

SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING SUMMARY
November 20, 1996

Voting Members Present

Steve Schwab, Hauler Representative, Sunset Garbage Collection Co.
Tom Miller, Hauler Representative, Miller's Sanitary Service, Inc.
Tom Wyatt, Facility Representative, BFI/Trans Industries
Garry Penning, Facility Representative, Waste Management
Jeanne Roy, Citizen Representative, Recycling Advocates
Lynne Storz, Government Representative, Washington County

Alternate Members Present

Jeff Murray, Recycling Industry Representative, Far West Fibers
Susan Ziolkko, Government Representative, Clackamas County
Lee Barrett, Government Representative, City of Portland

Voting Members Absent

Ruth McFarland, Chair, Metro Councilor
John Drew, Recycling Industry Representative, Far West Fibers
Jim Cozzetto, Jr., Hauler Representative, MDC / Sanifill
David White, Hauler Representative, ORRA/Tri-County Council
Ralph Gilbert, Facility Representative, East County Recycling
Merle Irvine, Citizen Representative
Ken Spiegle, Government Representative, Clackamas County
Gary Hansen, Government Representative, Multnomah County
Debbie Noah, Government Representative, Mult. County Cities (Gresham)
Loreen Mills, Government Representative, Washington County Cities (Tigard)
Susan Keil, Government Representative, City of Portland

Voting Members Present

Dave Kunz, DEQ
Carol Devenir, Clark County

Metro Staff

Roosevelt Carter
Doug Anderson
Terry Petersen
Marie Nelson
Bryce Jacobsen
Jennifer Erickson
Andy Sloop
Scott Klag

1. Updates and Introductions. Marie Nelson, Metro Solid Waste Planning Supervisor, chaired the meeting because Councilor McFarland had been detained in traffic. Ms. Nelson announced recent changes in SWAC membership. She introduced Tom Wyatt as the new solid waste facility representative to replace Steve Meissen. This change had occurred due to changes in staff responsibilities at BFI/Trans Industries, she explained. Mr. Wyatt was promoted into Mr. Meissen's former position as District Vice President. Mr. Meissen has assumed leadership of BFI operations in the Clark County area. Dan Schooler, also of BFI, will serve as a SWAC alternate to Mr. Wyatt.

Ms. Nelson introduced Garry Penning, Division Present, Oregon Waste Systems, as replacing the SWAC position formerly held by Doug Coenen. Mr. Coenen moved to the east coast and serves in a new capacity for the Waste Management organization. Eric Merrill will serve as Mr. Penning's SWAC alternate.

2. Approval of Minutes of Oct. 16, 1996. Ms. Nelson asked for approval of the Committee minutes. Jeanne Roy made a motion for approval, seconded by Steve Schwab. The motion carried unanimously.

3. SWAC Bylaws. Ms. Nelson summarized amendments to the bylaws as proposed by Executive Officer Burton and Councilor McFarland: 1) effective immediately, increase facility positions from three to four; 2) effective immediately, increase citizen positions from three to four; and 3) effective Jan. 1, 1997, expand on the way citizen representatives are recruited for membership. She also reviewed additional suggestions for bylaw changes submitted by an interested citizen: 4) add a "removal from the Committee" penalty for missing more than four meetings during one year; and 5) limit SWAC membership to four years.

Ms. Nelson explained that if SWAC approved amendment 1), Mr. Irvine would be moved from his current citizen position to a facility position. This would have the effect of creating an additional citizen vacancy on SWAC. The three citizen vacancies would then be filled with candidates recently recruited under the old bylaw provisions.

Discussion followed about the five proposed amendments. In response to questions about the requirement for citizen membership, Ms. Nelson said that the primary requirements were interest in regional solid waste issues and that citizen representatives not be employed in the business of solid waste management.

The committee discussed amendment 4) regarding attendance at meetings. Most members agreed the requirement was a good idea if it allowed for the combined attendance of the voting member and his/her alternate. A question was raised about whether this requirement would present a hardship for citizen members because they did not have alternates. Ms. Nelson responded that Chair McFarland and Executive Officer Burton had not anticipated that alternates would be appointed for citizen positions and that she would confirm that assumption with them. She also thought it was a reasonable expectation for citizen members to attend a minimum of six or seven meetings a year.

[Note: After the Nov. 20 SWAC meeting, Executive Officer Burton and Councilor McFarland confirmed that there would not be alternate positions for citizen members]

There was no support for amendment 5), limiting term membership to four years. Members generally acknowledged that some turnover would be inevitable, but in some cases, continuity would be beneficial.

Tom Miller moved to amend the bylaws per amendments 1) through 4) described above. A vote was taken the motion carried unanimously.

4. Recent Operational Changes at South Transfer Station

5. FEMA Reimbursement Application for Flood Damage to Metro South

Mr. Petersen, Environmental Services Manager for Metro's transfer stations reported on the three transfer stations projects described below.

Project 1. Metro has installed sensors that will detect radiation in any load as well as sound an alarm if a truck is approaching at a speed in excess of 5 mph. The radiation sensors cannot function with speeds in excess of 5 mph. A truck moving in excess of this speed will be sent to the back of the line to re-enter the scale area. The State of Oregon will be notified of any radiation detection. The Stated would then advise staff on how to proceed. Mr. Petersen indicated this procedure had worked very well in the San Francisco area. Tom Wyatt explained that many landfill facilities have similar sensors.

Project 2. Mr. Petersen discussed possible improvements at Metro South Transfer Station that would provide flood protection, reduce wait times, and accommodate the processing of paint for recycling. He acknowledge that truck wait times at the station are a major issue. As such, staff propose adding a scale which would allow staff to designate an incoming and outgoing lanes for both commercial and for public "cash" customers.

Mr. Penning suggested that Metro charge one flat rate for self-haulers as a means to speed up traffic flow. This could be accomplished with no capital improvements and could be implemented immediately. Mr. Penning also said that the tipping area was so congested with self-hauler that commercial loads could not be dumped even after haulers entered the tipping area.

Project 3. Mr. Petersen talked about the possibility of automating the scalehouses at Metro Central and South Transfer Stations. Because of the large number of cash customers, Metro will not be able to totally automate, he explained. But there is potential to automate commercial customer transactions. He reported at Metro staff will research this possibility and will investigate how a similar system is working in Chicago. Mr. Petersen also explained that staff are currently conducting meetings with waste haulers and local governments to resolve these problems.

The Committee discussed the current hours of operation at the two facilities. It was suggested some congestion could be alleviated if South opened earlier for commercial haulers. Mr. Miller thought special rate incentives could be used to attract customers, i.e., an “early-bird” special.

Mr. Petersen said he intended to present the projects he had just described to the Council for approval. Staff would also benefit from SWAC’s advice. SWAC unanimously passed a motion that Metro proceed quickly with the capital improvements at Metro South that Mr. Petersen had discussed. The intent of this motion was to have the changes installed in advance of the busy spring and summer season at the transfer stations.

6. Facility Regulation, Code Revision. Mr. Sloop explained that at the October SWAC meeting, the Committee had approved the designation of a task force to work with staff to revise the Metro Code section relating to facility regulation. Staff has since identified persons interested in serving on the Code Revision Task Force: Ralph Gilbert, Jeff Murray, Dave White, Tom Miller, Dave Kunz, Loretta Pickerell, Ray Phelps, Diana Godwin. He said that job responsibilities prevented Loreen Mills from serving as a local government representative. Mr. Sloop requested those persons wishing to serve on the committee who were non-SWAC members and are consultants to identify themselves via letter of the client they are representing. SWAC unanimously approved of the Task Force nominees with the provision that a local government representative be added to replace Loreen Mills.

7. Facility Franchise Application - Pride Disposal. Mr. Metzler explained that staff was still working with Pride Disposal to develop a facility franchise agreement. Staff would return to the Committee for a briefing when that work was completed and prior to sending the agreement to the Council for approval.

**8. Regional Solid Waste Management Plan Development
Disaster Debris Management Plan**

Kelly Hossaini presented the final draft of the Regional Disaster Debris Management Plan (plan) for SWAC's consideration. She asked that SWAC recommend Council adoption of the Disaster Debris Management Plan. Once adopted, the plan would be amended into the Regional Solid Waste Management Plan.

Ms. Kelly then introduced Mike McGuire, Senior Emergency Planner for Metro's Natural Hazards Mitigation division, and asked him to speak the Committee about the relationship of the plan to the Regional Emergency Management Plan being developed by the Regional Emergency Management Group.

Ms. Kelly explained that SWAC had briefings about the plan’s provisions at previous meetings but would entertain any questions of Committee members. There were no questions.

Tom Miller moved that SWAC recommend the Council adopt the Disaster Debris Management Plan. Steve Schwab seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

9. RSWMP Implementation
Annual Metro / Local Govt. Waste Reduction Work Plans - Year 8

Marie Nelson, Jennifer Erickson and Bryce Jacobson presented an update on process to develop the FY 97-98 Metro/Local Government Waste Reduction Work Plans. Ms. Nelson explained that staff would return to SWAC in January requesting the Committee recommend Council approval of the work plan.

Mr. Jacobson said that during the first round of public involvement Metro received a total of nine letters of comment: 1-environmental advocate organization, 2-citizens, 1-hazardous waste management firm, 2-solid waste industry consultants, 3-local government groups such as local SWACs and local government recycling coordinators. Jennifer and Bryce have worked closely with local government recycling coordinators to evaluate and respond to the input received in those letters. All responses have been synthesized into the table included in the packet for this meeting.

Of the 59 total comments in the table, there were seven recommended changes to RSWMP and nine recommended changes to the Annual Plan. The remainder of the public input was general comments about the plan which are addressed in the background/clarification section of the table.

Most comments and amendments were in the commercial waste reduction and recycling section. Changes fell into three main categories: (1) the setting of benchmark goals; (2) measurement logistics including the collection of information; (3) how waste evaluations should be carried out. A table of comments and the revised plan were sent to the 160 interested parties on November 9; the deadline for comments on the second draft is December 6, 1996. The remaining key dates in the public involvement process are: final draft comments and the resulting changes will be brought to the January 15th SWAC meeting; The final draft will be presented to the Metro REM Committee on January 22, 1997 and the Metro Council for consideration on January 23 or 30, 1997.

Ms. Erickson pointed out the substantive changes to the 1997-98 Annual plan are on page 2, 6, 7, and 9. A brief description follows:

Waste Evaluation Program and Service Provision Plans. All sections of the Annual Plan dealing with the standards, service provision plans and measurement will be developed separately, but parallel to the Year 8 Plan. This change includes the Service Provision Plan Framework for Waste Prevention, Diversion and Procurement Evaluations originally listed as Attachment B to the Annual Waste Reduction Plan. These elements will no longer be reviewed as part of the 1997-98 Annual Waste Reduction Plan draft.

A public work group will be convened to determine the responsibilities for conducting the waste evaluations, techniques and methods used in waste evaluations, and basic service standards that will be applied throughout the region. This work group will convene in November or December and will present a completed program plan in January to be approved simultaneously with the 1997-98 Annual Waste Reduction Plan. After approval, the waste evaluation elements will be incorporated into the Annual Plan. Until this time; no changes will be made to the Annual Plan with regard to waste evaluations. The outcome of this work group will determine the need for possible amendments to the commercial recycling section of the Regional Solid Waste Management Plan.

The work group will be comprised of Metro staff, local government staff, haulers and other private sector and volunteer groups.

Alternative Practices. As with the Waste Evaluation Service Provision Plan, the Alternative Practices piece will be developed separately from but simultaneous to the Year 8 Annual Plan and will be incorporated into the plan when approved. It is anticipated that an Alternative Practices piece will be ready by early 1997.

RSWMP Amendments. Proposed amendments to the RSWMP may affect many tasks in the 1997-98 Annual Plan. It is expected that RSWMP amendments will be examined in the early part of 1997. Once RSWMP amendments are approved, the 1997-98 Annual Plan will be updated to reflect these decisions.

Glossary. For purposes of clarification of terms and meaning, a copy of the glossary taken directly from the RSWMP has been included with the Annual Plan.

10. RSWMP Tracking. Marie Nelson announced that the State of the Plan Report, Part A: Annual Update on the Benchmarks of the Regional Solid Waste Management Plan for FY 1995-96 was completed and copies were available at the door. She also directed the Committee to the synopsis of comments received on Part A of the State of the Plan Report, also at the door. She said that the analysis and recommendations for RSWMP changes as a result of Part A would be available in January 1997.

11. Other Business. Dave Kunz of DEQ reported on the current status of key DEQ projects including: response to the legislative budget note, composting rules, tax credit review, waste tire rules, pollution prevention program, a grant to the city of Milwaukie for a resource efficiency program; completion of the annual recycling and recovery survey, staffing changes, and publication of a new handbook to clarify DEQ's permitting process.

Respectfully submitted,
Connie Kinney, Committee Clerk

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