

MINUTES OF THE PLASTICS RECYCLING TASK FORCE OF THE
METROPOLITAN SERVICE DISTRICT

December 12, 1988

Room 330

Task Force Members Present: Councilor Corky Kirkpatrick (Chair), Charlotte Becker, Sara Vickerman, Bill Martin, Bruce Holser, Scott Ashcom, Ted Stanwood, Peggy Lovell, David Phillips, Russell Brownier, and Jerry Herrmann

Others Present: Ray Barker, John Walker, Estle Harlan, Sam Culpepper, Geoff Pampush, Ted Hughes, Leola Stanwood, Ross Dey, David Rozell, Bruce Walker, Allen M. Hurst and Heidi Seiberts.

Chair Kirkpatrick called the meeting to order at 4:09 p.m.

1. Minutes of November 28, 1988

Chair Kirkpatrick asked those present if formal action should be taken on the minutes for this Task Force. She said the minutes could be used as a meeting record and errors could be corrected at subsequent meetings. Those present agreed.

2. Reports on Current Efforts Regarding Plastics

o City of Portland

Bruce Walker, City of Portland, discussed the City's ban on polystyrene cup purchases for bureau use. He said the ban applied to vendors who required City permits and lessees of City properties. He said a three-month task force recommended an in-house recycling procurement plan and required re-use of polystyrene. He said a ban was placed on the use of polystyrene containers made from CFC blowing agents. He said restaurants would be required to establish recycling. He said a task force was established to analyze plastics issues and to reduce landfill materials. He said there was a public hearing in the fall and a hearing November 30 before the City Council. He said a meeting was scheduled December 21 and City aides indicated there could be amendments to ban completely polystyrene for use as food containers. He discussed legislative issues. He said a surcharge could possibly be placed on containers to establish a recycling fund. He said additional discussion would occur at the City Council level.

In response to a question on financial impact, Mr. Walker said there would be little financial impact. He said Portland restaurants had debated the fiscal pros and cons. When asked for an estimate on what would not be recycled, Mr. Walker said the ban applied only to City purchases which were a small amount. Chair Kirkpatrick asked when the City Council would consider the proposed surcharge after December 21 and if other organizations were asked to support the ordinance.

o Portland School Board

Ross Dey, Portland School Board, said two weeks previously Portland schools held a Polystyrene Week. He said no good cost numbers had resulted from discussions and he hoped to verify costs. He said the School Board authorized funding up to \$27,000 to contract with the University of Portland to evaluate 9 schools. He said local school advisory people would analyze school output. He said the Portland schools had never purchased polystyrene CFC's. He said a cost matrix would be developed on options regarding polystyrene, paper and permanent ware. He said a study on recycled trays would be continued at 16 schools. He said each school was unique and there were no blanket solutions for the school system. Mr. Dey said the school system contracted its garbage service but owned its own containers.

o Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

Dave Rozzell, DEQ, said DEQ would not sponsor any specific legislation this year. He discussed one program for state-wide recycling and said local jurisdictions would receive the funds to implement it. He said DEQ was supportive of the Interim Committee's proposals, including LC 741, LC 742, LC 748, LC 752 and LC 753.

Mr. Rozzell said the Environmental Quality Commission (EQC) would not officially endorse legislation either. He said the EQC would only sponsor bills specific to them. He said DEQ was sponsoring a solid waste bill not related to plastics and the bill had no LC number as yet. He said DEQ's emphasis was on the state hierarchy; reduce, re-use, recycling and biodegradability. Chair Kirkpatrick asked about funding with regard to local jurisdictions. Mr. Rozzell said state issues were funded in a fragmentary manner and that there was an attempt to develop a broader funding base. Chair Kirkpatrick asked that a copy of the LC legislation be sent to Ray Barker, Council Analyst. Mr. Rozzell stated funds were needed for education also.

Those present discussed LC 744, which would allow DEQ to collect a \$2 per ton fee on solid waste brought from out of state to Oregon for disposal purposes. Mr. Rozzell said the details were yet to be worked out but said it looked viable. Jerry Herrmann asked if such a tax could be placed on product generation. Mr. Rozzell said it had been discussed and that there could be some kind of purchasing tax also. He said issues which needed attention were recycling; handling of solid waste, specifically, biomedical waste; statewide household collection days; and local groundwater resources for local jurisdictions.

Dave Phillips said the problem with a surcharge was a closing spiral of fewer parties funding and providing recommended revenue. Jeff Gage asked what the estimated amount raised would be. Mr. Rozzell said DEQ estimated \$4 million per year could be raised.

Those present discussed what materials were classified as Senate Bill 405 materials and Senate Bill restrictions and qualifiers.

Estle Harlan, Tri-County Council, said the Oregon Sanitary Services Institute (OSSI) would sponsor an infectious waste bill and was interested in any issue affecting solid waste rates.

3. Proposals for Plastics Recycling Legislation

Sara Vickerman and Mr. Herrmann discussed this item. Ms. Vickerman said it was an umbrella-type approach. She said the proposal had to be reviewed by collectors and other interested parties. Ms. Vickerman said it was a basis proposal because of a connection with nature. She said the first priority was to establish a dedicated trust for conservation and outdoor recreation. She noted the American Heritage Trust Act took off-shore drilling dues. She said states which established a parallel fund would qualify for matching Federal funds. She said such a fund would provide economic incentive to recycle. She said the goal of such a fund was to limit the use of materials that endangered wildlife. She said the State of Oregon would float \$100-\$300 million in bonds and the source of repayment would be a percentage surcharge on packaging. Ms. Vickerman said products already effectively recycled and deposit materials should be exempt from the surcharge.

Mr. Herrmann said markets were difficult to subsidize when records were difficult to access. He said newsprint could be subsidized by subsidizing the collection market because that was where the biggest costs were. Ms. Vickerman added there should be a match for educational systems from industry and funding for research.

Ms. Vickerman and Mr. Herrmann suggested phasing out degradable flotation systems in 1992 and prohibiting use of nondegradable food containers on charter boats. Mr. Barker asked when the final costs would be available. Mr. Herrmann said a surcharge could only be placed on items not easily recyclable. He said there could possibly be a surcharge on newspaper. He noted last year newsprint was \$90 per ton and this year was \$44 per ton. He said the funds collected could be divided between wildlife and disposal parties.

Those present discussed how the One Percent for Recycling fund was collected as well as classification of lands; incentives for refuse collectors and processors; and land acquisition.

Chair Kirkpatrick asked Ms. Vickerman for a copy of the American Heritage Trust Act. Mr. Herrmann said he would like to discuss this proposed bill with collectors, legislators and other participants and make it as consistent with legislators views as possible. Jeff Gage said it looked, felt and smelt like a sales tax.

4. Determine Which Issues Task Force Will Focus On and Pursue

Chair Kirkpatrick said she discussed possible draft language on this issue with Joyce Cohen. She said Ms. Cohen had conceived a more limited trust fund and said staff could pull together all the options the Task Force wished to consider in the next six weeks and in the long-term. Councilor Kirkpatrick asked if any of those present wished to form a subcommittee to work on legislative language with regard to plastics recycling. Scott Ashcom, Bruce Holser, and Mr. Herrmann indicated interest in serving on such a task force. Chair Kirkpatrick said as more concepts were developed, more subcommittees could be formed to work on different aspects. Chair Kirkpatrick noted her Metropolitan Service District seat would expire January 1, 1989, but she would continue to serve as chair of the Plastics Recycling Task Force. Those present discussed when the next meeting should be held. January 3, 1989, was agreed upon for the next scheduled meeting.

Chair Kirkpatrick adjourned the meeting at 5:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Paulette Allen
Committee Clerk
PRTF.347