

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

September 15, 1992

Council Chamber

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

Committee Members Excused: Roger Buchanan, George Van Bergen

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

1. Consideration of April 21, 1992 and May 13, 1992 Solid Waste Committee Meeting Minutes

Motion: Councilor McFarland moved to approve the April 21, 1992 and May 13, 1992 Solid Waste Committee meeting minutes as submitted.

Vote: Councilors Hansen, McFarland and Wyers voted aye.

The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

2. Solid Waste Updates

o General Staff Reports

Bob Martin, Director of Solid Waste Department, presented the staff report, and said he had reviewed five composter proposals with Credit Suisse in a recent trip to New York. He said Credit Suisse was in the process of selecting one of the proposers with whom to negotiate a new agreement for bringing the facility back into operation. He said two teleconferences were scheduled with Credit Suisse, one for Friday, September 18 and one for Tuesday, September 22, 1992 with the expectation that Metro would know by Tuesday with whom, if anyone, Credit Suisse would be negotiating. He praised the proposals he had reviewed.

Councilor McFarland said, although she had seen it done on a smaller scale, she believed the process could be successfully accomplished even though the facility was handling a larger amount of material.

In response to Chair Wyers, Mr. Martin said odor was emphasized in all of the proposals, and said important as well were modifications to improve the original process.

Terry Petersen, Planning and Technical Services Manager, presented the staff report, and said the Council had approved a budget amendment with an attached budget note requesting the Department bring before the Solid Waste Committee a Request for Proposals (RFP) for release related to

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tonnage forecasting. Copies of the RFP, the Proposed Budget Note to Ordinance No. 92-469 summarizing the elements of the RFP, and a graph dated September 15, 1992 showing disposal tonnage and 1992 actual versus forecast comparison, were distributed to the Committee. These documents have been made part of the permanent meeting record.

Mr. Petersen displayed overheads containing tonnage forecasts information, and he discussed questions and issues dealing with economic variables such as income, tip fees, and construction employment and statistical procedures applied to predict tonnages. He said this methodology, called the Time Series, was derived as a result of the Portland State University study conducted the previous calendar year. Mr. Petersen discussed the percent error as outlined in the 1992 actual versus forecast comparison.

Mr. Petersen said the consultant selected through the RFP would be asked whether the Time Series method acceptable, and said the work would be defined based on the answer.

In response to Councilor McFarland, Mr. Petersen said it was his understanding a 10% variance in forecast versus actual was an acceptable tolerance. He noted other unknown variables could affect the forecasting, such as legislation.

Mr. Peterson said the RFP represented a review of Metro's forecasting methodology, and suggested other possibilities for tonnage forecasting in the future. He suggested revisions to the draft RFP before the Committee, and said the RFP would be issued in about a week.

The Committee and staff discussed the input to and the timing of the RFP process. John Houser, Council Analyst, said he would provide any relevant documents for review and comment to the Committee in a timely manner.

3. Resolution No. 92-1671, For the Purpose of Authorizing and Exemption to the Competitive Procurement Procedures of Metro Code Chapter 2.04.053 and Authorizing a Personal Services Agreement with the Oregon Graduate Institute of Science and Technology

James Watkins, Engineering and Analysis Manager, presented the staff report, and said an objective in the St. Johns Landfill closure plan was to use the site for beneficial research. He said the Oregon Graduate Institute of Science and Technology (OGI) had submitted a proposal to conduct research regarding the condition of the environment in the Smith and Bybee Lakes management area and the environmental impact of the landfill on the lakes area. Mr. Watkins described three areas of investigation as outlined in the staff report in the agenda packet, which would be conducted by Dr. William Fish, Dr. Antonio Baptista, and Dr. Wesley Jarrell of OGI. Mr. Watkins noted proposed total cost

estimated at \$1 less than \$100 thousand, which he noted was budgeted FY 1992-93 for research on landfill closure methods and impacts. Mr. Watkins noted it was a sole source contract which would necessitate exemption by the Metro Council from competitive bidding, and highlighted reasons for sole source justification for the project.

Dr. Fish, Dr. Baptista and Dr. Jarrell testified before the Committee, and described the elements of their proposed investigations. They indicated the members of the OGI team were nationally recognized and their skills were unique in the state of Oregon. The project team gave a video presentation featuring what was termed scientific visualization, and described the software development envisioned for the project.

In response to Councilor McFarland, Mr. Fish and Mr. Morgan said a field laboratory would not mean a structure on the landfill, but that it would be a small shed of a sort in which to house equipment and would be likely located near, but not on, the landfill.

In response to Councilor Hansen, Mr. Watkins said he believed the proposed research work would be beneficial. Mr. Morgan said understanding the processes at the landfill would be of help in the future to be able to respond to the Department of Environmental Quality regarding the intensity of the leachate, the speed with which it was moving through the soil, and the absorption rate in order to meet compliance factors before a violation is reached. He said wells at 100 to 200 feet were used currently and were not as accurate as would be desirable. Mr. Martin said the project would be very useful.

Councilor Hansen expressed interest in a product that Councilors could take out to the public to help answer questions regarding the landfill. Mr. Baptista said this was feasible and said the system would also reside in Metro's computers. He explained Metro could sell the images generated from the software, not the software programming. The Committee, staff and the OGI team discussed costs and overhead rate comparisons. The project team briefly discussed their vision for an ongoing project carrying the potential of long term benefits to Metro with the expenditure of the budgeted funds seen as a one-time request for seed money to begin.

Councilor McFarland supported the concepts of the project, and questioned the ethics of Metro's involvement and Metro's responsibility to the rate payers.

Mr. Martin said the St. Johns landfill closure plan identified as one of its objectives the conducting of useful, meaningful and timely research on the landfill to assist Metro in designing an environmentally responsible and cost effective closure plan. He supported the OGI proposal, and said the Environmental Protection Agency was interested in the project. He noted the advantage of knowledge in rejoinder to

potential liability risks, and said the project was economically prudent.

Councilor Wyers noted support of the proposed resolution did not preclude the prospect of future applications from OGI for other conceivable Metro research projects. The Committee and staff discussed future landfill closure issues including future financing of research projects, and the knowledge to be gained through research such as that proposed.

Motion: Councilor McFarland moved to recommend Resolution No. 92-1671 to the full Council for adoption.

Vote: Councilors Hansen, McFarland and Wyers voted aye.

The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

4. Informational Briefing on the Status of the Eastern Washington County Transfer Station

Mr. Watkins presented the staff report, and said on Metro received one franchise application on July 14 in response to the Request for Franchise Applications for the provision of a transfer and recovery facility for Eastern Washington County. He said an evaluation committee comprised of members as listed in the memorandum in the agenda packet from Mr. Martin dated August 27, 1992, reviewed the application for conformance with the evaluation criteria. He said the evaluation was completed August 27, a report was then submitted to Mr. Martin, and said a copy of the report was contained in the agenda packet. Mr. Watkins said as a result of the conclusion of the evaluation committee negotiations began with Willamette Resources, Inc (WRI). August 28, 1992. He said an agreement would be brought to the Committee for approval at the end of negotiations or about 120 days. Mr. Watkins then summarized the evaluation report, and displayed an aerial photograph of the site and an artist's rendition of the facility.

In response to Councilor Hansen, Mr. Watkins said WRI was the only applicant because they were the only organization that had obtained the necessary land use permits, and said it had taken them two years to do so.

Mr. Watkins commented on costs estimates as outlined in the evaluation report, and noted the application complied with cost requirements, which he said were 1) the applicant's facility and operations costs over the life of the project be less than the costs for a publicly financed and operated facility; and 2) that the proposed financing be done with Metro as the issuer of any bonds used for the project. Mr. Watkins said although cost estimates were higher than the existing two transfer

stations, the evaluation committee believed costs could be lowered during negotiations.

In response to Chair Wyers, Mr. Watkins said the cost estimate for the publicly owned transfer station proposal was based on a conceptual design, whereas, he said, the WRI proposal cost estimates were based on a higher level of design. He said the publicly owned facility proposal was reasonable although higher in specific categories and that the cumulative effect was about \$6 million higher.

Chair Wyers asked with just one proposal, just how much negotiating could be done. Mr. Martin said Metro might not go ahead with a decision to build the facility if the negotiations proved the facility unaffordable, if the facility carried a price tag that the region's rate payers were not willing to bear. He noted it would not be the first time Metro had made such a decision.

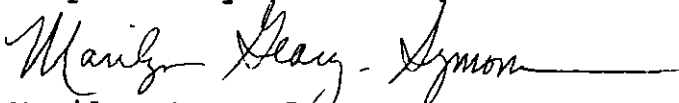
The Committee and staff discussed tonnage estimates and flows at current Metro facilities as well as materials recovery expectations.

Chair Wyers directed Mr. Houser to work with Department staff to further identify public versus private costs and issues. In response to Chair Wyers, Mr. Watkins said rate impacts would be known at the time of reaching an agreement on price.

In response to Councilor Hansen, Mr. Martin indicated it was possible to know rate impact prior to price agreement. Councilor Hansen said she favored building the facility at a level which could be expanded or further developed at a later date, but said the question of what level to build in materials recovery into the design at this point should be dealt with and documented. She felt several project levels should be presented with associated costs and a choice made. Mr. Martin responded that varying project levels would be supported by varying rates, and he agreed that a report could be compiled for the Committee.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Marilyn Geary-Symons
Committee Recorder