

SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting of June 17, 1998

Members Present

Don Morissette, Chair
Susan Keil, City of Portland
Steve Schwab, CCRRA
Tom Miller, WCHA
Ralph Gilbert, East County Recycling
Loreen Mills, Washington County Cities
Tam Driscoll, East County Cities
Jeanne Roy, Portland Citizen
Marti Roberts-Pillon, DEQ
Rick Winterhalter, Clackamas County
Roger Vonderharr, East County Cities
Doug DeVries, STS
Garry Penning, Waste Management of Oregon
Merle Irvine, Willamette Resources, Inc.
Dean Kampfer, USA Waste
Lynne Storz, Washington County
JoAnn Herrigel, City of Milwaukie
David White, ORRA/Tri-C
Mike Misovetz, Clackamas County Citizen
Tom Wyatt, B.F.I.
Bruce Warner, Metro REM

Guests Present:

Bruce Broussard, USA Waste	Diana Godwin, Regional Disposal Co.
Todd Irvine, Willamette Resources, Inc.	Mike Leichner, WCHA
Dick Jones, Citizen	Jon Angin, USA Waste
Easton Cross, Consultant	Kent Inman, American Compost
Dan Schooler, BFI	Doug Drennen, DCS
Ray Phelps, Pac/West	

Metro Present:

Aaron Brondyke	Scott Klag
Jim Watkins	Jim Quinn
Randy Ealy	Bryce Jacobson
Terry Petersen	Marv Fjordbeck
Leo Kenyon	
Meg Lynch	

Chair Morissette brought the meeting to order. Chair Morissette asked for a motion for acceptance of the May 20th meeting summary.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Ralph Gilbert moved to accept the Minutes from the meeting of May 20, 1998. The motion was seconded, and the Committee unanimously approved the Minutes from the meeting of May 20, 1998.

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Mr. Warner reported on the results of the REMCom meeting of Tuesday, June 16, 1998. He said a considerable amount of time was spent on the Citistics franchise, a processing and reload facility in Beaverton. Mr. Warner said at least four persons spoke in opposition to the franchise, after which a motion was made to forward the ordinance to the Council with a "do pass" recommendation. This motion was defeated 2 votes to 1. Presently, Council has not made a decision. Mr. Warner said the ordinance will be brought to the full Council on August 6, 1998.

Mr. White commented that Chair Morissette's comments were accurate and commended him for taking a stand for approval of the Citistics franchise.

Mr. Warner, continuing with the update, said that a resolution to approve the RSWMP change as regards reload facilities as recommended by the SWAC was also before the REMCom, as well as a revision of Metro Code, Chapter 5.01. Mr. Warner said REMCom took no action on the ordinance and requested they hear the issues related to the Code so they could better understand how the plan provision could be implemented. The REMCom continued the Code Revision hearing to July 7, 1998 as well as the RSWMP change.

Mr. Warner said he has copies of the proposed amendments to the Code Revision, as well as a crib sheet noting the "administrative" vs. "Council" action. He said the proposed corrections to the excise tax and new fees were not submitted with an emergency clause and were placed in a separate ordinance and a draft form of those changes are available.

UPDATE ON HAZARDOUS WASTE PLANNING

Scott Klag stated that responses to the survey distributed a couple months ago have now been reviewed and compiled. He explained this process was begun in order to complete some of the recommendations set forth in the RSWMP, including continuing the curb-side programs, continue education, and look for further recommendations with regard to a 10-year plan. Mr. Klag said Metro continues to see growth in its events and H2W locations at the transfer stations and we are looking for some guidance as to Metro's services.

Mr. Klag said they have divided the planning process into three basic portions: 1) Develop basic planning information this spring and summer; 2) Develop management alternatives through summer and early fall; and 3) Develop further analysis and recommendations as guidance for development of budget materials and the RSWMP. Mr. Klag said he hoped to gather information on who exactly is using our services, what do they like about them, how important is convenience. Mr. Klag said these questions were important in terms of projecting what demand for these services are.

Overview of Household Hazardous Waste Services

Mr. Quinn, Supervisor of Metro's Household Hazardous Waste program, showed an overhead showing the growth of the program from its beginning in 1992. He said that the program

actually started in 1986 with collection events. In 1992 Metro received a little over 10,000 customers. At this time Metro holds 3 major events twice yearly, and many smaller "neighborhood" events with about 200 hundred persons served, and which are usually held in conjunction with neighborhood clean-up events. Metro has more recently implemented the administration of DEQ's "Paint Smart" program where a couple of paint retailers (Gresham and Hillsboro) collect paint that customers have left over from their customer's projects. Last year we collected paint from about 300 customers with this program. All of our collection events have seen additional customers and Metro is expecting to serve more than 30,000 people total in 1998 with its Household Hazardous Waste services.

In addition to these programs, we also have a small generator program, in which Metro services between 250 and 300 small businesses that can accumulate up to 2,200 pounds of hazardous materials per year. Metro's Haz Waste Team is also called on from time to time for emergency incidents such as abandoned waste on private citizen's property, hazardous spills, and transfer station emergencies. Mr. Quinn added that he is always available to answer questions.

Mr. Klag discussed the results of the H2W survey recently concluded. We conducted the survey to ascertain how much effort Metro should be putting into reducing the demand for this type of service either through education and other types of programs. And would education and additional programs actually work to reduce the demand as well as to determine what types of services were needed the most or whether we needed to expand our current services. Our conclusions are that there is strong support for education, and many of the persons surveyed are interested in participating in additional services and alternatives for demands for other services. Some of the participants believe that Metro should not be involved with some issues. Another observation was that there are programs Metro administers of which people are generally unaware.

The question of why there seemed to be more activity at Metro South was directed to Jim Quinn. Mr. Quinn said that has been historically true, it is more convenient to a larger group of people in general. It was stated that Metro Central might be less desirable because it is located in an industrial area.

Ms. Keil and Mr. Quinn said the Laurelhurst Neighborhood has a clean-up that Metro provides a small grant towards and well as the City of Portland, and Metro also provides staffing for the household hazardous waste collected there.

Ms. Driscoll commented the Gresham event was so well attended that we distributed coupons for disposal at the transfer station because we were unable to handle all of the customers. Ms. Driscoll said she was interested in continuing the "Paint Smart" program because she has received many positive comments. Mr. Quinn stated it was originally a pilot project but the future of the project will be discussed and perhaps expanded.

Mr. Vonderharr stated the result of Gresham's event not being able to accommodate all of the customers was that some people disposed of their waste on Fairview's streets and Fairview had to send out special crews to pick it up. Mr. Quinn said he would look into that matter and Metro would help deal with it. Mr. Vonderharr commented that it was plain to him that Metro needed to sponsor more events in the east county area because the needs were not being met.

Mr. Miller pointed out that many of the customers attend the events because there was no charge associated with it whereas the facility charges a nominal fee of \$5.00.

Mr. Jacobson spoke more about planning for the future of hazardous waste programs. He said two survey efforts were underway right now: He said we recently sent out a survey to 534 of Metro's facility customers to assess how current services were meeting demand for hazardous waste services and assess factors such as convenience and the how the \$5.00 charge influenced the demand for services. He said the results revealed that those persons using the facility were happy with the services and the charge was not burdensome. It was noted that most folks save up their waste and dispose of it during routine "spring cleaning" and/or change of residence. Mr. Jacobson said most of the customers surveyed (40%) had used the facility before. He said the survey also showed that those persons who had visited the facility on more than one occasion had reduced their use of hazardous materials since their first visit.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REVISED CODE

Mr. Strachota distributed an information sheet on some of the issues involved with revision of the code. A provision for exchanging an existing franchise for new license agreements will be allowed through the end of the 1998 calendar year if the facility will continue the same type of activity the existing franchise was written for. Mr. Strachota said the new license agreements would be "standard" type agreements and the language is now being finalized.

Mr. Strachota said the new code allows Metro 60 days to process an application by persons requesting licenses or franchises for new activities. He said we anticipate receiving several applications and will endeavor to accelerate that process. He also said a draft of the administrative procedures defining that process will be drafted within a couple of weeks. Mr. Strachota said staff has also developed a needs analysis which will be required for direct-haul and we will share that information. He said it is anticipated all of these documents will be ready upon adoption of the revised code.

Mr. Strachota said administration of the direct-haul process is still being worked on. A new billing system will have to be set up and a way of identifying direct-haul loads by Columbia Ridge must be made. He said that currently loads are "sealed" by Metro staff and when it reaches Columbia Ridge, they read the tag and identify it as a Metro load. This also guarantees the load was not tampered with in-route or delivered from another facility. He said a similar system must be set up for any direct-haul facility which will take some effort and work with Columbia Ridge and we are currently doing that.

Mr. Strachota said the revised code places more emphasis on performance within the licenses and franchises and therefore an inspection program is currently being developed. He said that to that end, staff have had discussions with facility operators, staff have been visiting the facilities to see what things should be included in the inspection program and will hold a "pilot inspection program."

Mr. Warner said that with respect to the schedule, because the REM Committee did not take action on the revised code at their last meeting, the earliest the Council could consider the revised code would be on the 16th of July.

Chair Morissette commented that he has not been able to ascertain all of the issues individual councilors have with the revised code. He believes one issue is what is a Council determination and what will be left to the Administration to decide.

Mr. Penning asked what the effect of the REM Committee's lack of a decision would be on the new performance credits and new user fees. Mr. Strachota said the initial eligibility of the new credits have already been set out in Metro Code, Chapter 5.02 which has already been adopted for existing franchise holders. Mr. Fjordbeck said the only effect would be that if your facility wanted to change services or you were a new facility there is not a current mechanism in place to facilitate credits for that facility.

Mr. Warner commented that it was clear that the Council's intent in lowering the rate was to make the incentive curve available, so staff would be working on a solution to that problem.

Ms. Keil said it might be helpful if a short executive summary could be prepared for the REM Committee to address the burdensome issues they have expressed both to them and to enable them to be better informed.

Chair Morissette commented that SWAC members might enter into a dialogue with members of the Council to discuss some of their concerns.

Ms. Keil said she and others on the SWAC have spent many hours working on viable solutions to implement various solid waste programs, and in particular the performance credit program the SWAC has endorsed and sent to Council. She believes staff have put together quality work in this as well as revision of the code and hopes Council recognizes these efforts on behalf of staff and the SWAC committee.

Mr. White also commented that staff should be commended on their excellent work in revision of the code. He said that what was important is that staff took the RSWMP, looked at the goals and took the application and applied it to the goals. He believes a facility that is meeting those goals should be commended. He suggested that the next time staff has the opportunity to present a franchise to the Council that perhaps they write a checklist on a board and show how the facility is either meeting the region's goals or criteria which might give them a clearer picture on what is needed in the region as well as SWAC's recommendation.

Mr. Warner stated he had made appointments with each of the councilors to go through the code and identify the issues as he sees them and make sure he understands them from their perspective and see if a mutually acceptable solution can be attained.

Ms. Keil said she would volunteer to participate in any meetings with council that Mr. Warner feels her expertise might be helpful in. Mr. Penning said he would also be willing to discuss these matters with Council.

Mr. Warner thanked everyone for their support.

Mr. White asked Mr. Warner what delays might there be if Council amends the Code Revision, and would it in turn delay applications for franchises and licenses?

Mr. Warner replied that if substantive changes are made to the Ordinance, it could mean additional delay.

Mr. Leichner, from the audience, said he was also concerned about the timeframe and any delays that might occur. He added that he and Tom Miller had been waiting for a substantial amount of time to receive an answer on their applications.

Chair Morissette replied that Metro would be doing the best they possibly could to resolve the issues. Mr. Warner added that although the SWAC have accomplished a considerable amount of work over the past year and Council has been receiving updates regularly, they have not had the level of involvement or discussion of the issues that the SWAC has had over the past year. He said some of the things they are not clear on they need more clarity on. He added they (the Council) have only had a couple of weeks to digest a year's worth of committee and staff time.

Chair Morissette added that during the past year many individuals have had to make compromises in order to come to full committee agreement and perhaps some of the committee members can help to illustrate to the councilor's that same energy that created those compromises to the actual decision makers. Chair Morissette concluded in saying he is optimistic the decisions will be made, but there will be some more challenges and he feels the SWAC will rise to the occasion.

OTHER BUSINESS

Jeanne Roy commented that a few months ago she had asked when they might see the State of the Plan Report and the workplan that the Year 9 was going through. She said that at that time Ms. Erickson said it was essentially complete but it hasn't been brought to the SWAC. She would like to know when SWAC might be able to see that and could they see it at the next SWAC meeting?

Mr. Warner said he would see if this document has been completed but in any case SWAC would receive an update at the next SWAC.

Ms. Mills said she would also like to see the State of the Plan but she would rather see the Code Revision be the priority of staff.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted:

Connie L. Kinney
Clerk to the Committee

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