

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE
OF THE METROPOLITAN SERVICE DISTRICT

February 16, 1989

Council Chamber

Committee Members Present: Gary Hansen (Chair), Sharron Kelley (V. Chair) and Roger Buchanan

Committee Members Absent: Mike Ragsdale and Judy Wyers

Chair Hansen called the special meeting to order at 4:16 p.m.

1. Update on the City of Portland Zoning Amendments/Transfer Stations

Rich Carson, Director of Planning and Development, said the zone change called for was inconsistent with the Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP). He said the Planning Commission sent an amendment to the Portland City Council. He said Metro partially agreed with the amendment. He discussed conditional use requirement problems which included whether non-Metro franchises would become illegal and said amendment attachments were not clear and objective. Mr. Carson said he wrote a letter to the Planning Commission on these issues. Becky Crockett, Senior Analyst, said mitigation packages were part of the SWMP. She discussed what the amendment process would achieve and said the amendment would be considered by the Portland City Council March 8, the Metro Council March 9 and that the Request for Proposals (RFP) would be ready to issue at the same time.

Chair Hansen asked if a non-Metro facility would be a transfer station which handled out-of-region waste and if the amendment would establish a precedent for non-Metro transfer stations. Mr. Carson did not think a legal precedent would be set, but said it would be bad advertising. He said it could lead to the routing in of solid waste from outside the Portland city limits.

Ms. Crockett said the mitigation agreement would be issued at the same time as the transfer station RFP. Chair Hansen said the Committee should see all documents as soon as possible.

2. Status Report on St. Johns Landfill Closure

Bob Martin, Director of Solid Waste, said SWEET-EDWARDS/EMCON, Inc., had completed the draft report, "St. Johns Landfill Water Quality Impact Investigation and Leachate Management Options" which gave preliminary cost estimates and fulfilled the Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) previous Stipulation and Final Order on landfill closure. The "St. Johns Landfill Closure Project Schedule" was distributed also. Mr. Martin said the closure was on schedule. Mr. Martin said during last year's budget process, landfill closure costs were unknown. He said this year staff had concrete numbers and the budget process would be simplified. Dennis O'Neil, Associate Solid Waste Planner, said there was a meeting scheduled with North Portland citizens, the Closure Committee would meet February 25, and in March the consultants would respond to comments received. He said

COUNCIL SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE

February 16, 1989

Page 2

in April staff would respond to the consultants' response and develop a financing package. He introduced two representatives from SWEET-EDWARDS/EMCON, Inc., Kent Mathiot and Neil Alongi.

Mr. Mathiot briefed the Committee on a hydro-geological study of groundwater; displayed a map of on-site wells; discussed water samples; water level measurements; the North Slough; and future sampling projects and evaluations. He said contamination was confirmed in groundwater adjacent to the garbage. He said the impact on surface water was basically not measurable. He discussed tidal changes and how they and rainfall affected measurements. He said measurements taken at different times would give a better picture.

Mr. Alongi said different closure plans were developed for gas, leachate and other factors. He referred to Table 1-1 St. Johns Landfill Representative Policy Options printed in "St. Johns Landfill Closure Environmental Management Options Executive Summary Only" which gave different closure options based on over-all costs and time factors. He discussed final grading, final cover, storm water management, leachate management, landfill gas, and landfill.

Councilor Buchanan referred to the Seattle landfill and methane gas problems at that landfill. The consultants did not believe the St. Johns Landfill would have the same problem.

Chair Hansen asked Mr. Martin if he anticipated any unforeseen major expenses in the coming year. Mr. Martin did not expect such costs, but said staff would like to take advantage of any closure opportunities that arose. Mr. Martin said Table 1-1 would greatly assist staff in this and future budget processes. Chair Hansen asked if DEQ would look at the reports submitted at this meeting and indicate preliminary approval. Mr. Martin said DEQ would officially approve the closure either in late summer or in the fall, but said staff had discussed the closure extensively with DEQ already. Councilor Kelley asked how long Metro would be responsible for maintenance of the landfill after closure. Mr. Martin said the City of Portland had responsibilities also. He said most gas and leachate generation occurred in the first five years of closure, but said it was in Metro's interests to maintain the site and avoid a health and eyesore problem. Mr. O'Neil discussed Metro's responsibility for closure of the landfill further.

Chair Hansen adjourned the meeting at 5:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Paulette Allen
Committee Clerk
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