the team leader for the process, and a proposal will be taken to Mike Burton in July 1996. SWAC will also be able to consider the proposal at that time.

Mr. Shanks told the Committee that the purpose of the proposal is to achieve rate equity (charges directly linked to services), maintain reasonable rates, and continue to support incentives to recycle. From Metro's view, the rate proposal needs to provide for stable and predictable funding for those programs not directly tied to disposal, and remain revenue neutral.

Councilor McFarland said that she disagreed with Mr. Shanks that the proposal needed to remain revenue neutral, and that the Metro Council believes it may even be possible to reduce the rates.

Mr. Shanks said that because of the complexity of the rate structure, it ripples through our system and affects people in a lot of different ways. A consultant will be hired to look at how different rates will affect different customers, and part of what will be necessary for that will be input and opinions from the solid waste community.

Easton Cross then asked Mr. Shanks to define what is wrong with the current rates. Mr. Shanks reviewed some specifics of his previous points.

Dave White referred to stakeholder meetings scheduled to take place in April, as outlined in the handout, and asked Mr. Shanks to further define them. Mr. Shanks responded that there will be a whole series of meetings, focus groups, etc. that will involve laying out different rate scenarios. He said that Metro understands that

whatever is done with rates will impact everyone in the system. He also said that all of the meetings will be open to the public and so anyone can attend.

Lynn Storz then asked if, as a Metro objective, flow control was an issue to be addressed by the process. Mr. Shanks replied that he did not want a system that relied upon flow control. Councilor McFarland stated that the federal government will probably not allow us to continue flow control at all in the future, and Metro needs to be able to live within a system that is less favorable to its survival.

5. Report on the Activities of Metro's Enforcement Unit

Steve Kraten, Solid Waste Enforcement Officer, reported to the Committee the recent activities of Metro's Enforcement Unit. He told the Committee that the Enforcement Unit has been involved with the following tasks:

- Shutting down illegal dump and pick operations
- Identifying unreported tonnage being accepted at facilities
- Identifying misreported tons (for example, tons claimed as out-of-region in origin, but actually from within the region)
- Shutting down illegal dump sites and apprehending illegal dumpers
- Stopping the theft of recyclables

Jeanne Roy asked if any attempt was made to measure the tonnage involved in illegal dumping. Mr. Kraten replied that no direct tonnage measurement was taken, but that there has been an increase in Metro tonnage coming in to facilities and that has been partly due to the Enforcement Unit's work. In the future, a way to measure the effectiveness of the Unit will be developed.

Loreen Mills said that the city of Tigard now has more enforcement officers than ever before, and there has been an illegal dumping ordinance in place for five years. She said Tigard has been fairly successful in this area, and that all of the local governments are working hard on enforcement with Metro.

6. Regional Solid Waste Management Plan Enforcement Goals, Objectives, and Recommended Practices

Marie Nelson, Planning Services Supervisor, presented the Committee with an overview of a proposed planning schedule and process for revising the Regional Solid Waste Management Plan (RSWMP) enforcement goals, objectives, and recommended practices. She asked that at the end of her presentation the Committee consider approval of the planning schedule and process.

Ms. Nelson explained that the project objectives are to: develop goals, objectives, and practices that address major issues; implement recommendations from the Metro auditors' report on the enforcement program; and include any relevant elements from the old RSWMP. She also said that stakeholders would be involved in the planning process through such forums as a regional work group and SWAC.

Ms. Nelson then referred the Committee to Enclosure 6 of the March 20, 1996 SWAC packet, for a detailed breakdown of a proposed planning schedule and process for the project.

Doug Coenen asked what staff thought was missing or needed to be changed in the current goals and objectives for enforcement. Ms. Nelson replied she thought the current goals and objectives are still relevant, but she would like to explore other perspectives and ensure they were inclusive of all of the issues.

Loreen Mills asked Ms. Nelson if she was looking for volunteers to serve on the regional committee to review the enforcement section of the RSWMP. Ms. Nelson said she was noting volunteers, and wanted to ensure that all interest groups were involved.

JoAnn Herrigel asked if Metro was planning on taking the enforcement section update to city councils, as was the process during the RSWMP update. Ms. Nelson replied that it is a possibility if the interest is there.

Dave White stated that he didn't see anything about the theft of recyclables in the handout information. He asked how that would fit into the enforcement update. Ms. Nelson said that theft of recyclables is a new issue; it wasn't on the table when the old goal and objectives were developed. She said that it is an area included in Metro Code Enforcement as well as being a local issue. Mr. White said help from Metro would be appreciated on the local level, but he was concerned about redundancy.

Councilor McFarland asked if there was a motion to approve the planning schedule and process. The motion was made, seconded, and moved forward by the full Committee.

7. Status of Metro Hazardous Waste Programs - Future Plans

Scott Klag, Senior Solid Waste Planner, informed the Committee that, due to the flood activity, work on the future plans for Metro hazardous waste programs is a bit behind schedule. There will be a full presentation of household hazardous waste at the April 1996 SWAC meeting. He told the Committee that during the time allotted on this agenda, Jim Quinn would give them an update on the Metro South Hazardous Waste facility that flooded, and on the temporary debris dump sites that the Metro Hazardous Waste staff helped with during the flood.

Jim Quinn, Hazardous Waste Supervisor, reported to the Committee that the weeks following the flood were challenging for Metro's hazardous waste team. The hazardous waste facility at Metro South was flooded to the roof line and so was, and still is, unavailable for use. There were no environmental or health concerns associated with the flooding of the facility. Work is currently underway to restore the facility to a condition where it can be used, but no remodeling or major improvements will be undertaken until some basic, long-term decisions are made about its future. These decisions will include issues like whether to move the facility to higher ground or leave it where it is.

Mr. Quinn told the Committee that for flood-generated household hazardous waste, two approaches were used: full presence at the temporary dump sites and on-call services to collect material left at the dump sites. Although the exact numbers are not available, approximately 300 people used the hazardous waste drop-off opportunity at the temporary debris sites. Part of this was material that was not flood-related, but a result of neighborhood residents seeing the hazardous waste set-up and bringing in material.

Mr. Quinn also said that satellite household hazardous waste events are proceeding as usual. There will be six full-scale events and six neighborhood events. He then distributed a schedule of these events.

JoAnn Herrigel said that she thought Metro was extremely helpful during the flood. Someone was always available and willing to help, and she wanted to extend her thanks for that. She also thought the on-call service for hazardous waste collection from the temporary sites was a good idea, but that for Milwaukee it was probably just as easy to have residents bring their material to the transfer station since it is close by.

8. Disaster Debris Management / Regional Flood Coordination

Kelly Shafer Hossaini, Solid Waste Planner, gave the Committee an update on flood debris efforts in the region. She thanked the Committee for comments they gave Jim Goddard at the last SWAC meeting and said that they were taken back to the Disaster Debris Task Force at its March 7, 1996 meeting. She said that overall flood debris management in the region went very well, and the experiences will help in the development of the regional Disaster Debris Management Plan. Ms. Hossaini also said that the disaster debris management efforts of just the last six months helped in flood debris management. It helped to get people thinking about disaster debris, and opened the lines of communication.

The action item was not moved on as SWAC recommendations had already been taken to the Disaster Debris Management Task Force.

9. Discuss Tentative Meeting Agenda for April 17

Marie Nelson, Planning Services Supervisor, reported that the following items are tentatively scheduled for SWAC consideration on April 17: approval of a planning process and schedule to include hazardous waste practices in the RSWMP; approval of Disaster Debris Management recommended practices; and a report on the status of MRF franchise applications.

10. Other Business/Citizen Communications

Ed Drubeck, a DEQ NW Region manager, introduced himself and informed the Committee that he was now responsible for oversight on solid waste matters in the Northwest Region.

11. Adjourn

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