

MINUTES OF THE SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE
OF THE METROPOLITAN SERVICE DISTRICT

February 19, 1991

Council Chamber

Committee Members Present: Chair Wyers, Councilor DeJardin, Councilor Gardner, Councilor McFarland, Councilor McLain

Councilors Also Present: Roger Buchanan

Committee Members Absent: None

Chair Wyers called the regular meeting of the Solid Waste Committee to order at 5:36 p.m.

1. Washington County Solid Waste Facilities Tour

Chair Wyers introduced Steve Larrance, Washington County Commissioner. Mr. Larrance said a tour of solid waste facilities in Washington County would be conducted on Saturday, February 23, 1991. He described the route and the sites which would be visited. These included the Forest Grove facility, the Hillsboro Landfill, the Grimms facility, and future site possibilities in Washington County. He said the tour would begin at Metro Center at 9 a.m.

2. Plastics Recycling Task Force

Chair Wyers discussed the Plastics Recycling Task Force. She said the Task Force had been conceived in 1989 and had originated without formal action to help the Solid Waste Committee address legislative issues related to plastics recycling, and said the group had continued as an ad hoc committee to advance the recovery of packaging and other types of plastics. Chair Wyers said the committee had made a significant contribution. Chair Wyers recognized the efforts of those who had served on the Task Force, which she said included the chair, Corky Kirkpatrick, a former Metro Councilor, and Jerry Hermann of the Environmental Learning Center.

Chair Wyers noted the recent formation of the Northwest Packaging Recovery and Reduction Task Force. She said discussions had been held with staff from the Solid Waste Department, Metro Councilors and Council staff concerning the continuance of the Metro Plastics Task Force committee. Chair Wyers announced the work of the committee was to be discontinued. Councilor Gardner noted that the agenda of the Task Force had broadened, and said, with the current level of resources of Metro staff, it was appropriate that the work continue outside of Metro. Karla Forsythe, Council Analyst, presented a memorandum from Corky Kirkpatrick, which outlined a request to continue the Task Force, either in a more formalized status or in a less formal status with minimal support.

(Continued)

2. Resolution No. 91-1399, For the Purpose of Authorizing a Multi-Year Intergovernmental Agreement with Clackamas County for the Coordination of Pilot Testing of Containers for Yard Debris Collection

Steve Kraten, Senior Solid Waste Planner, presented staff's report on the yard debris plan scheduled for implementation beginning July, 1991, and said local governments would go directly to a curbside program at that time. Mr. Kraten said the purpose of the resolution was to authorize a testing program to evaluate various containers for yard debris such as 1) the single use plastic bag, 2) the bio-degradable plastic bag, 3) the Kraft bag, 4) twine mesh netting, 5) conventional 32 gallon cans, and 6) 90 gallon roller carts, and presented several examples. He said 250 households would try the non-degradable containers for a four month period, and 500 households would try the bio-degradable containers for 2 months. He said the yard debris collected in degradable containers would then be taken to the Grimms processing facility for further study.

Mr. Kraten said generator participation rates and contamination level would be studied as well as haulers' route times, cost involved, and ease of use. He noted a final analysis of the compost obtained would be conducted. He added the data obtained would provide local jurisdictions with information for decision making.

Councilor McFarland expressed concern and indicated she was not in favor of utilizing a one-time use plastic bag in the study. Mr. Kraten said the study design included the plastic bag as a control in the experiment as it was presently used in the waste stream and would facilitate the compilation of data.

Councilor DeJardin said the use of the plastic bag in the study was acceptable, and said the Committee could then make their decision based on the findings.

In response to Councilor McLain, Mr. Kraten said the purpose of the study was to make available technical information to the local governments for local yard debris programs. He said the environmental concerns were valid, and said the item was included to obtain data.

Chair Wyers expressed concern regarding the use of roller carts noting cost factors. Mr. Kraten said roller carts were included at the request of the haulers.

Chair Wyers opened a public hearing.

Susan Zolko, Clackamas County Community Environment, Recycling Department, testified customers would be responsible to pay for use of a roller cart, and said the cost of a roller cart was about \$50 to \$70 each. She said there had been favorable response to the proposal in concept.

Chair Wyers closed the public hearing.

Mr. Kraten said the department would be able to quantify the effects of the use of non-degradable and bio-degradable materials by study of the compost.

Chair Wyers noted the City-County Plastic Waste Reduction Task Force had recommended that retailers using plastic bags for customer carry-out also offer a paper bag as the paper was recyclable.

Councilor McLain recommended the Committee move for adoption, and said 1) the study should encompass all options to obtain specific, useful facts and information for local governments and the consumer, and 2) citizens should be informed these options were not necessarily being supported as reasonable or good options.

In response to Councilor DeJardin, staff indicated study participants would understand why they were given an item to use during the analysis.

Councilor McFarland disagreed with the concept of offering options which would be unacceptable later.

Motion: Councilor McLain moved to recommend Resolution No. 91-1399 to the full Council for adoption.

Vote: Councilors DeJardin, Gardner, McFarland, McLain and Wyers voted aye.

The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

3. Resolution No. 91-1396, For the Purpose of Authorizing an Exemption to the Requirement of Competitive Bidding Pursuant to Metro Code 2.04.041, and Authorizing a Change Order to the Metro South Station Modifications Contract to Construct a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility

James Watkins, Solid Waste Engineering and Analysis Manager, presented staff's report and said design of the household hazardous waste facility (HHWF) project was approximately 60% complete. He said the two options for facility construction were 1) to accomplish a change order with the on site contractor, Emerick Construction, Inc., to construct the facility, or 2) issue a request for competitive bids.

Chuck Geyer, Senior Solid Waste Planner, said Resolution No. 91-1396 would permit construction of the HHWF through a change order with Emerick if the cost of the change order was less or equal to the design engineer's estimate of the work.

Mr. Geyer presented historical background and said the Oregon legislature adopted House Bill 3515 in 1989 which required Metro to establish a

permanent HHWF by January, 1991, and said the solid waste division of Metro's Planning & Development Department had studied options to comply with the requirement. As a result, he said, Metro determined to establish HHWF's at regional transfer facilities, which he said was approved by the Solid Waste Committee.

He said research of similar projects throughout the country and meetings with six local regulatory authorities, which included DEQ, OSHA, City of Oregon City, Clackamas County, state fire marshall and the local sewage district had taken place. He said the engineering firm of Sweet-Edwards/Emcon had been retained to provide specifications and cost estimates for the project.

Mr. Geyer presented visual layouts to illustrate specific mechanics of operation, problems encountered and way and means of solving, such as methods planned for handling traffic, lab testing, water containment and disposal of household hazardous waste at Metro South. The Committee and staff discussed solving potential equipment failures.

In response to Councilor DeJardin, Mr. Geyer discussed reasons Metro did not meet the January, 1991 date. He said these included budget cycle, safety issues such as fire code, meeting DEQ standards, neighborhood associations issues, and other federal, state and local concerns. He noted also no project precedent had been set nationally or in the state.

In response to Chair Wyers, Mr. Kraten noted renovation had to be completed before construction on the HHWF began. He said HHWF cost was estimated originally at approximately \$150 per square foot for 4,000 square feet - total, \$600,000. He said also design cost was estimated at \$30,000, final cost - \$100,00. He said a request for a transfer from contingency of \$700,000 was to be proposed. Chair Wyers noted the HHW collection day had been set aside this year in anticipation of operation of the HHWF in the spring.

Bob Martin, Solid Waste Director, noted the language in the legislation stated we would "establish" HHWF as January 1, 1991, and DEQ agreed Metro has complied with the mandate. He said Metro agreed regarding completion of construction of the facility for operation as soon as possible.

Mr. Geyer discussed time frames and presented projected schedules for both the public bid process and the change order process. He said by the change order process, completion of the project would be in July. He said by the public bid process additional work would be necessary and the department anticipated the facility would open for operation in December.

The Committee and staff further discussed issues of cost.

Motion: Councilor DeJardin moved for recommendation of Resolution No. 91-1396 to the full Council for adoption.

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In response to Councilor Gardner, Mr. Watkins said the contract was originally close to \$2.8 million and approximately \$100,000 in change orders had been issued thus far. He said anticipated future change orders at approximately \$305,000.

Councilor McFarland expressed concern about utilizing the change order process vs. the public bid process and requested ongoing reports from the department. Chair Wyers agreed with Councilor McFarland and advocated for HHW collection days. She favored the format in which both options were presented to the Committee for review.

Councilor Gardner said he would not support the motion, and said he was in favor of the competitive process.

Vote: Councilors DeJardin, McFarland and McLain voted aye. Councilors Gardner and Wyers voted nay.

The motion passed.

Councilor McFarland announced she might change her vote before full Council.

Chair Wyers turned the gavel over to Acting Chair McFarland at this time.

4. Report on Process for Public and Council Input into Materials Published by the Public Affairs Department Which Relate to Solid Waste

Vickie Rocker, Public Affairs Director, presented staff's report, and reviewed for the Committee Metro's last Waste Reduction campaign, as well as the existing campaign, "How to Paper Train Your Staff." She said Metro had contracted for the past five years with an advertising agency to promote Waste Reduction issues in this region, which included emphasis on curbside recycling pursuant to Oregon law. She said a Metro survey disclosed 85% to 87% of households in this region were now familiar with curbside recycling and Metro had begun to focus on the issue of recycling office paper. Ms. Rocker said a task force had been organized and as a result materials were developed for the campaign, and she displayed samples. Ms. Rocker indicated the campaign was successful, and said 68% of the 2400 companies targeted had instituted recycling programs.

Ms. Rocker indicated a "Buy Recycled" campaign was in development for which she said the slogan was "Make Your Company Look Good On Paper". She said a kit showing examples of recycled paper letterhead, legal pads, copier paper and an invitation to an event had been sent to companies in the region.

Ms. Rocker said the Recycling Information Center had handled over 69,000 phone calls in 1990, and said 78% of the call were inquiries for locations of drop centers.

Ms. Rocker discussed other Waste Reduction activities including Household Hazardous Waste and Composting, and said she would be available to come regularly to Solid Waste Committee meetings to give updates.

In response to Acting Chair McFarland, Ms. Rocker indicated the Public Affairs Department was available to all Metro departments on an as needed basis.

Acting Chair McFarland opened a public hearing.

Mrs. Captain James Rodal of the Salvation Army, represented the Non-Profit Reuse Coalition and testified regarding the granting of recycling credits to nonprofit reuse centers. She said the group understood that a proposed budgeted amount of \$224,000 had been subsequently removed from the proposed budget. She indicated there had been a lack of ongoing dialogue with Solid Waste staff, and said the coalition was desirous of participating with staff to restore the funds to the proposed budget.

The Committee requested solid waste staff pursue dialogue with the coalition.

Acting Chair McFarland called a five minute recess at 7:30 p.m.

The Committee reconvened at 7:35 p.m.

4. FY 1991-92 Budget: Overview of Proposed Changes in Solid Waste Programs

Public Affairs Department

Ms. Rocker distributed a handout highlighting Solid Waste Operating Fund programs in the Public Affairs Department which included the Recycling Information Center (RIC), Waste Reduction Promotion and Waste Reduction Education. She said the department proposed budget requested a 1/2 time assistant to assist in bringing up the proposed state wide system. She said also the purchase of a new computer system was a proposed budget request at a cost \$225,000 and noted staff from Data Processing would be present at a future budget meeting to explain the system. Ms. Rocker said the system would enable the RIC to handle calls more effectively. She noted also the department was in need of a van for transport of equipment in the Waste Reduction Education program and the proposed budget requested funds for this item.

Members of the Committee recommended the department determine alternate requests should proposed requests be subject to limits.

Planning & Development Department

Rich Carson, Planning and Development Director, distributed a handout to the Committee which enumerated proposed solid waste planning programs in

the department. Becky Crockett, Regional Planning Supervisor, presented a brief synopsis of the major projects as identified, which included 1) System Design/Modeling, 2) Waste Stream Management, 3) Hazardous Waste, 4) Solid Waste Policy Development and 5) Local Government Coordination.

Solid Waste Department

Mr. Martin addressed the issue of recycling credits and said the program would be structured in the proposed budget, and indicated the Solid Waste Department planned to have dialogue with the interested coalition.

Mr. Martin distributed handouts to the Committee and presented overheads. He reviewed the areas of responsibility and function of division managers, which he said included Judith Mandt, Management Services; Debbie Gorham, Waste Reduction; Sam Chandler, Operations; Roosevelt Carter, Budget and Finance; and Jim Watkins, Engineering and Analysis. He noted the existing staffing level was at 60.25 FTE and the proposed budget staff level was 78.65 FTE.

Mr. Martin discussed projected tonnage flows for Metro Central, the Composter, Metro South and said the closure process of the St. Johns landfill was underway, and said some inert materials such as demolition debris being accepted to fill to the contours as outlined by DEQ.

Mr. Martin reviewed budget expenditures for the Solid Waste Department and noted an increase in the Operating Account from 38% FY 90-91 to 54% FY 91-92, which he said pertained to waste going to the landfill in Arlington. In response to Acting Chair McFarland, Mr. Martin said we had been paying about \$5.00 per ton previously, and said we were paying \$33.00 per ton. He noted in the coming fiscal year almost 100% of the waste would be transported to Arlington, and as opposed to 75% in the current fiscal year. He said also 80% to 90% of costs shown were non-discretionary for the department, such as by contractual obligations, state mandate or prior Metro ordinance.

Mr. Martin reviewed major program emphasis and budget increases proposed for individual divisions:

- 1) Operations Division
 - a. Household Hazardous Waste Program
 - b. Flow Control
 - c. Compost facility operation
 - d. New transfer station / Washington County
 - e. FTE increase - 13.4
- 2) Waste Reduction Division
 - a. Recycling business development revolving loan fund
 - b. Satisfaction of EQC order re: special waste, yard debris
 - c. Riedel incentive / clean organic waste
 - d. Metro In-house recycling program
 - e. FTE increase - 1.15

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- 3) Budget and Finance
 - a. Increase monitoring of financial activities
 - b. Expansion of waste flow analysis
 - c. Waste flow control ordinance implementation
 - d. Increased emphasis on rate setting
 - e. FTE increase - 4 (included 1 reassignment from Management Services Division)
- 4) Engineering & Analysis Division
 - a. Completion of material recovery lines / Metro Central and facility acceptance
 - b. Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facilities completed
 - c. Additional modifications/materials recovery at both stations
 - d. St. Johns Closure
 - e. Evaluation of proposed Washington County facilities
 - f. FTE increase - .5
- 5) Management Services Division
 - a. Create records management section
 - b. Consolidate Community Enhancement Program into one section
 - c. FTE changes - 1/Program Asst. II, 1/Assoc. Mgmt. Analyst

In response to Councilor DeJardin, Mr. Martin indicated staff increases in Budget & Finance were appropriate for management of the Solid Waste Department's fiscal responsibility.

Mr. Martin said detailed job descriptions would be prepared and division managers would be available for questions during the budget process.

5. Solid Waste Staff Updates

General Staff Reports

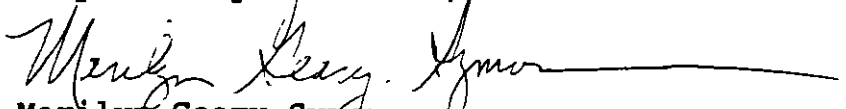
In response to Councilor DeJardin, Mr. Martin noted a new manager had been hired at Metro Central. He asked to be kept abreast of customer concerns addressed to Metro Councilors.

Waste Reduction Program Activities

Ms. Gorham presented staff's report and said she had attended a meeting concerning the composter in which the issue of whether or not to include the composter in the Metro regional recycling goal was discussed. Acting Chair McFarland noted the department's recommendation in the affirmative on this issue and said she was supportive.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Marilyn Geary-Symons
Committee Clerk