

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

March 13, 1989

Room 330

Task Force Members Present: Corky Kirkpatrick, Jerry Herrmann, Patrick A. Moffatt, Gaylen Kiltow, Bruce Holser, Estle Harlan, Charlotte Becker, Lissa Wienholt and Bill Martin

Others Present: Ray Barker, Jerry Ebeltoft, Allen M. Hurst, Jr., Carrie Heaton and Robyn Salisbury

Chair Kirkpatrick called the meeting to order at 4:10.

Chair Kirkpatrick noted agendas for the joint Metro Legislative Task Force and Solid Waste Committee meeting March 17, 1989, were distributed to those present at this meeting.

Jerry Herrmann said a demonstration on plastic lumber would be held at Clackamas Community College Thursday, March 16, from 10:30 to 12:00. He said Wayne Pierson of the National Recycling Institute at Rutgers University would speak. He said signage and a walk bridge made from plastic lumber would be displayed.

1. Consider the Solid Waste Reduction Act of 1989 (SB 990)

Chair Kirkpatrick discussed Senator Dick Springer's Senate Bill 990. She said the polystyrene food container ban, "1. Prohibits restaurant, retail food vendor, school, or nonprofit food provider from packaging food in styrofoam containers effective 7/1/90" was the same as legislation approved by the Portland City Council. Mr. Herrmann said that legislation was not yet effective and said the language before the Plastics Recycling Task Force (PRTF) was not clear as to recycling issues. Chair Kirkpatrick said the PRTF should be consistent and take the same stand on that language as the PRTF had on Senate Bill 353. Mr. Herrmann said there was still debate over what polystyrene actually was. He said polystyrene and polystyrene foam were two separate things.

Chair Kirkpatrick asked for an opinion on "2. Allows schools and nonprofits to continue to use styrofoam not produced with chlorofluorocarbons if a hardship would result." Those present discussed what groups would suffer hardship if polystyrene was banned for use. Estle Harlan said hospitals required exemption because of medical waste issues and asked if the language referred to polystyrene or polystyrene foam. Bruce Holser noted CFC's were not addressed in the language. Mr. Herrmann noted some types of CFC's were restricted and some were non-restricted and some categories were non-damaging. Chair Kirkpatrick said "health care providers" could be specified. Non-profit and for-profit health care providers were then discussed.

Chair Kirkpatrick said the PRTF approved the concept stated in "3.

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Requires marking of all plastic containers with standard industry classification markings effective 1/1/91." Ray Barker, Council Analyst, said the language in SB 990 did not appear as detailed as in Senate Bill 344 which the PRTF had approved. Chair Kirkpatrick asked Mr. Barker to check language to ensure compatibility.

Chair Kirkpatrick said the PRTF approved "4. Requires DEQ to establish schedule for "effective recycling program" for each plastic type. At least 15% of each type must be recycled by 1992, and 75% by 1999." Mr. Holser asked who would enforce goals and was told DEQ would do so. Lissa Wienholt said the DEQ did not receive data on anything not covered under Senate Bill 405 which was why DEQ did not have exact state recycling figures. Ms. Harlan said Clackamas County was the only county which sent recycling data to DEQ and said Multnomah County was not required to send in waste shed data. Mr. Barker said the issue could be discussed at the joint meeting Friday. Ms. Harlan said technical market and feasibility language should be added. Gaylen Kiltow said waste sheds should be required to report data. Chair Kirkpatrick asked Ms. Wienholt to implement concerns voiced on the issue by the PRTF.

Chair Kirkpatrick asked for input on "6. Prohibits use of plastic bags by restaurants and groceries unless bag is degradable effective 7/1/90." The difference between degradable and non-degradable bags was discussed. It was questioned whether plastic would be recycled if classified as degradable. Chair Kirkpatrick said the PRTF should recommend plastic be recyclable rather than degradable. Mr. Herrmann said the PRTF had consistently recommended recycling and should recommend plastic bags be recyclable as well. Those present agreed the common goal was to prevent as much material from going to the landfill(s) as possible.

Chair Kirkpatrick discussed "11. Establishes "Solid Waste Recycling Account" in DEQ budget to finance administration, financed by "tippage fee" of 50 cents per ton at landfills." Ms. Harlan said the OSSI would object. Mr. Herrmann was surprised the tax was not assigned to waste generators because all waste would be surcharged. Mr. Kiltow asked the purpose of the 50 cent fee. Ms. Wienholt explained it was to fund program administrative costs. Ms. Harlan said there was concern there was no formula on how funds would be returned. Chair Kirkpatrick said did not favor the language and said it did not specifically refer to plastics. Mr. Barker said Section 18 addressed how the funds would be used. Ms. Harlan said there were other funding sources. Chair Kirkpatrick said the PRTF would recommend elimination of Sections 10 and 11 and said the DEQ could fund through their general fund as they did with everything else. She said the PRTF did support Section 18 because such a study was appropriate. Ms. Harlan said it did not require the expenditure of \$1 million.

Chair Kirkpatrick asked for an opinion on Section 13. Those present agreed the language as written was not clear. Chair Kirkpatrick said "8. Prohibits "plastic cans" pertained to Section 15 and said such language

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would cause wine cooler containers to be covered by the Oregon bottle bill. Those present agreed on language but said retailers would object to the addition.

Those present discussed SB 990 language on plastic rings. Chair Kirkpatrick said the PRTF recommendation should be the same as their recommendation on Senate Bill 352.

Chair Kirkpatrick said SB 990 language should be clarified by grouping similar items and definitions together. Ms. Wienholt said amendments and new language could be sectioned together as well.

2. Further Consideration of Senate Bill 353

Chair Kirkpatrick told those present language in the agenda packet was written by Jeff Gage and herself. She said if there were no objections, she would present the language on Senate Bill 353 at the joint meeting Friday.

3. Report on Recent Legislative Committee Actions

Chair Kirkpatrick said she and Mr. Barker would pull together testimony to be given at that meeting and ensure there was a speaker to address each item. Mr. Barker noted the Council Solid Waste Committee philosophically supported the PRTF's work, but said they would like to see language more technical in nature.

Mr. Holser displayed an article from plasticsBRIEF, a plastics newsletter, which discussed polyethylene mold labels and their advantages.

Mr. Herrmann told those present there would be a beach clean-up sponsored by AMCO as part of a SOLVE program. He said the waste gathered would be classified by Portland State University students. He said the clean-up would take place from Oregon City to the mouth of the Columbia river. He said during the clean-up, willow cuttings would be planted to help stabilize banks. He invited anyone present who would be interested in participating and said there would be a boat travelling along the clean-up route as well. He said it was the first inland waterway clean-up in North America.

Chair Kirkpatrick asked those present when they would like to meet next. Patrick A. Moffatt said the PRTF had been extremely useful and members could exchange information on plastics issues in the future. Chair Kirkpatrick said the next meeting would be held March 27, 1989. Mr. Moffatt said tax incentives were seemingly the only method with which to encourage recycling. Chair Kirkpatrick said the group could assess other states' tax incentives. Mr. Herrmann said different collection systems could be analyzed as well. Those present then discussed the Eugene, Oregon, plastics recycling effort. Chair Kirkpatrick told Mr. Herrmann the

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PRTF was opposed to Senate Bill 350 as it was currently written. Mr. Herrmann said he could submit alternative language for SB 350 at the joint meeting Friday.

Chair Kirkpatrick adjourned the meeting at 5:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Paulette Allen

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