

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

January 22, 1990

Council Chamber

Committee Members Present: Chair Corky Kirkpatrick, Carrie Heaton, Bill Martin, Jerry Herrmann, Peggy Lovell and Russell Brownner

Others Present: Representative Ron Cease, Ray Barker and Steve Kraten

Chair Kirkpatrick called the meeting to order at 4:11 p.m.

Bill Martin reported on the Environmental Quality Commission (EQC) annual update on recyclables--the Annual Review of Principal Recyclables--held the date of this meeting. He said the update included lengthy discussion on dioxins and water quality issues. He said EQC staff recommended some recyclables be removed from the EQC list because of non-marketability, but said the EQC chair was interested in plastics issues. He said EQC staff said plastic markets were not ready for the EQC priority list because of collection problems and related issues. The EQC chair said plastics recycling would be a priority next year and should be kept on the list. Mr. Martin said EQC's intent was to get water and air quality issues on track and then consider other items. He noted the States of Oregon, Washington and Maine were all having problems with air and water quality issues partially due to a lack of research.

Mr. Martin noted another relevant issue was CFC recycling. He said OSPIRG testified for CFC recycling for auto repair as soon as reasonably priced equipment was available. Task Force members discussed CFC recycling. Mr. Martin said other items to be put on the EQC list were mixed paper, magazines and plastics would be on the list soon, if not the next year.

2. Report on Tour of East Coast Recycling Facilities

Mr. Martin attended the Fifth International Conference on Solid Waste held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, sponsored by the University of Portland, various engineering schools and other sponsors. Mr. Martin said he toured east coast recycling facilities while attending the conference and showed slides of the materials recovery facilities he toured and explained collection methods and markets. He showed the first polystyrene foam recycling facility, located in Massachusetts, and said it recycled polystyrene packaging from McDonald's and Kentucky Fried Chicken and also commercial/industrial over runs. Those present discussed east versus west coast methods, techniques, funding, technology and approaches to plastics recycling.

1. **Report on Joint Interim Legislative Committee on Environment, Energy and Hazardous Materials**

Representative Ron Cease, Co-Chair, Joint Interim Legislative Committee on Environment, Energy and Hazardous Materials, discussed proposed legislation and related issues. He discussed several bills considered in the last legislative session. He said the Heritage Wildlife Conservation bill resulted in the shell of two separate bills. He discussed the committees which sponsored solid waste legislation. He discussed in-state and out-of-state issues. He discussed current events such as the OSPIRG initiative on packaging and the City of Portland's ban on polystyrene foam recycling.

Representative Cease said the Interim Committee would review plastics issues including source reduction, markets, procurement policies and subsidies. He said it was clear the Interim Committee would not be able to do a great deal at this juncture. He said the Interim Committee would review and discuss all types of waste including concrete, asbestos, organic, hazardous, infectious/medical, and demolition, and said plastics was only a part of the solid waste picture to be considered.

Representative Cease said at the last session it was thought there would be a break-through, not just for plastics recycling, but for other types of solid waste. He said that did not happen because the State Senate did not handle it well and industry was split. He said in industry, some supported the Trust Fund, others did not, and various camps took different stands on the issues. He said OSPIRG's decision to sponsor their initiative changed events also.

Jerry Herrmann asked if there was any strategy to advance markets. Representative Cease said the Interim Committee was not at that stage as yet and it to-date met twice and had only heard testimony. He said they would review other states' policies. Mr. Herrmann asked why industry had not been asked to handle more recycled material. He said the paper industry had received subsidies and pollution abatement for over 20 years and were not pressured to handle more recycled paper. Representative Cease said groups who received benefits and subsidies fought any attempts to alter their status. He said it was difficult to give full attention to all aspects of all the issues. He said last year air quality was the predominant issue.

Representative Cease encouraged the Plastics Recycling Task Force to continue and make recommendations to the Interim Committee.

Russell Brownier asked if it would be possible to get coding/labelling legislation through the Legislature without tying it to other legislation. He discussed the need for nationalization of standards. Those present discussed coding and

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agreed the industry concurred plastics coding was needed. Representative Cease said the PRTF could ask legislators to support such legislation and there would be strong interest.

Chair Kirkpatrick asked Representative Cease if he recommended the PRTF revive legislation they sponsored last year. Representative Cease noted the issues were slightly different this year. Mr. Herrmann said it was difficult to keep abreast of all pertinent issues and asked if the Legislature was current with the issues.

Representative Cease encouraged the PRTF to continue, review their previous work and prioritize their issues of common interest. He noted the issues were not stable. Chair Kirkpatrick said the scope was large enough that the PRTF could make a difference with their recommendations.

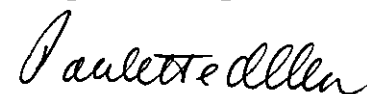
Mr. Herrmann said the system was working too well because of excess on the diversion side and asked why industry should receive benefits. He noted his recycling center made minimal profit and received no concessions from the State. He said as the markets went down, more nonprofit recycling centers would close.

Chair Kirkpatrick said the PRTF's next meeting would be scheduled Monday, February 26, and asked Ray Barker, Council Analyst, to assemble legislation the PRTF previously worked on in addition to the PRTF's recommendations last year to Metro's One Percent for Recycling Committee. Mr. Herrmann asked if the PRTF would be responsible to make recommendations to the One Percent for Recycling Committee on plastic recycling proposals. Chair Kirkpatrick noted several PRTF members had submitted proposals to that Committee. She noted at their November 20, 1989, meeting Senator Dick Springer asked the PRTF why they had not been more active on the issues earlier.

Mr. Herrmann distributed Clearing magazine to those present. Those present discussed further the conference on the east coast Mr. Martin attended.

Chair Kirkpatrick adjourned the meeting at 5:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Paulette Allen
Committee Clerk

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