

JOINT SOLID WASTE POLICY/TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

April 12, 1991

Policy Committee Chair Judy Wyers brought the meeting to order. Ms. Wyers announced that due to an emergency at her work place she would leave the meeting early and requested that Dale Harlan continue chairing the meeting.

Committee Members and Citizen Communications

There were no committee member or citizen communications items.

Updates

Commissioner Sharron Kelley stated the Illegal Dumping Bill (HB 3309) was presented to the House Intergovernmental Relations Committee. Ms. Kelley stated Representative Ron Cease sponsored the Bill to the Committee and will sponsor the Bill on the House floor. Ms. Kelley stated the intent of the legislation was to allow local jurisdictions to determine at their discretion whether the penalties for offenders be through civil or criminal proceedings. Ms. Kelley stated civil prosecution of offenders would require less time to bring to trial and less strenuous evidence and stiffer fines could be handed down.

Action Item - Approval of Illegal Dumping Chapter of the Regional Solid Waste Management Plan (draft chapter attached to agenda)

Commissioner Kelley introduced Ron Nagy from the Metro staff who presented an overview of the Illegal Dumping Chapter. Mr. Nagy gave background information on how the chapter was compiled and what assumptions were made. Mr. Nagy stated that the specific recommendations, page 18, describe that Metro has a policy of levying a \$25 fine for cash customers and a \$100 fine for credit account customers with untarped loads at solid waste facilities and that the word "fine" was incorrect and would be amended with the word "surcharge."

Discussion:

Estle Harlan felt that in the language on construction and demolition debris - improvement of service, page 19, the tone suggested that the franchise system was clogging the system and that the language should be changed as subcontracting is currently available.

Ms. Keil suggested more strength in the waste tire section.

Commissioner Larrance felt that the problem was more of an ability to access a reasonably priced facility to get rid of the stuff. He suggested that to help break the cycle it may be necessary to have drop off sites in other areas for easier access. He felt that the chapter said two things: that Metro coordinate and that Metro enforce.

Mr. Nagy stated that the idea was not that Metro be a center for enforcement, but a vehicle for local governments to be able to process their enforcement more easily. He said that in terms of enforcement, perhaps to develop a model enforcement code that could be adapted or adopted by local governments would be helpful and that a regional hearings officer would be a service and not a requirement.

Larrance stated that it should be a regionwide effort. He suggested some centralization, but that enforcement should be local.

Ms. Wyers stated that cost efficiency was the issue when this was proposed. That it was decided that the most cost efficient approach was to have a common hearings officer. She suggested pro bono work by various attorneys' offices.

Mr. Harlan questioned whether amendments could be made after the chapter was adopted.

Mr. Carson stated that the chapter could be amended after adoption.

Ms. Wyers stated that she was willing to leave the small change until later, but if the changes were substantial that the time should be taken now.

Ms. Crockett suggested that the agendas for the next few Council Solid Waste Committee meetings were full and that there was a question whether or not enough time would be available to docket this item.

Ms. Keil asked whether technical changes made by Dave White were incorporated in this draft. She felt that if time was not critical, that more time should be spent revising the draft.

Mr. Carson recommended that the appropriate changes be made and then to take it back to the Policy Committee's next meeting.

Ms. Harlan felt that convenience of hauling was not an issue and that the convenience section on the top of pages 10 and 19 should be revamped.

Ms. Keil felt that persons illegally dumping were aware of that fact and that stronger enforcement, convenience and uniformity aspect were greater areas of emphasis. She continued by saying that a lot of time and attention were devoted to education and questioned the importance.

Mr. Nagy related that education materials would be developed to show people that illegal dumping was socially unacceptable and would inform that this is a criminal act and list the penalty. Mr. Carson felt that education at the elementary school level was the place to start.

Ms. Whitworth offered DEQ's assistance in updating the waste tires information on pages 14 and 19. She stated that DEQ felt that the amount of waste tires statewide was decreasing due to the

reimbursement program and that the statement "that less than half the amount is reclaimed" is currently inaccurate.

Ms. Wyers expressed concern that the document did not give enough information to local governments on how to tackle the clean ups in their areas.

Ms. Kelley suggested a handbook of different sample ordinances.

Ms. Wyers turned the Chair over to Commissioner Harlan.

Discussion of Washington County Policy/Technical Analysis

Mr. Carson asked if persons remaining at the meeting wanted to review this agenda item. He stated that it was mainly an informational item. It was agreed that there would be a question and answer session rather than a presentation.

Mr. Carson asked for questions.

Mr. Carson explained that the cost differential between publicly-owned and operated facility and a privately-owned and operated facility is 62¢ a ton across the whole region.

Ms. Crockett added that in the opinion of financial consultant PFM the above figure was relatively insignificant when making a decision to go public or private.

Mr. Carson stated that Metro has contracted with Waste Management for 90 percent of the region's general purpose waste, and can only allow approximately 8 percent go out of the region. He went on to say that most of the waste in Washington County would have to go to the Arlington Landfill.

Mr. Larrance explained that the rate the region would have to pay for the 62¢ per ton (the difference between publicly-owned and private-owned facilities) is after you subtract out the portion that is property tax, what you have left is less than 1¢ per can region-wide per pick up period of difference.

Mr. Carson went on to say that of the 62¢, 53¢ is primarily property taxes and low income taxes. The cost of money difference between public financing and a public/private partnership is approximately 9¢.

Mr. Harlan felt that everyone needed to be aware of how much subsidy is going on.

Mr. Carson stated that anytime that a facility is brought on-line, there is an increase cost to the system no matter who owns or operates it.

Ms. Crockett stated that a summary of the notebook would be provided to those who wished it. She suggested that those with comments to attend the Council Solid Waste Committee hearing the following Tuesday.

Steve commented that the intent was to develop a 20-year plan. That Eco Northwest determined that two facilities was a good idea and that we should not plan past 10 years. The original plan calls for three facilities with the third coming on-line at the 10-year mark. The third site, proposed for the Sunset Corridor, could be purchased now although the plan calls for it to be reevaluated in 10 years.

Mr. Harlan asked if the timeline of the Washington County process adversely affected the finalization of the expected facilities.

Mr. Carson responded that timing should not be an issue.

Mr. Carson stated that a compromise was made on the financing issue.

The next Solid Waste Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 10, 1991, with Illegal Dumping Chapter on the agenda. The meeting was adjourned.

am
a:\min1.412
05/03/91