

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

Regular Meeting
July 17, 1990

Committee members present: Tom DeJardin (Chair), Judy Wyers (Vice Chair), Roger Buchanan, Tanya Collier, David Saucy, Jr.

Chair DeJardin called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

1. Consideration of Minutes of July 3 Meeting

Main Motion: Chair DeJardin moved for approval of the minutes.

Motion to Amend: Councilor DeJardin moved to amend the minutes as follows:

Line 4 of the table entitled TOTAL TONNAGE THROUGH MAY on Page 2 as follows:

"...Marion County ~~landfill~~/burner"

Page 13, Section 6, Paragraph 4 as follows:

"Mr. Martin waxed ~~on what an excellent job the staff~~/eloquently upon the excellent job staff...."

Vote on Motion to Amend: Councilors DeJardin, Buchanan, Collier, Saucy and Wyers voted aye.

The motion carried unanimously.

Vote on Main Motion: Councilors DeJardin, Buchanan, Collier, Saucy and Wyers voted aye.

The motion carried unanimously.

2. Staff Reports

Bob Martin, Director of Solid Waste, made the following staff reports:

Infectious Waste Disposal

Bob Martin will attend a workshop on infectious waste disposal to

be held in Sherwood. At issue is the proposal by Therm Tech to handle infectious waste at an incinerator in Sherwood. Community concerns will be addressed. Citizens have prepared a comprehensive list of questions directed at several government agencies. Although specific questions have not been directed at Metro, the following are issues that may arise out of the questioning, which Mr. Martin will be prepared to address.

-- Is an incinerator consistent with Metro's Solid Waste Management Plan? A review of the proposal was completed and it was determined the proposal would not be inconsistent with Metro's Solid Waste Management Plan. This does not render it necessarily consistent with Metro's franchise requirements, or any other state, county, local or federal requirements related to this issue.

-- Does the project need a franchise from Metro? Yes. However, before Metro considers the proposer's franchise request, the proposer should obtain approval by DEQ and obtain land-use authorization from the appropriate local jurisdiction.

-- Marion County incinerator. The Marion County incinerator is now available to infectious waste generators in the Metro area so a facility in Sherwood is not an immediate imperative. However, an alternate facility that would provide back-up capacity will be desirable at a future date.

Councilor Buchanan inquired about redundancy and back-up capacity. Mr. Martin explained that a shut-down or change in policy at the Marion County incinerator would make it desirable to have a back-up available at a future date. In further discussion, he indicated that State statutes preclude the use of the Arlington facility to handle infectious waste, because of the requirement that infectious waste be burned.

Councilor DeJardin asked for a comparison of the emissions produced by the burner at Sherwood versus the emissions produced by a car, a truck, a crematorium, and a service station. Mr. Martin reported that Therm Tech is preparing a fact sheet with these comparisons.

Transport Services

The Solid Waste Department has compiled a six-month report that will be sent to each Councilor. The operation is on schedule and on target. The current status stands at 2,000,000 road miles with no preventable accidents. Two speeding tickets were logged. The pay load stands at over 29 tons.

A meeting will be held in the Gorge for citizens who are interested in a six-month review of the project. A list of interested parties to receive reports and notices pertaining to the Jack Gray operation has been compiled.

Councilor Buchanan asked about Jack Gray's policy regarding drivers who receive driving violations. Mr. Martin explained that Jack Gray's policy is to issue a reprimand for the first offence, the second offence results in suspension, and the third offence results in termination. He also reported that 100% of the drivers tested for drugs passed the test.

Councilor Buchanan also asked whether the drivers had been organized by a union, specifically, the Teamsters Union. Mr. Martin indicated they had not, however, the Teamsters are talking to Jack Gray drivers.

Metro East

Metro East is somewhat behind schedule, but making progress toward getting back on schedule. They had experienced delays in receiving permits from the City, however, they currently have all necessary construction permits. Some disputes have arisen regarding equipment options they have ordered; those issues are being settled satisfactorily. The target date of January for moving waste will be met and the landfill will be closed on time.

A bi-weekly meeting with the principals of the joint venture partners has been instigated to work through some of the problems. Many issues, including the compactor issues have been resolved through this bi-weekly review process. In response to questioning by Councilor DeJardin, Mr. Martin indicated that additional measures are not currently required to resolve issues, although an articulation of Metro's position by the Committee may be necessary at a future date.

Councilor Collier asked what the committee can do to assure that the joint venture partners perform. Mr. Martin responded that he has reminded the principals that the vote of Council was not unanimous in support of this project. He stated that if any problem could not be resolved, it might become necessary to take legal action on particular points to reach a satisfactory end.

Mr. Martin reported that informational pickets have taken place at the project. The company is in dialogue with the union to discover what concerns the trade unions have. Mr. Martin feels that Metro doesn't have a role in this issue, other than to remind Trans Industries that according to the contract, delays due to union problems would be at their expense, not Metro's.

Councilor Buchanan requested amplification of the union problems. Mr. Martin reported that the trade unions believe Trans Industries had made a commitment to employ a significant percentage of union laborers, and they claim Trans Industries is not following through on this commitment. TI claims no commitments were made to employ union laborers. Mr. Martin stated the union issue related mainly to TI's direct hiring practices, as opposed to its subcontractors. TI has hired union subcontractors for plumbing and electrical work. Additionally, although the non-union entrance to the job is being picketed by the building trades union, the plumbing and electrical worker union workers are still on the job.

Mr. Martin further stated that Metro's contract with TI does not require them to hire union laborers. In discussions with Metro, the company indicated that they had worked with the unions in previous projects and anticipated working with them again, but Mr. Martin cannot characterize whether or not any commitment was made to the unions. Discussions between TI and the building trades union are currently under way.

Mr. Martin recalls that in the transport portion of the contract, TI stated categorically that it would be a teamster-operated organization. He believes some of the trade unions may recall that commitment and have assumed that commitment existed to the remaining portions of the contract.

Councilor Collier asked for a further update on the union situation, and obtained contact names from Mr. Martin to pursue the matter further.

Composter

According to Mr. Martin, the composter is proceeding on schedule and very satisfactorily. He encouraged Councilors to arrange for a tour of the sites.

Metro South

Metro is soliciting proposals for a second compactor for the Metro South facility. The results of the evaluation of those proposals will be brought to the Committee at a future date. Analysis of the proposals to date indicates a dead-lock between two vendors.

Councilor Wyers asked what was planned with regard to yard debris at Metro South. Mr. Martin reported that Metro intends that the station will have the capacity to accept source-separated yard debris at the transfer station, and that the removal for processing of that debris will be contracted out. The rationale

for source-separation is the anticipation people will bring yard debris along with other waste. If someone comes with only yard debris, they would be referred elsewhere; rates will not encourage a lot of yard debris being deposited at Metro South.

3. Status Report on Washington County Solid Waste System

Richard Carson reported that monthly updates on the Washington County Solid Waste System will be provided. The attached memorandum dated July 17, 1990 pertaining to this topic was discussed.

Commissioner Steve Larrance of Washington County briefly described two separate sets of assumptions, one in the concept paper developed by Washington County, and the second set addressed in the technical analysis which pertains to how the technical analysis itself will be conducted.

Commissioner Larrance explained that one of the policies of County 2000 is to provide county-wide services, as opposed to urban levels of service in unincorporated areas. He described how this policy applied to the solid waste field in Washington County.

Rich Carson urged full participation in the steering committee and noted that Councilor Saucy had agreed to serve on the committee. Councilors Buchanan, Devlin and Bauer are also members of the committee.

4. Report on Recycling Rate

Terry Peterson gave a report on the Metro recycling rate. Each year brokers and contractors in the region are requested to provide Metro with figures on how much tonnage they recycle in different categories of materials. The information they provide is combined with Metro's information on the amount of materials disposed of in order to calculate what the regional recycling rate is. In 1989, recycling level was 28%, up from 26% in 1988. Mr. Peterson then discussed the attached "Survey of Recycling Levels," and made the following comments pertaining to the report:

-- The recycling level is calculated as a per cent of tons generated.

-- The figures include all types of waste, regardless of who generates it. For example, construction/demolition debris is included, although not all regions do so.

-- The increase in the 1989 recycling rate is due in large part to increases in the recycling rates of plastics and office paper. Office paper increased from 21,000 to 35,000 tons in 1989. This may be an indication that Metro's office paper campaign having an effect. Plastics increased from 9,000 to 15,000 tons in 1989.

-- Although every effort is made to assure the standards of measurement are consistent from year to year, some modifications were made this year in order to render a more accurate reading:

-- The amount of material reused or recycled by charitable organizations and thrifts has been included as recycled tonnage.

-- Material that is sent to the Marion County burner is not calculated as generated or disposed. However, that material is included along with tires and oil when calculating the resource recovery level.

-- The report is more specific with regard to the types of materials included or not included when asking brokers for tonnages.

Mr. Peterson further pointed out that regional level percentages do not reflect individual category or program changes. He also assured councilors that the ratio of materials recycled to the total tonnage generated is increasing.

Councilor Saucy asked why Portland's recycling figures did not compare favorably with Seattle's figures. Mr. Peterson pointed out that the measurement methodology differed in the two cities. Debbie Gorham further stated that Portland and Seattle actually have very similar recycling rates. Councilor Saucy asked for an update regarding changes that are being incorporated into Metro's recycling program to increase recycling. Mr. Peterson outlined Metro's plan, and alluded to agency goals of a 50% recycling rate by the year 2000, and 56% by the year 2010.

Councilor DeJardin expressed interest in seeing results in the One Percent for Recycling program once they are available.

Councilor DeJardin also asked whether for an update of the results of the decision the committee made last week with regard to the thrift shops. Debbie Gorham reported that Metro is waiting for response from the thrift shops to a letter sent them by Dan Cooper, Metro's legal counsel. The letter requested them

COUNCIL SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE

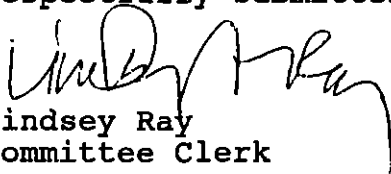
July 17, 1990

Page 7

to provide proof of their non-profit status, as well as proof that they do not impose any religious or denominational requirements on employees or beneficiaries of their services. When this information has been received and evaluated, Metro will be able to move ahead with the program.

There was no other business, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lindsey Ray
Committee Clerk

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