

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

April 3, 1990

Council Chamber

Committee Members Present: Gary Hansen (Chair), Larry Bauer (V. Chair) Roger Buchanan, Tom DeJardin and Judy Wyers

Committee Members Absent: None

Other Councilors Present: Richard Devlin, David Knowles and Ruth McFarland

Chair Hansen called the regular meeting to order at 5:45 p.m.

1. Consideration of Resolution No. 90-1232, for the Purpose of Reducing the Amount of Disposable Diapers in the Solid Waste Stream (Public Hearing)

Chair Hansen said Resolution No. 90-1232A was before the Committee for consideration. Councilor DeJardin said Resolution No. 90-1232B was before the Committee for consideration also. Chair Hansen discussed Resolution No. 90-1232 and the resolution was intended to ban disposable diapers but meant to be a policy statement by Metro as the regional solid waste authority.

Chair Hansen opened the public hearing.

Tom Novick, Citizens for Cloth Diapers, read from written testimony. He supported the original Resolution No. 90-1232. Chair Hansen and Mr. Novick discussed composting. Mr. Novick noted amended Resolution No. 90-1232A gave recycling and composting the same weight.

Paul Cosgrove, American Paper Industry, said he supported Resolution No. 90-1232B. He said Resolution No. 90-1232A had a number of statements the industry could support. Mr. Cosgrove said haulers should be asked for their input before adoption of the resolution. To Councilor Bauer's question, Mr. Cosgrove said he could not support Resolution No. 90-1232A because he could not support legislation which gave industry competitors the edge. Councilor Bauer asked Councilor DeJardin if composting diapers was workable as proposed in Resolution No. 90-1232B. Councilor DeJardin said composting diapers was feasible with planning.

Mac Bellarronto, Pope & Talbot operations vice-president, said Pope & Talbot used recycled fibers and would like to see that source increase. He noted Mr. Cosgrove promised the American Paper Industry would work closely with Metro to fulfill waste reduction and recycling goals and said Pope & Talbot was willing to do so also. To Councilor DeJardin's question, Mr. Bellarronto said Pope & Talbot purchased 200,000 tons of recycled fiber annually for \$150 per ton and employed 1,400 people.

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Councilor David Knowles supported Resolution No. 90-1232A. He said the resolution's approach was responsible because it advocated alternatives and was not a ban. The Committee and Councilor Knowles discussed the issues further. Councilor Bauer said he preferred original Resolution No. 90-1232.

Stephanie Anderson, Babyland Diaper Service, said the City of Seattle's ban on disposable diapers was a smoke screen and there was no actual activity on the issue there. She noted Babyland's washing processes went through proper sewage treatment. Councilor Bauer asked if the diaper service was highly competitive. Ms. Anderson said Babyland had four competitors and Babyland was the largest diaper service of the five. She noted cotton diapers had tariffs and Babyland imported their own. Councilor Bauer said approval of the resolution would be favorable for diaper services. Ms. Anderson said the resolution would be favorable for their business but would also create jobs.

Steve Misner, Route 11, Box 222B, Banks, asked if disposable diapers would affect compost products, leachate or contaminate the water system. The Committee said disposable diapers would not. Mr. Misner asked about hand-sorting of disposable diapers and said it would be difficult to get citizens to recycle diapers with no incentive other than environmental incentive. He advocated limiting the use of disposable diapers for the general public.

Acting Chair Bauer asked if anyone else present wished to testify. No one else present appeared to testify. Acting Chair Bauer closed the public hearing.

Councilor DeJardin stated he was neither for or against disposable diapers. He advocated education on the issues. He said the resolution before the Committee was not a ban on disposable diapers. He said when legislation was specific as to a product, it was perceived as a ban. He said the paper industry had stated their willingness to help reduce the amount of paper products going into the landfill. He advocated approval of Resolution No. 90-1232B over Resolution No. 90-1232A because Resolution No. 90-1232B addressed the issues in a reasonable manner. The Committee and staff discussed the resolutions before the Committee further. Mr. Martin said he could not estimate staff time necessary to further goals as stated by the resolution(s) but said Metro should attempt to send more organic material to the composting facility when it came on-line.

First Main Motion: Councilor DeJardin moved to recommend the full Council adopt Resolution No. 90-1232B.

Councilor DeJardin said he preferred to work with industry to reclaim disposable diapers and said industry had the resources to do so. Councilor Bauer supported Resolution No. 90-1232A and said Metro had to

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make a statement. Councilor Wyers opposed Resolution No. 90-1232B because it changed the concept of the original resolution. Chair Hansen did not support "B" because it was not consistent with the state hierarchy, attempted too big a task, and expressed concern about the composter facility's capacity.

Vote on First Main Motion: Councilor DeJardin voted aye. Councilors Bauer, Buchanan, Hansen and Wyers voted nay. The motion failed.

Councilor DeJardin announced his intent to file a minority report.

First Motion to Amend: Councilor Wyers moved, seconded by Councilor Bauer, to amend Resolution No. 90-1232A with the addition of a third WHEREAS: The average baby requires approximately 3,120 diaper changes a year and which results in over 1,000 pounds of waste per child; and

Chair Hansen said he would vote nay on the first motion to amend because that language was deleted from the original Resolution No. 90-1232 based on information given him and Metro staff. He said actual statistics on diaper changes were not known.

Vote on First Motion to Amend: Councilors Bauer, Buchanan, DeJardin and Wyers voted aye. Councilor Hansen voted nay. The motion to amend passed.

Second Motion to Amend: Councilor Wyers moved to amend Resolution No. 90-1232A with the addition and deletion of language to BE IT RESOLVED, Section 1: That the Metropolitan Service District establish a goal of reduction and [the] diversion of disposable diapers from the landfill to the maximum extent feasible.

Vote on Second Motion to Amend: Councilors Bauer, Buchanan, Wyers and Hansen voted aye. Councilor DeJardin was absent. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

Third Motion to Amend: Councilor Wyers moved to amend Resolution No. 90-1232A with the addition and deletion of language to BE IT RESOLVED, Section 5: That Metro shall advise and assist institutions such as nursing homes, day care centers, housing authorities, and multi-family residences in the transition to [alternative] cloth diapers or composting of disposable diapers.

Vote on Third Motion to Amend: Councilors Bauer, Buchanan, Hansen and Wyers voted aye. Councilor DeJardin was absent. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

Fourth Motion to Amend: Councilor Wyers moved to amend Resolution No. 90-1232A to replace BE IT RESOLVED, Section 7(a) language with: Prepare and distribute an education brochure, explaining costs and environmental impacts, for new parents and available to the general public regarding alternatives for diapering their children. Under the same motion, Councilor Wyers moved to amend BE IT RESOLVED, Section 7(c) with the addition and deletion of language: Develop programs for inclusion in future budgets [the FY 1991-1992 Budget].

Vote on Fourth Motion to Amend: Councilors Bauer, Buchanan, DeJardin, Hansen and Wyers voted aye. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

Second Main Motion as Amended: Councilor Bauer moved to recommend the full Council adopt Resolution No. 90-1232A as amended.

Vote on Second Main Motion as Amended: Councilors Bauer, Buchanan, Hansen and Wyers voted aye. Councilor DeJardin voted nay. The motion passed.

Chair Hansen called a recess at 7:20 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 7:35 p.m.

## 2. Discussion on Solid Waste Rate Incentives Study

Bob Martin, Director of Solid Waste, reviewed the Solid Waste Department's report on rate incentives "Evaluation of Metro's Current Rate Incentives for Recycling" to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and subsequent staff discussion with Fred Hansen, DEQ Director. Mr. Martin said he explained to Mr. Hansen the timeline for staff's report had been tight because the Metro Council adopted the rate ordinance March 22, 1990. Mr. Martin said staff would meet DEQ's April 15 deadline with the additional information requested by DEQ and staff would comprehensively study new issues.

Mr. Martin said issues involved related more to budget or diversion credit issues. He said the new rate structure meant a more logical rate structure than Metro had had in the past. He said Metro might want to create a diversion credit structure. He said staff would see if recovery could be tied to facilities and whether recovery resulted from a well-functioning facility and whether that facility should benefit from a waiver. He said the \$2 rate incentive for mixed paper was not taken advantage of and staff would examine why. He discussed the Waste Reduction Subcommittee's concern on yard debris policies and recycling incentives and policies which should be re-examined via an in-depth analysis. He noted when the composter facility came on-line the loads shipped to it should be high-grade with high organic content. He said these issues would receive more attention in the coming year.

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Debbie Gorham, Waste Reduction Manager, said staff's April 15 report would redefine rate incentives and break them into three areas to consider various possibilities. She said after April 15, all issues would be studied in-depth. She said issues to be examined were: 1) Collection rate incentive (curbside recyclables); 2) Disposal level rate incentive; and 3) Post-delivery incentive.

Chair Hansen opened a public hearing.

Jeanne Roy, Recycling Advocates, said Metro's immediate objective was to comply with DEQ and evaluate the effectiveness of rate incentives. She said Metro's goal should be to maximize yard debris and source separated materials which should be encouraged with rate incentives. She said two previous Metro studies done did not give adequate information and last minute changes were inserted. She said a thorough analysis should be performed and source separated waste should be traced through rate changes. She said the study should include user-fee exemptions and \$2 payments for certain high-grade loads. She asked if there should be a rate differential at transfer stations to leave high-grade loads separate or if an incentive could be offered to companies with such loads. She expressed concern Metro had a year after the April 15 deadline to complete rate incentives analysis. Ms. Roy preferred the report include a plan and a deadline for the analysis. Ms. Roy recommended October 1990 as an appropriate deadline.

Delyn Kies, Association of Oregon Recyclers, concurred with Ms. Roy's testimony. She said there seemed to be arbitrary changes in rate incentives which did not effectively affect recycling behaviors. She said the workplan should include 1) Work done through the system measurement study already done; 2) Determine an economic study through price sensitivity; and 3) A better public process so groups could be involved at the public level.

Councilor Wyers noted she had a resolution she planned to introduce on the issues but was assured by staff's report the resolution was not necessary. She said she would draft another resolution to direct staff to perform an in-depth study by the date certain recommended. Mr. Martin said some items were not rate issues but policy issues. Councilor Wyers said she would like Mr. Martin and Ray Barker, Council Analyst, to discuss items with Recycling Advocates and the Association of Oregon Recyclers to study and identify policy issues necessary for study.

3. Discussion on FY 1990-91 Budget for the Solid Waste Department (If Necessary)

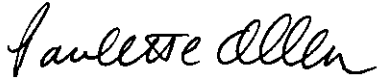
Councilor Wyers referred to an unsuccessful proposal submitted by the Southeast Uplift Neighborhood Program for 1% for Recycling funding for

neighborhood clean-up. She said the current line item for this purpose was \$33,000 and proposed it be increased to \$71,000 per staff's report submitted by Pam Kambur, Associate Management Analyst. Councilor Wyers requested input from Chair Hansen, the Committee and staff to determine if it would be possible to increase the line item for this purpose.

4. General Staff Reports  
o St. Johns Landfill Closure

Mr. Martin gave a brief report on the closure of St. Johns Landfill.

Respectfully submitted,



Paulette Allen  
Committee Clerk  
SWC90.093