

MINUTES OF THE METRO COUNCIL SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE

April 5, 1994

Council Chamber

Committee Members Present: Ruth McFarland (Chair), Roger Buchanan (Vice Chair), Sandi Hansen, Susan McLain, Monroe, Judy Wyers

Chair McFarland called the April 5, 1994 Solid Waste Committee meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

1. Consideration of January 11, 1994 Special Meeting and March 15, 1994 Solid Waste Committee Meeting Minutes

Motion: Councilor Hansen moved to approve the January 11, 1994 Special Meeting and the March 15, 1994 Solid Waste Committee meeting as submitted.

Vote: Councilors Hansen, McLain, Monroe, Wyers and McFarland voted aye. Councilor Buchanan was absent.

The motion passed.

2. Solid Waste Updates

Chair McFarland noted the Rate Review Committee had forwarded their new recommendation to the Council for first reading. She said two ordinances would be under consideration, one of which proposed a reduction in the rate from \$75 per ton to \$74 per ton, and a second to repeal the \$75 per ton ordinance.

• Waste Reduction Division Activities

Debbie Gorham, Waste Reduction Manager, presented the staff report, and referenced a document distributed to the Committee entitled "Phone Book Recycling Programs." This document has been made part of the permanent meeting record.

Ms. Gorham referenced a document entitled "Recovered Paper in the Metro Region. Where Does It Go?" This document has been made part of the permanent meeting record. Ms. Gorham also passed around related photographs of collection activities to the Committee for viewing.

Councilor Wyers referenced a letter to Lauren Etlin, Associate Solid Waste Planner, from Jeanne Roy, Recycling Advocates, dated March 5, 1994 regarding limiting Metro's purchase of compost bins to plastic, which she had distributed to the Councilors. Councilor Wyers forwarded a copy of the letter to Ms. Gorham and asked Ms. Gorham to respond to the matter of the letter. This document has been made part of the permanent meeting record.

In response to Councilor Monroe, Ms. Gorham agreed curbside recycling of phone books would be a good idea, but noted acknowledgments were given to those organizations who hosted phone book collection sites, such as churches, schools, charitable organizations, and others such as Fred Meyers. She said these organizations as well as the phone companies enjoyed the recognition for their efforts, which would not be the case if it were to go curbside. She said the question was on the table at recycling roundtables as the next 5 year waste reduction plan was worked on. In response to Councilor Wyers, Ms. Gorham said phone books were not considered by state law as a principal recyclable material. She noted offering the opportunity to recycle curbside was only mandated in populations of 4,000 or more for principal recyclable materials as defined in the state law.

Councilor Wyers directed comments to the record, to Bob Martin, Director of the Solid Waste Department, other Department Staff, the Committee and the public expressing concern over having learned Seattle waste was not going to go to Columbia Ridge, contrary to previous belief. Councilor Wyers said she was interested in a report at the next Solid Waste Committee regarding the impact of Seattle's waste not going to Columbia Ridge.

Chair McFarland requested a response from the Department to Councilor Wyers concerns at the next Solid Waste Committee meeting to be held April 19, 1994.

Councilor McLain commented regarding the understanding of the Committee that the Forest Grove waste franchise and the amendment to the contract were separate issues. She said Department Staff had given the impression that an opportunity would occur for the Committee to review: 1) whether or not to continue sending the Forest Grove waste to Riverbend, 2) the possibility of a Request for Bid or Proposals (RFP or RFB), or, 3) whether or not the waste might be required to go to Arlington. She said she voted for the Forest Grove franchise based on that information in good faith. She noted discussion concerning whether or not the Council should seek to retain outside legal counsel had occurred, and expressed concern that the Committee remain well informed and requested information regarding the issue at the next Solid Waste Committee meeting.

Chair McFarland said assurances were received that indicated savings would be realized regardless of which direction was taken in the matter.

Councilor Wyers requested the Chair request information on this issue as well at the next Solid Waste Committee meeting.

Chair McFarland asked Mr. Houser to place the matters of concern on the next Solid Waste Committee agenda noted by Councilor Wyers and Councilor McLain.

Councilor Wyers noted the matters of concern might need to be addressed in a report from outside legal counsel, but said before that occurred, she wished Mr. Houser to find out from Dan Cooper, General Counsel, and Todd Sadlo, Senior Assistant Counsel, exactly what did the franchise state and who had the authority to do what in it. She said she understood there were references to Metro, to the Executive Officer and to the Council. Councilor Wyers said the Committee was told there was an RFP as a suggestion during deliberations with the Oregon Waste Systems (OWS) contract. She asked for clarification regarding the options, whether it involved an RFP or an RFB, and would such an RFP or RFB include transport and/or disposal costs. Councilor Wyers asked that the question of what was meant by substantial savings be brought in front of the Committee, would it involve separate bids, or who would get the bid. She asked that a discussion on these matters occur.

Chair McFarland directed Mr. Houser to place these matters on the agenda specifically.

Mr. Houser said he had forwarded a memorandum at Councilor McLain's request to Mr. Cooper containing five specific questions dealing with the Forest Grove matter, and noted among them was a request for examination of the OWS contract, the franchise agreement and the Metro Code with regard to the relative authority of the Executive Officer and the Council over determining where the Forest Grove waste was sent and whether the Executive Officer now had unilateral authority to direct that waste under any of those documents to a site such as Columbia Ridge.

Chair McFarland requested Mr. Martin and Mr. Cooper be present at the next Solid Waste Committee meeting to answer further questions of the Committee.

3. Resolution No. 94-1940, For the Purpose of Expressing Metro Council Support for the "Bottoms Up, Threes Down" Campaign to Boycott and Eliminate PVC (#3) Containers

Councilor Wyers introduced the resolution to the Committee, and explained the proposed resolution would stipulate that the Metro Council supported the Bottoms Up, Threes Down boycott of PVC #3 plastic packaging and the elimination of such packaging from the marketplace. She announced a press conference would be held at Metro April 12, 1994 at 10:00 a.m. to kick off the campaign. Councilor Wyers noted the PVC contained in #3's contained chlorine, and said, when burned, emitted a contaminant similar to those linked to birth defects and cancer. She noted the material when burned along with other plastics contaminated those plastics as well. She said the purpose of the campaign was to educate the public and to ask the public to turn plastic containers over check the bottom and if it said #3, put it back down and select another container. She said it was likely an alternative was available.

Chair McFarland opened a public hearing.

Jeanne Roy and Mary Blankenvoort, Recycling Advocates, discussed their research and findings regarding PVC packaging, its dangers to the environment, and noted the same products could be found in other packaging which was recyclable. They demonstrated plastic packaging currently used in the marketplace containing recyclable plastic material and look-alike PVC #3 packaging.

Ms. Blankenvoort described their survey methods and commented on correspondence to companies now using PVC packaging for their products. She said five major companies had indicated their commitment to reducing PVC packaging. She said the campaign would use printed materials to hand out to the public to encourage them: 1) to reject products packaged in #3, 2) choose an alternative in a recyclable container, and 3) to write to the manufacturers encouraging them to use PVC packaging.

Ms Roy said support from the Metro Council would be beneficial, and would send a message to both the consumers and to the manufacturers

Bill Carroll, Director of Commercial Development for Occidental Chemical Corporation, Dallas Texas and a member of DEQ Implementation Task Force for rigid plastic container recycling law. He distributed to the Committee materials in support of his testimony, and read his testimony into the record. A copy of Mr. Carroll's testimony has been made part of the permanent meeting record. Mr. Carrol said he operated a buy-back program for #3 vinyl bottles throughout the United States for reprocessing into a packaging material called EcoVinyl, and he opposed the proposed resolution.

Motion: Councilor Wyers moved to recommend Resolution No. 94-1940 to the full Council for adoption

Vote: Councilor Hansen, McLain, Monroe, Wyers, Buchanan and McFarland voted aye.

The motion passed

4. Resolution No. 94-1941. For the Purpose of Revising Chapter 5, of the Regional Solid Waste Management Plan and Adjusting Tonnages at Metro Facilities

Motion: Councilor Monroe moved to recommend Resolution No. 94-1941 to the full Council for adoption.

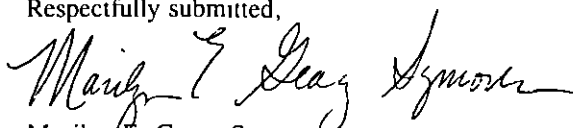
Councilor Monroe said the proposed resolution was concerned with flow control, and said the version that had been before the Committee previous included provisions prohibiting the siting of any future transfer stations, which had been deemed controversial. He said the current proposed resolution would assist in resolving the flow control problem which cost Metro approximately \$.5 million per year to meet the put or pay requirement as well as help rectify the problem of too much tonnage at one facility and not enough at the other.

Vote: Councilor Hansen, McLain, Monroe, Wyers, Buchanan and McFarland voted aye

The motion passed.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:21 p m

Respectfully submitted,



Marilyn E. Geary-Symons
Committee Recorder