

MINUTES OF THE METRO COUNCIL SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE

January 19, 1993

Council Chamber

Committee Members Present: Roger Buchanan (Chair), Susan McLain, Ed Washington, Judy Wyers

Committee Members Excused: Ruth McFarland

Chair Buchanan called the regular meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

1. Solid Waste Updates

o General Staff Reports

Bob Martin, Director of Solid Waste Department, presented the staff report, and said a report on designated facilities would be forthcoming soon. He said six specific facilities would be involved in the presentation, and said expected the report to be somewhat time consuming. He said the Department's staff report and recommendations would be made available to John Houser, Council Analyst, January 20, 1993.

In response to Councilor McLain, Mr. Martin said the facilities under consideration were Hillsboro, Roosevelt, Arlington, Finley Butte, and Lakeside Reclamation/Grabhorn, and Riverbend Landfill.

He presented an update regarding the composter and said hearings underway currently. He said an update on the hearings could be ready for presentation by February 16, 1993 and said he expected more than one meeting would be necessary.

In response to Chair Buchanan, Mr. Martin said a tentative agreement in concept had been reached by the parties involved, Ryan/OTVB and Credit Suisse.

Councilor Washington proposed the meeting be held off site in the neighborhood, and recommended it be held at Whittaker School.

Presiding Officer Wyers agreed to the concept of neighborhood coordination, and requested the meeting schedule be crafted clearly as to neighborhood hearings and Solid Waste Committee hearings and deliberations.

The Committee and staff discussed timelines for land use and modification of the agreement/renewal, and the service agreement acceptance period.

(Continued)

Chair Buchanan requested Mr. Martin prepare a calendar outlining and defining the timelines and matters to be undertaken.

Presiding Officer Wyers requested clear definitions be established regarding odor and odor problems in the agreements. She noted the odor problems were variable in both location and intensity. She felt the odor problems needed to be identified as quantifiable, and recommendations identified as to ways to implement termination of agreements.

Presiding Officer Wyers requested Mr. Houser draft a memorandum to Todd Sadlo, Assistant General Counsel concerning the matter.

Councilor Washington requested a timely draft of the timeline report requested by Chair Buchanan.

Mr. Martin said the Rate Review Committee was meeting on a weekly basis currently. He said he did not expect a large increase, and noted the new Code provisions disallowed establishing an emergency clause to enact the adoption of a new rate, and said the new rate would be forthcoming late February or early March.

In response to Councilor McLain, Mr. Martin said the process of developing rates including a discussion of rates impacts on illegal dumping and dumping outside of the region. He said he would be presenting a proposal for improvements in flow control provisions.

Mr. Martin indicated rates, designated facilities, budget, rates, and flow control would be major topics for discussion in the next six months for the Committee.

Councilor Washington requested a timeline be prepared synthesizing the discussions necessary by the Committee.

o Waste Reduction Program Activities

Debbie Gorham, Waste Reduction Manager, presented the staff report, and distributed to the Committee a report, "Metro Compliance with the EQC Order Issued March 1989". This document has been made part of the permanent meeting record. She referenced a letter dated January 13, 1993 from Mr. Martin to Fred Hansen, Director, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, attached to the report.

Mr. Gorham noted DEQ had been asked to give Metro written notification regarding compliance.

In response to Councilor McLain, Ms. Gorham said the information from Washington County was current. Councilor McLain indicated Washington County was concerned about commercial sector waste, and recommended discussion be open and ongoing regarding waste reduction issues with the

County. Ms. Gorham agreed. Councilor McLain said the definition of commercial waste should be revisited and that smaller businesses were often overlooked which could have made good models. Ms. Gorham noted the definition resided in the state law.

2. Informational Update on Solid Waste Programs Administered by the Public Affairs Department

Vickie Rocker, Public Affairs Director, presented the staff report. She commented on multi-family recycling noting RIC received and handled numerous calls requesting information. She said an emphasis this year was Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) education, and noted this was the first year the Department had a program being presented in the schools.

Ms. Rocker introduced Michel Gregory, Senior Public Affairs Specialist, who highlighted aspects of the waste reduction promotion program and staff involvement. She said displays were set up and staffed at various shows and events throughout the region such as the Office Products Show.

In response to Councilor McLain, Ms. Gregory said a mailer addressed to "Resident" should reach one per household in the region and noted cost was 11 cents per item.

Ms. Gregory said the Spring ad campaign (April - June 1993) would focus on alternatives to pesticides.

In response to Councilor McLain's question regarding educational awareness concerning Greenspaces, Ms. Rocker said school programs were not focused on pesticides only, but rather emphasized environmental issues overall.

Ms. Gregory said a new program under Genya Arnold, Waste Reduction Division, was about to be kicked off related to commercial and office recycling, "Earth Wise Business Recognition", with a mailer due to be sent out in February. She commented on the success of the home composting workshops presented by the Department throughout the region. Ms. Gregory discussed work being done on the "Buy Recycled" program under Pat Varley, Waste Reduction Division. She discussed construction demolition and salvage as well as resourceful renovation educational efforts overall. Ms. Gregory said a video was being produced with Environmental Protection Agency grant funds to tell the story of Metro's goals related to the Sears building project renovation.

Ms. Gregory noted the Waste Reduction Division had produced a "Recycled Products Index" which was updated yearly. Councilor Gates referenced the staff report for Resolution No. 93-1739, Agenda Item No. 2, located in the agenda packet. He quoted a sentence from the second paragraph on page 2, "Metro's ability to solve the difficulties of plastics recycling are limited due to lack of control over larger economic factors." He

asked if there was any major discussion about plastics recycling products available that were large in scope. Ms. Gregory felt other staff would be able to address the question, and said it had not been a specific emphasis in her own work, but, she said, if there were products, it could be.

Ms. Gregory added a permanent lobby display would be fixed in Metro Regional Center explaining the story of the renovation of the building. Councilor McLain wanted assurance the display would give citizens a sense that they had learned something and a good feeling about the effort and accomplishment, rather than a sense of how much money it cost them to put the display up. Ms. Gregory concurred, and felt the inclusion of renovation resource information would be helpful.

Councilor Kvistad complimented the Department on the quality of the materials being developed in the Department. The Committee concurred.

Marie Nelson, presented an introduction to the Recycling Information Center Program, and said it had begun 21 years ago as a volunteer program outside the Metro agency. She said the goal then was to inform the public about how and where to recycle, and noted at that time approximately 7,000 calls per year were received. She said although the program had gone through a number of changes, the target was to provide the best information on current solid waste topics requested by citizens. She said in addition to handling phone calls, the Department had a walk-in library equipped with informational materials and handouts.

Vicki Kolberg, Coordinator, noted 80,000 calls per year were received currently from both businesses and individual citizens with a wide range of questions. She said the job of the RIC was to be able to give the caller good answers regarding types of facilities available, hours of operation, drop sites, local government programs and curbside programs. She said due to the call volume the RIC knew what citizens were angry, confused, or happy about and were able to pass the information along to either Metro programs or local governments. Ms. Kolberg said the RIC worked with specific projects for materials, and in cooperation at times with other entities, such as the recent phone book recycling effort conducted between U.S. West, GTE, and Metro as well as the recent Christmas tree recycling effort, a fund raiser for Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.

Councilor Gates said the special projects had an impact on smaller organizations and noted 50% of the annual budget generated for a Scout organization came from such fund raising.

Councilor McLain requested information obtained by the RIC regarding what local jurisdictions are doing in terms of recycling efforts, such as plastics recycling programs or hotlines be passed on to Solid Waste

staff, and she suggested a flow chart or graphic display be compiled demonstrating where funding was going for those programs. Ms. Kolberg said Ms. Zimmerman had gathered data regarding plastics recyclers, such as who was buying, who was accepting, and said work was being done with Solid Waste Staff which could be shared. Ms. Kolberg asked for clarification. Councilor McLain said she was interested in where the dollars were going, what were the counties doing about plastics, did local jurisdictions have hotlines like RIC, how many calls did such hotlines field per year. She said Washington County said they performed such functions, but she said she did not have access to such information. She felt it was necessary to the policy making decisions of the Metro Council related to budget process.

In response to Councilor Washington, Shelly Pozzi, Program Assistant II, said clients calling into the RIC were happy that someone was available to answer their questions. She said clients were not happy when they felt confused, such as when the curbside program first began, and said calls had evolved over the years from questions such as, "How do I prepare my tin cans?", or, "Where can I take my newspapers?", to issues of a more complex nature, such as, "Why can't I recycle my polystyrene in my curbside bin?", or, "Where do I take barrel of DDT?" She noted when the collection program became weekly things flowed more smoothly. She said the same was true now for yard debris collection. She said angry callers complained about rates, not being able to recycle plastics. She said the top three topics of calls involved plastics, HHW, and general garbage questions. In response to Councilor Gates, Ms. Pozzi said 4.5 FTE handled the 80,000 per year call volume. Ms. Kolberg said each staff handled approximately 75 calls per day, and noted the RIC was open on Saturday.

Ms. Nelson outlined the educational program, and said children were the most successful in reaching their parents regarding environmental issues. She said during the year previous, over 35,000 children and teachers had been reached.

Frieda Sherburne, Associated Public Affairs Specialist, demonstrated a presentation to sixth grade students in elementary school concerning HHW and how HHW products find their ways into the environment.

Sharon Gregory, Associate Public Affairs Specialist, demonstrated a presentation to middle and high school students which included learning ways to read labels, identify HHW products and possible safer substitutes. She distributed a brochure, "Safer Substitutes for HHW" and a document entitled, "How Hazardous Is It?" These documents has been made part of the permanent meeting record.

In response to Councilor Washington, Ms. Gregory agreed plans to develop to train students to become speakers to other groups such as service clubs and other community organizations were important.

3. Resolution No. 93-1739, For the Purpose of Adopting a Policy on
Plastics Recycling in the Metro Region

Ms. Gorham presented the staff report, and said the need for a plastics recycling policy was important noting 20% of the calls into the RIC were concerned with plastics recycling. She said the proposed resolution would put Metro on record regarding the issues of plastics recycling.

Motion: Councilor McLain moved to recommend Resolution No. 93-1739 to the full Council for adoption.

In response to Councilor McLain, Ms. Gorham said haulers were interested in plastics recycling, and discussed a co-mingled plastics collection project in West Linn.

In response to Councilor Gates, Ms. Gorham said plastics manufacturers would likely not favor the resolution as it calls for a financial commitment from industry.

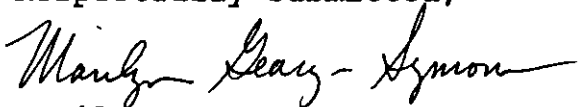
Mr. Martin commented regarding the increasing use of plastic, and said he felt the industry had a continuing responsibility to the overall recycling effort.

Vote: Councilors McLain, Washington, Wyers and Buchanan voted aye.

The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Marilyn Geary-Symons
Committee Recorder