

SOLID WASTE PLANNING POLICY COMMITTEE

Minutes

May 12, 1989

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 a.m. by Chair Gary Hansen who welcomed new committee members Pauline Anderson and Bill Stewart. The following were present:

Members and Alternates

Gary Hansen, Metro, Chair
Sharron Kelley, Metro
Clifford Clark, Forest Grove
Shirley Huffman, Washington County
Steve Larrance, Washington County
Pauline Anderson, Multnomah County
John Lang, (for Earl Blumenauer) City of Portland
Dale Harlan, Clackamas County
Bill Stewart, (for Barbara Sullivan-Hoem) City of Wood Village
Steve Greenwood, (for Fred Hansen) Department of
Environmental Quality
Brian Campbell, Port of Portland

The following members were not present:

Rena Cusma, Metro
Carol Powell, Oregon City

Metro Staff

Richard Carson
Bob Martin
Becky Crockett
Sandy Gurkewitz
Robert Newman
Gerry Uba
Leigh Zimmerman

Guests

Delyn Kies, Northwest Strategies
Martin Winch, Multnomah County, Pauline Anderson's staff

Chair Hansen reported there had been a tie vote on enhancement fees for the Forest Grove Transfer Station at the Metro Council meeting the previous evening. He will report back on further development

at the next committee meeting.

Minutes of the March 10 Policy Committee were approved unanimously.

Bob Martin, Director of Metro Solid Waste Department, presented an update on Solid Waste Department activities. Proposals for a private transfer station are being advertised now. On a parallel track, various options are being explored for a public facility. The Council will evaluate and compare the public and private options in August.

Regarding the compost facility, negotiations with Riedel are being wrapped up with May 31 as closure date. Following this, there will be a presentation to Metro Council and the public.

Mr. Martin stated that a transport contract was awarded to Jack Gray Transport in March. Beginning in 1990 an average of 35 loads per day will be transported. By 1991 the region expects to reach full-scale operation and to transport 65 loads a day. The loads will be containerized and leakproof. Trucks will be similar to others currently using the interstate corridor. They will not stop at rest stops or scenic areas except for emergencies. Metro is working with Jack Gray to address concerns of communities in the Gorge.

Regarding waste reduction, the plan was recently amended and adopted with changes in accordance with DEQ requirements. In addition, Metro Council approved a major increase in the solid waste budget to support this work. This means that Metro will have a much improved staff capacity to work on waste reduction in the very near future.

Mr. Martin also pointed out that the Solid Waste Department budget for the coming year has been approved. Increases over the previous year are mainly in reserve accounts for closure of St. Johns. Other major items are capital expenditures at Metro South to expand and install two compactors and larger staging area for transport operation.

Steve Larrence asked how many staff are working on waste reduction. Mr. Martin replied there are ten people in his department, which does not include four people in Recycling Information Center which is located in the Public Affairs Department, and staff located in the Planning and Development Department.

Rich Carson gave an update on activities in the Planning and Development Department. As part of the process on Metro East, a mitigation agreement with the City of Portland was negotiated. The agreement is consistent with the Solid Waste Management Plan and gives clear and objective standards for siting transfer stations. In the near future the Planning Department will be developing model zoning codes for other jurisdictions.

Mr. Carson reported his department budget for the coming fiscal

year provides hazardous waste and local government coordinator positions. The local government coordinator will be working on model zoning codes and land use issues like mitigation and expansion of the Metro South Station.

Chair Hansen indicated the first action item on the agenda was discussion and approval of waste reduction strategy. Becky Crockett, senior solid waste planner, pointed out that there is a need to consolidate information and to clarify existing waste reduction documents, including the 1986 Waste Reduction Program with 1989 Amendments and the System Measurement Study, and to incorporate them into the Solid Waste Management Plan.

The Waste Reduction Chapter will also address the following issues:

1. Recommend voluntary/cooperative support by local governments.
2. Identify financing options at regional and local levels. She stated that local governments should not be required to carry out recycling unless funding is identified.
3. Recommend annual work programs for Metro and local governments which identify what each is doing. Metro will develop a model program for local governments.

Ms. Crockett concluded by stating that the System Measurement Study has been approved by the Technical Advisory Committee, the Policy Committee and the Metro Council. Five major programs are to be carried out in the region. Some, such as curbside recycling and a multi-family recycling program, will have an impact on local governments. The other programs are based on Metro's ability to provide processing facilities.

Motion and Vote

Sharron Kelley moved for passage of the item and Steve Larrance seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

Mr. Carson introduced the item relating to yard debris. He requested that Steve Larrance update the committee on the Washington County Plan.

Commissioner Larrance reported that Washington County has hired Bill Martin to head up their program which is on a tight time-frame in order to submit their plan to DEQ in August. The plan must go to each city for review prior to that time. He stated that there is good cooperation between the private and public sectors on this project.

Ms. Crockett reported on the yard debris methodology. She stated that regional yard debris plan standards are required by DEQ Yard Debris Recycling Rules. This makes it necessary to determine the amount of yard debris currently generated in the region. This information will be used to determine yard debris processing

capacity, market capacity, and recycling impact on local yard debris collection systems. She stated that current numbers are estimates and will be updated as better information becomes available.

Two generation scenarios have been developed. One is for the entire Metro region and one for the amount generated per local jurisdiction. Oregon City and Gladstone have good records to help Metro set up a methodology for determining the amount in every jurisdiction. Conditions that may affect the numbers include age of communities, lot size, and demographics. In addition, the impact of backyard burning on yard debris generation needs to be determined.

Ms. Crockett asked for approval of the yard debris generation methodology. Staff will continue to work on information regarding burn ban areas before final approval of that section.

Motion and Vote

Sharron Kelley moved for approval of the yard debris methodology, with a second by Clifford Clark.

Commissioner Larrance reported the analysis by Washington County showed at least fifty percent of the people outside the DEQ boundary burn yard debris. Inside the boundary further analysis is needed. He stated support for the concept of this item.

Mr. Lang raised two questions. The first question was in regard to jurisdictions which are larger than Gladstone and how the local government methodology would apply to those jurisdictions with different characteristics. Ms. Crockett responded that the Waste Reduction Subcommittee had been aware of this and will look at the specific characteristics of jurisdictions and apply the methodology accordingly.

Mr. Lang asked if some factors will be established for characteristics such as age of city, lot size, and demographics or if it will be left open. Ms. Crockett responded that Metro intends to ask for assistance from local jurisdictions. Using the information Metro has developed, they will apply it to their situation and report back on figures. If different criteria are used, they will tell us and that data will be incorporated into regional plans. When new programs come on line Metro will have better data. She stated that Metro will adjust the figures before adopting the Regional Yard Debris Plan.

Mayor Clark pointed out that smaller cities do not have solid waste experts and have limited resources to address the issue, even if it is simplified.

Chair Hansen requested that Ms. Crockett give more details on what information local jurisdictions will be asked to gather and how it relates to the region. He also asked that she comment on the

importance of accuracy and how this contributes to the regional plan.

Ms. Crockett responded that the information will be used to estimate what kind of collection systems are needed and how much material can be expected to be generated. Another purpose is to determine regionwide marketing and processing capacities. She stated that at this time, staff regards the data as a starting point.

Commissioner Larrance felt there would not be much difference with a plus or minus ten percent error factor and that after new programs come on-line, the region will be better able to identify differences and adjust numbers based on real information.

Mr. Greenwood agreed this is a good starting point and no one will be held to initial numbers. Since real numbers will be used when they become available, he can support this in that context.

Chair Hansen suggested Metro put out census tract information for those communities that have successful programs. He stated that he did not feel the region could draw any strong conclusions from census tract information regarding the Gladstone and Oregon City programs, but as more programs are developed he felt there would be an obvious correlation with income levels. Another item might be the age of the neighborhoods, not necessarily the age of the dwellings. There may be some other factors that have not yet been identified but will become apparent in time. Having the census tract information will allow local officials to compare it with their own communities.

Commissioner Harlan agreed with Councilor Hansen's comments. He remarked that the topographical nature of Oregon City and Gladstone are quite different and would lead to different patterns of yard debris collection. He pointed out the Oregon City program is much newer, about three or four years, while the Gladstone program has been operating for ten or fifteen years. He thought the proposal would be a good start and did not feel it needed to be improved upon now.

Commissioner Larrance asked how soon numbers will be generated on multi-family complexes. Ms. Crockett replied that the local government part of the methodology did not include a factor for multi-family dwellings since most multi-family situations had limited landscaping and did not produce much yard debris. Others have landscapers who take their material to Grimm's or McFarlane's and the numbers will show up in the regional data.

Commissioner Larrance remarked the process looked suitable for the purposes it would be used for and thought there are so many unique impacts that we will need a long history before accuracy can be obtained.

Motion and Vote

There being no further discussion, Chair Hansen called for the vote and the motion to approve the yard debris generation methodology passed unanimously.

Mr. Carson pointed out some clarifications on select waste, which is a new term for what is referred to in the Solid Waste Management Plan as low-grade waste. He stated that Metro staff has met with DEQ and they are working on consistency of terminology and definitions.

Ms. Crockett stated the Committee had previously requested staff do an assessment involving those parts of the waste stream which, because of their weight, bulk or handling capability, would be difficult to process through transfer stations and to transport to Arlington. These materials would include construction debris, tires, white goods, animal carcasses, asbestos, etc. Select waste comprises twenty percent of waste generated in the region. She emphasized the importance of finding options for handling these materials, especially after St. Johns closes.

The Technical Committee and Facilities Subcommittee have been working on definitions to identify these substreams. A consultant will also be hired to conduct an environmental assessment and identify a range of options appropriate for managing these substreams. An RFP will be released soon and planning work is expected to be completed by late summer.

Ms. Crockett also stated that Metro has introduced legislation requesting that DEQ develop standards for limited-purpose landfills. This would enable Metro to develop new in-region disposal facilities. Metro is currently working with DEQ for consensus on terminology.

Mr. Greenwood reported that DEQ is beginning a rule-making process now with respect to specified waste. One of the main factors influencing their rulemaking has been what to do with oil-contaminated soils, some exempt quantity generator hazardous waste and other things.

Councilor Kelley asked Mr. Greenwood how many problems are anticipated in finding a place for this waste.

Mr. Greenwood responded there are three issues to be faced: 1) Finding the appropriate place for disposal; 2) Providing viable options; and 3) How to package and provide facilities in the region which are acceptable to the public.

Chair Hansen stated the next meeting will be July 7 at 7:30. He declared the meeting adjourned.