

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

November 6, 1990

Council Chamber

Committee Members Present: Tom DeJardin (Chair), Judy Wyers (Vice Chair), Roger Buchanan, Tanya Collier and David Saucy

Committee Members Absent: None

Chair DeJardin called the regular meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

1. Consideration of October 16, 1990 Minutes

Motion: Councilor Saucy moved for approval of the minutes.

Vote: Councilors Buchanan, DeJardin and Saucy voted aye. Councilors Collier and Wyers were absent. The vote was unanimous and the minutes were approved.

2. Solid Waste Staff Reports

- o General Staff Reports
- o Waste Reduction Program Activities

Bob Martin, Director of Solid Waste, noted the Metro and Portland City Councils would hold a joint meeting November 8, 1990, to consider and adopt Resolution No. 90-1314, For the Purpose of Approving an Intergovernmental Agreement to Assume Custody of Certain Monies and Ownership at the St. Johns Landfill and Certain Adjacent Land from the City of Portland, and Ordinance No. 90-367, Approval of Natural Resources Management Plan for Smith and Bybee Lakes. He said both the resolution and ordinance would designate Metro as coordinator for a variety of activities including four to five years of closure activity; post-closure monitoring and maintenance; development of the Smith and Bybee Lakes areas for recreation and open space purposes; and administration of end use activity after landfill closure. He said Metro staff worked with three City bureaus on last minute technical changes related to review processes for any changes between now and ultimate completion of landfill activity. He said staff would offer those technical amendments at the November 8 joint meeting.

There were no Waste Reduction Program Activity reports.

4. Update on Use of Plastic Bags in Yard Debris Curbside Collection

Richard Carson, Director of Planning & Development, said Becky Crockett, Solid Waste Planning Supervisor, would respond to Councilor Wyers' October 26, 1990, memorandum "Use of Plastic Bags in Yard Debris Curbside Collection."

Ms. Crockett said in order for staff to perform analysis on various collection options for yard debris, staff had to identify what the options were. She said while doing cost assumptions for each program, staff stated a designated container for the collection program could be a clear plastic bag, a paper bag, or a rigid container. Ms. Crockett said that information would not be part of the adopted Yard Debris Collection Plan, but was identified in the appendices to describe the program staff had costed out for comparative purposes.

The Committee had no comments or questions for staff on the issues.

5. Resolution No. 90-1345, For the Purpose of Authorizing Issuance of a Request for Bids for Marion County Waste Transport Services and Entering into a Contract with the Low Responsible, Responsive Bidder

Jim Watkins, Engineering & Analysis Manager, gave staff's report and the history of the contract. Chuck Geyer, Senior Solid Waste Planner, explained the contract involved was very simple and the winning vendor comprised a one truck, one driver operation.

Motion: Councilor Saucy moved to recommend the full Council adopt Resolution No. 90-1345 to the full Council for adoption.

Councilor Saucy asked if the contract complied with Metro's obligation to send 90 percent of all landfillable waste to the Columbia Ridge Landfill. Mr. Geyer said the contract was in compliance because the waste would be shipped to a waste to energy facility which fell under the alternative disposal technology category.

Vote: Councilors Buchanan, Collier, DeJardin, Saucy and Wyers voted aye. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

3. Update on Status of Educational Brochure: Explanation of Costs and Environmental Impacts for New Parents Regarding Alternatives for Diapering Their Children Per Resolution No. 90-1232A

Vickie Rucker, Director of Public Affairs, distributed a draft diaper brochure and explained the brochure's format would be similar to the Household Hazardous Waste brochure. Councilor Wyers stated she was very pleased with the brochure and thanked staff for their efforts on the project. The Committee and staff discussed brochure language briefly. Chair DeJardin and Councilor Saucy discussed the needs of incontinent seniors, but noted the brochure would be directed at infants/young children only. The Committee determined there was no need for a short-term task force to work on the diaper brochure.

6. Discussion of Legislative Issues

- 1) Propose Bill to Establish a Comprehensive Civil Penalty System to Reduce Illegal Dumping;

Karla Forsythe, Council Analyst, noted the agenda packet contained the information distributed and explained by Multnomah County Commissioner Sharron Kelley at the October 30 Solid Waste Committee (SWC) meeting. Ms. Forsythe noted the SWC asked that the proposed legislation to establish a comprehensive civil penalty system to reduce illegal dumping return for consideration at this meeting. She noted the Committee might wish to endorse the proposed legislation in concept.

Motion: Councilor Wyers moved to conceptually support the proposed legislation to establish a comprehensive civil penalty system to reduce illegal dumping as presented by Commissioner Kelley.

Vote: Councilors Buchanan, Collier, DeJardin, Saucy and Wyers voted aye. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

Councilor Wyers noted the proposed legislation would be forwarded to the Intergovernmental Relations (IGR) Committee.

- 2) Proposals Presented to Solid Waste Committee at July 31 Meeting

Ms. Forsythe noted the agenda packet also contained legislative proposals from Metro's Plastics Recycling Task Force (PRTF). She noted the PRTF made a presentation to the SWC in July and that Don Carlson, Council Administrator, recommended the PRTF proposals be put in a common format for final consideration by the SWC. Ms. Forsythe noted there were eight proposals from the PRTF and one from Recycling Advocates.

- 1) Designate plastics as a principal recyclable.

The Committee discussed the PRTF's recommendation to designate plastics as a principal recyclable. Councilor Wyers asked if plastics could be designated a principal recyclable based on cost. Mr. Martin said a material must meet certain statutory tests to be determined a principal recyclable and those tests included market availability and financing without subsidy. He said some consideration could be given to certain types of plastics or plastic products first rather than declaring plastics in general as a principal recyclable because it was doubtful plastics as a whole would pass statutory testing. Councilor Wyers asked if all designated principal recyclables currently met statutory requirements. Mr. Martin said there was some doubt with regard to yard debris, but that yard debris invited a latitude of interpretation because it could be marketed. Councilor Wyers asked if it was advisable

asked if there was any pending solid waste legislation which contained a similar provision.

Councilor Wyers said the recommendation was good but it was not yet practical to endorse it as a concept. Councilor Wyers said the Metro's Government Relations Officer could inform the SWC of any legislation that might include the recommendation and the SWC could support legislation at that time. Chair DeJardin asked if the tax abatement would apply to Oregon companies only, or companies that did business outside of Oregon, or companies not based in Oregon that did business within Oregon. Councilor Collier recommended amended language as a concept.

Mr. Martin said there was no disagreement with materials compatibility, but said there were substantial issues involving state agencies related to what kinds of incentives, encouragement or programs to achieve compatible materials.

Debbie Gorham, Waste Reduction Manager, noted several legislative drafts included the concept of a market development committee or commission or task force that would have some authority to move the recyclable market place along at a more rapid pace. She said label compatibility issues could fall under those auspices to work with private industry if such a body were formed.

Councilor Wyers said the recommendation was good in concept, but was reluctant to endorse it without a specific vehicle. Chair DeJardin said the recommendation could be attached to specific legislation as it occurred.

Motion: Councilor Collier moved to support amended Recommendation No. 3 (deleted language bracketed): [Create incentives to e] Encourage the industry to attach labels which are made of a material compatible with the package to which they are attached. [Incentives could include tax abatement or credits.]

Vote: Councilors Buchanan, Collier, DeJardin, Saucy and Wyers voted aye on the amended recommendation. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

4) Support funding for the Oregon Resource Conservation Trust Fund (RCTF).

Councilor Wyers noted the Council supported the RCTF at the last legislation session in 1989. She said the concept was popular but the funding mechanism was not. She said the Defenders of Wildlife planned to re-introduce it at this legislative session and expressed her support for their efforts.

Motion: Councilor Wyers moved to support PRTF's recommendation to support funding for the Oregon RCTF.

Vote: Councilors Buchanan, Collier, DeJardin, Saucy and Wyers voted aye. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

- 5) Support legislation to develop incentives to reward entities that divert, collect and pre-process recyclables for final introduction into industrial processes for paper, plastics, glass, oils, and other consumer and commercial product processes.

Chair DeJardin said the Committee needed further information before it made a recommendation on PRTF Recommendation No. 5.

Mr. Martin noted many of the concepts contained in Recommendation No. 5 were included in LC 413 and LC 348. He said there was support for developing such programs. He said the SWC could support those legislative drafts. The Committee asked to review those legislative drafts when they were ready.

- 6) Support legislation to encourage siting of environmentally friendly services industries and commerce within the Metro area, through enterprise zones, tax abatement and tax credits.

Councilor Collier said she supported the idea, but needed to review a more specific proposal. She asked if the PRTF planned to draft/introduce legislation on their recommendations. Mr. Martin said all the PRTF recommendations were similar to most waste reduction legislation that would be introduced. Councilor Saucy said he could not support tax relief concepts without specifics.

Councilor Collier said if Ballot Measure No. 6 failed to pass the date of this meeting, the SWC should consider drafting/introducing Metro legislation similar to that contained in Ballot Measure No. 6. Chair DeJardin said industry representatives should be invited to participate. Councilor Collier agreed and said a task force should be formed with OSPIRG participating also. Councilor Collier asked Ms. Forsythe to work with Chair DeJardin to identify industry and OSPIRG representatives who could serve on such a task force and asked Councilor Wyers to serve on the task force. Councilor Collier said she would serve on the task force also.

- 7) Metro should become involved with the work of the Western Legislative Assembly Waste Reduction and Recycling Coalition to establish uniform purchasing and secondary materials procurement policies for the 13 western states, and should support legislation introduced as a result of the work of this group.

Mr. Martin said he had attended one Western Legislative Assembly Waste Reduction and Recycling Coalition meeting (WLAWRRC). He said they appeared to be making progress. He said of the 13 western states, Oregon and Washington appeared to be the leaders in this area. He noted the next WLAWRRC conference would be held in February in Seattle. He did not believe they would have legislative concepts ready for the 1991 session. Chair DeJardin asked if it would assist staff if the SWC supported the PRTF recommendation. Mr. Martin said the support would be of assistance and that staff would be attending WLAWRRC conferences.

Motion: Councilor Wyers moved to conceptually support PRTF Recommendation No. 7.

Vote: Councilors Buchanan, DeJardin, Saucy and Wyers voted aye. Councilor Collier was absent. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

8. Support legislation to close a gap in SB 405 by requiring landlords who provide garbage collection to provide recycling collection for principal recyclables; consider including commercial landlords as well as residential

Recommendation No. 8 was submitted by Rob Guttridge of Recycling Advocates.

Councilor Wyers stated her support for Recommendation No. 8. Mr. Martin said legislation similar to the recommendation was contained in LC 314, LC 348 and the pending legislation from DEQ's waste reduction subcommittee.

Motion: Councilor Wyers moved for SWC approval of Recommendation No. 8.

Vote: Councilors Buchanan, DeJardin, Saucy and Wyers voted aye. Councilor Collier was absent. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

Ms. Forsythe noted the SWC planned to schedule a SWC work session on policy issues only related to closing and opening solid waste facilities. The Committee scheduled a special meeting for Monday, November 19, at 5:00 p.m.

Councilor Wyers thanked Ms. Gorham for her presentation. She asked Ms. Gorham about a recently published study which stated polystyrene foam migrated into human adipose tissue.

Councilor Saucy suggested inviting the two newly elected Metro Councilors to the special meeting November 19.