

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

April 21, 1992

Council Chamber

Committee Members Present: Judy Wyers (Chair), Ruth McFarland (Vice Chair), Sandi Hansen

Committee Members Absent: Roger Buchanan, George Van Bergen

Chair Wyers called the regular meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

1. Solid Waste Updates

o General Staff Reports

Bob Martin, Director of Solid Waste Department, presented the staff report, and said the 1991 Recycling Report showing recycling levels would be available Thursday morning, April 23rd. He reported to the Committee an increase in the recycling rate to approximately 38%. He attributed the increase in part to an emphasis in wood recycling as well as continued progress in paper recycling. He noted reductions in tonnage reduced the base from which levels were obtained producing an additional increase in the recycling rate. He said 65,000 tons more waste was recycled since 1991, which he noted represented approximately 2,200 truckloads that would not end up in the Arlington landfill. Mr. Martin said the report would be distributed to the full Council as soon as it was available.

In response to Chair Wyers, Mr. Martin said there was no specific goal for the current year, but noted the Metro goal by the year 2000 was 50%.

Mr. Martin said the term recycling was used to make comparisons to previous years, and said another term, the total recovery rate had significance as well. He noted recovery included waste oil recovery, tire recovery, waste sent to Marion County for energy conversion. He said the total rate including recovery was approximately 41%. He noted Senate Bill 66 called for a recovery rate of 45% by 1995. He noted also no credit was assumed for the compost facility, and said it was counted as disposed. Mr. Martin said the time to take credit for composted materials would come when the plant was operating according to specifications.

In response to Councilor McFarland, Mr. Martin said he was unaware of the recycling rate in Seattle, but indicated he knew it was high. He said Seattle was sending approximately 35% more garbage per capita to the same landfill Metro used.

Chair Wyers agreed the compost materials should not currently be counted.

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Debbie Gorham, Waste Reduction Manager, introduced Pat Varley, Associate Solid Waste Planner with the Market Development Section of Waste Reduction, who presented an update on the "Buy Recycled" conference held March 20, 1992 at the Oregon Convention Center. Ms. Varley acted as chair for the conference. She noted over 600 attendees at the conference was a 37% increase over the 1991 conference in Seattle, and said 54 were exhibitors. Ms. Varley noted media coverage for the conference, and showed a Channel 6 video. She described the conference as a success. Ms. Varley noted the 1993 conference would be held in Seattle.

Chair Wyers inquired regarding when the annual report for waste reduction would be available. Ms. Gorham responded Metro was to produce a report annually to the DEQ which covered activities in Public Affairs and the Solid Waste Department Waste Reduction programs. She said the next report would be available around July 1. Chair Wyers requested one complete report including attachments be made available to the Council Office for records.

The Committee and staff discussed how waste audits were done, for example, by haulers, and Chair Wyers asked if a standardized form was used to accomplish accountability. Mr. Martin did not think limits could be set on the manner in which haulers did audits.

Chair Wyers opened a public hearing.

Becky Crockett, Parametrix, Inc., testified before the Committee and said a client, Scotts/Hyponex, had identified opportunities in assisting the region in fulfilling established goals in yard debris processing and marketing.

Mike Trueman, Scotts/Hyponex Corp. of Ohio, said the company was a fertilizer and grass seed company, and noted Hyponex, a soils company purchased by O.M. Scotts & Sons Co., was part of the Organics Division. He said the company had been working with municipalities throughout the country in setting up yard trimmings composting facilities noting 22 Hyponex plants were in operation currently composting various materials of which 10 were permitted to include yard trimmings. He said the company goal was to facilitate the operation of such a facility in this area. He said the company had been composting 30 to 40 years and used yard trimmings as a substitute for peat in a number of products on the east coast and midwest, and would like to do so here. He said the products were over 95% bagged and merchandised in outlets such as K-Mart, and noted 2.5 million tons were bagged and sold last year. He felt the company could handle whatever amount the region could produce holding approximately 38% share of the market for such bagged material throughout the country currently. He said the company enjoyed good working relationships with the local municipalities and wished to continue to do so.

Mark Wilhelmi, regional manager for West Coast for Scotts/Hyponex, said other clients for Hyponex composted materials included WalMart, Home Base and Home Depot, and indicated the company's desire to establish a packaging plant in the area.

In response to Chair Wyers, Mr. Wilhelmi said the company had been doing business in this area with a contract packager for 6 years.

Ms. Crockett commented discussions had taken place with local governments and concerns were identified regarding the possibility of a yard debris processing in the east part of the region, which she noted was the focus of Scotts/Hyponex.

In response to Councilor Hansen, Mr. Wilhelmi said the contractor packager was located in Molalla, and said a bark-based product was being packaged.

Chair Wyers commented a research project was discussed in the Budget Committee regarding use of compost material for erosion on the highways. Mr. Trueman said he was not aware of such a research project of that nature underway elsewhere although the company, he noted, spent \$5 million per year on research projects. He said a significant portion was spent on various composted material applications.

Chair Wyers noted the agenda before the Committee was concerned with processing of Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) suggesting the Scotts/Hyponex representatives remain for the discussion. She said cost of disposal of containers for pesticides and herbicides considered HHW was high. Chair Wyers indicated her choice for composted material was that which was from her own home and her own yard, and noted such concerns might be voiced to Scotts/Hyponex company from other elected officials in the region.

Rod Grimm, Grimm's Fuel Company, Tualatin, testified before the Committee said the west side facility was short on product for the Oregon nursery industry to take the place of peat moss from Canada. He noted Sunflower was the recycling facility in the Sellwood area, and the haulers could bring yard debris material to the Sunflower Sellwood facility for reload and transport by Grimm's to the Grimm's yard processing facility. Mr. Grimm noted the image of composting was damaged by the Riedel facility, and felt the odor problem would likely not be corrected. He said his facility did not have an odor problem, and said DEQ did not have a problem with Grimm's in that regard. He recalled Farmer's Plant Aid, and noted a former problem with materials storage which the Committee had reviewed. Chair Wyers recalled the situation with Farmer's Plant Aid.

Chair Wyers closed the public hearing.

3. Resolution No. 92-1607, For the Purpose of Maintaining the Existing Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Facility, Building an Additional Facility, and Developing a Mobile Capacity

Sam Chandler, Solid Waste Facilities Manager, presented the staff report, and referenced an edited version of the staff report for the resolution as well as a map showing HHW distribution by % of customers per district. He said the facility was operating successfully and discussed possible ways and means of continuing successful operation of the facility. He noted 10% of the material coming into the facility was pesticides/pesticide containers.

Chair Wyers noted the Scotts/Hypoxex representatives were disregarding the discussion, and said once the HHW materials were produced it was the problem of agencies like Metro to dispose of it. Mr. Martin noted he understood Scotts/Hypoxex did not produce HHW.

Mr. Chandler said the HHW facility was one component of a larger Solid Waste Management Plan, and noted many factors were included in Metro's responsibility for HHW such as orphan waste, orphan tires, etc. He invited the Committee to visit the facility. Mr. Chandler said more HHW was being brought to the facility than had been anticipated, and said if the participation level at the facility remained the same, it would be cost effective to utilize a larger staff to handle and manage the material.

Mr. Chandler discussed options as outlined in the staff report, and staff recommendations thereof.

Mr. Chandler noted travel time exerted an influence on the numbers of people participating in the use of the HHW Metro South facility, and recommended the addition of a HHW facility to Metro Central. He said additional data would be made available in the fall of 1992 in report form to the Committee with costs analyses and recommendations.

Mr. Chandler said approximately 100 citizens from Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) toured the HHW facility recently, and said the group expressed positive feedback to the staff and management.

Mr. Martin noted the Committee should have received a memorandum from the Office of Legal Counsel concerning Metro's obligation to handle HHW at more than one facility. Mr. Martin said the plan chapter in development by the HHW sub-committee for two years would come before the Committee in late May, 1992 for review.

In response to Councilor Hansen, Mr. Chandler said cost would be reduced by shipping barrels to Vancouver by approximately \$200,000 per year. Councilor Hansen asked if that savings would pay for new staff people.

Mr. Martin said the proposed budget was based on assumptions for less materials but noted the increases were in Personnel Services only.

In response to Councilor Hansen, Mr. Chandler said the HHW facility at Metro Central was scheduled to begin operations in January, 1993. Councilor Hansen asked if anticipated costs for ground water had been considered. Mr. Chandler indicated circumstances were disimilar.

In response to Councilor McFarland, Mr. Martin said the funds were contained in the proposed budget for Materials and Services for Metro South HHW facility, but indicated staffing needs may have been underestimated. Councilor McFarland felt the staffing needs should be addressed at the time the information was known. Councilor McFarland did not feel the resolution was appropriate at this time.

Chair Wyers recalled the Budget Committee asking for a discussion as to whether or not a new HHW facility was necessary at this time and questioned the resolution.

Mr. Martin said the item had been before the Finance Committee twice and did not undergo discussion, and said it had been referred to the Solid Waste Committee once and did not undergo discussion. Mr. Martin put the item on the agenda in the form of a resolution in order for the Committee and the Council to make the policy decision regarding the second HHW facility. In response to Chair Wyers, Mr. Martin said he believed Oregon law mandated more than one HHW facility. He said this was the first time Mr. Chandler and he had the opportunity to explain options, costs, difficulties and staff recommendations concerning the matter.

Chair Wyers clarified the Waste Reduction Division was preparing material for education of citizens regarding HHW and to encourage reduction of use of HHW. Mr. Chandler said two 4-page handouts were given at Metro South describing what Chair Wyers was concerned about, and said they were reader-friendly and from the University of Illinois. He noted they were not copyrighted and were being copied for use at the facility. Mr. Chandler said \$47,000 was budgeted FY 1992-93 for advertising for the HHW facility. Mr. Chandler said the local neighborhood associations were a valuable resource to relay information. Mr. Martin noted opening a can of paint and letting it dry out would prevent the need to take the paint to a HHW facility.

Councilor McFarland commented the Rate Review Committee reviewed the need for a second HHW facility, and had agreed the issue needed to be addressed. She said she would support the budget for such a facility. Councilor McFarland felt her statement to that effect was sufficient. She did not wish to commit to additional staff by passage of the proposed resolution at this time.

Councilor Hansen agreed with Councilor McFarland's statement.

Councilor Hansen asked if dealers were willing to take back unused paint, and asked if the Waste Reduction Division was educating paint dealers in that regard. Mr. Chandler said no, but noted the HHW facility paint collection was making a case to manufacturers that recycled paint was a viable opportunity. He said Metro had a contract with Rasmussen Paint Co., who he said would apply tints and market the recycled paint. In response to Councilor Hansen, Mr. Chandler agreed the Metro logo could be used in the labeling.

In response to Chair Wyers, Mr. Chandler said it was necessary to broaden the regional response to HHW for effective management and cost savings. Chair Wyers indicated she did not feel the resolution need be passed on to Council for adoption, but was appreciative for the opportunity for discussion. The Committee agreed.

Chair Wyers opened a public hearing.

Al Smith, City of Portland, Solid Waste Environmental Services, said Portland was waiting for a central HHW facility and referenced the map Mr. Chandler had presented. He noted 218 tons per year of toxins would be diverted from the landfill due to the HHW facility now operating at Metro South, which he noted was out of the way from the dense majority of Portland's population. He believed over a million pounds of HHW would be diverted when the Metro Central HHW facility was operating.

Chair Wyers commented the task at hand was to educate the public to reduce the amount of waste generated, especially costly HHW, which she noted the customer is allowed to leave at the facility without charge. In response to Chair Wyers, Mr. Chandler said cost per customer was between \$80 and \$100.

#### 4. Further Discussion of Solid Waste Budget Issues Related to FY 92-93 Proposed Budget

Chair Wyers indicated she sought a recommendation from the Committee for the orphan tire fee and was interested in a discussion from the Committee regarding planning.

Councilor McFarland said she worked with the Rate Review Committee, and noted the recommendation of \$1.10 fee per tire had been changed to \$1.00. She said each tire cost Metro \$1.05 each, and said she did not feel Metro should subsidize cost. She noted the current charge was \$.85 per tire.

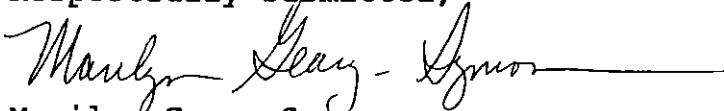
Mr. Martin referenced a document entitled "Tire Disposal Rates", and noted the various categories of disposed tires listed. This document has been made a part of the permanent meeting record. He noted tires found on the roadside were considered "orphan tires", and said the proposed rates would cover disposal for orphan tires.

Mark Buscher, Senior Solid Waste Planner, referenced his memorandum dated April 7, 1992 to Solid Waste Division Managers and Mr. Martin concerning the Planning Team Work Program Outline, and presented the staff report. He noted specific issues outlined in the document would be focused on FY 1992-93. This document has been made a part of the permanent meeting record. He said a draft of the Household Hazardous Waste Management Chapter of the Regional Solid Waste Management Plan would be brought forward to the Committee for review.

Chair Wyers recommended the Committee review the Planning Team Work Program Outline and bring forward matters as desired for further discussion at a later date.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Marilyn Geary-Symons  
Committee Clerk