

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

June 25, 1990

Room 240

**Task Force Members Present:** Chair Corky Kirkpatrick, Lissa Wienholt, Russell Brownier, Jeff Gage and Patrick Moffatt

**Others Present:** Allen M. Hurst, Jr.

Chair Kirkpatrick called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.

**2. Review of Metro's 1% for Recycling Program/Criteria**

The Committee discussed the 1% for Recycling Program proposal awards and noted the 1% for Recycling Program funded new programs/proposals only. Chair Kirkpatrick said 1% criteria should be checked to ascertain if new programs/proposals were the only ones funded. Russell Brownier said he applied during the program's first year to fund for a rate analysis position to survey plastics businesses specifically. He said he applied for funding from the 1% for Recycling Advisory Committee because 60-70 percent of post-consumer plastics originated from industry and said it was important to determine where plastics were, what they were, and how they could be recycled if possible. He said he applied for \$20,000 funding for the position. He said that that staff person could have worked with industry to assess flow and give industry information on recycling resources. He said Metro funded \$70,000 to perform the same tasks. He said he performed 6-10 needs assessments for companies per day.

Mr. Brownier said he also applied unsuccessfully for funding to recycle wire chop. He said he wanted to apply for funding for curbside grinding this year but said not enough time was given to write proposals. He said plastics recycling was popular but difficult because but no one was looking at capacity. He said plastics had to be recycled, cleaned, ground, dried and extruded. He said only the private sector could do that, but adding equipment was expensive. He said that none of the necessary equipment existed anyway. He said a funding mechanism had to be found. Chair Kirkpatrick said the Council Solid Waste Committee and the 1% for Recycling Advisory Committee were both struggling with markets issues. She said the Plastics Recycling Task Force (PRTF) could make some recommendations on the issues.

Chair Kirkpatrick asked Jeff Gage if Gage Industries bought all they could collect. Mr. Gage said they only made a certain amount of product and had a fixed tonnage supply need per year whether that supply was recycled or virgin material. He said the plastics industry was entrepreneurial. He said the only significant source of revenue were Metro tipping fees. Chair Kirkpatrick said it appeared that funding for plastics recycling should occur via a state proposal rather than 1% funding. Mr. Gage said the waste stream was the Metro waste stream, but not necessarily Portland Metro markets. He said the markets were bottle

necked. He said assistance was needed to keep quality high perhaps from PSU or OPA. He said everyone had their own systems and said each step involved reinventing the wheel. He said a proprietary system should be developed to break the process down to the most common elements on a generalized basis. Those present discussed the difficulty in sorting plastics. Chair Kirkpatrick said the coding was supposed to eliminate such problems. Mr. Gage said it did not eliminate all problems, but served as an aid for manual sorting. He said only a few programs depended on manual sorting and said currently 65 to 70 percent was coded now. He said 98 percent of plastics would be coded.

Those present discussed Chapter 5.04, Guidelines, page II-5. Chair Kirkpatrick noted applicants had to meet a minimum of 3 guidelines to be considered. Patrick Moffatt said guidelines pertaining to No. 8., Multi-Family, should apply to industry also. He said commercial industry should be included under the criteria. Mr. Moffatt asked what No. 5, Manageability, meant. Chair Kirkpatrick said that guideline applied to criteria for the year-to-year time frame. Mr. Moffatt asked how long the time frames were for. Chair Kirkpatrick said the proposals indicated time frames and that some varied. She said the 1% Committee determined if proposers could meet their time frames. Mr. Brownier asked if No. 11, Alternative Funding, meant 1% funding should be a proposer's last alternative for funding. Chair Kirkpatrick said yes. Mr. Moffatt said 1% funding should be considered first. Chair Kirkpatrick believed No. 11 was written that way because Metro preferred the private sector be utilized first. Mr. Gage said it meant projects were more successful if funded from multiple sources. Mr. Brownier said the Guidelines list appeared comprehensive. Chair Kirkpatrick noted the only PRTF recommendation was to add commercial language to Guidelines on page II-5. Mr. Brownier said most proposers would meet more than three of the guidelines. Mr. Gage said the criteria did not allow for longer projects. Chair Kirkpatrick said all proposals must be for a year or less. Mr. Gage said that did not leave room for more substantive proposals. Chair Kirkpatrick said that would be so noted in the PRTF's recommendations. Mr. Gage did not think the 1% format allowed for anything beyond collection and innovative technology.

Those present discussed Chapter 5.04, Criteria and Guidelines for Project Funding, page II-2. Chair Kirkpatrick explained the criteria to those present. Chair Kirkpatrick recommended the waste stream removal portion be divided into collection and processing. Mr. Gage said continuing projects should be given priority.

Chair Kirkpatrick noted earlier Mr. Moffatt had said 1% criteria could be expanded to apply to businesses that were no longer new. Mr. Gage said existing programs with new components were of value. Chair Kirkpatrick said West Linn's paper pick-up program was an example of a continuing program and should be pointed out to possible proposers. Those present discussed the basis with which to apply grant funding.

Mr. Gage asked if the 1% Committee funded a Clackamas County recycling bin. Chair Kirkpatrick said Clackamas County and Metro Waste Reduction funds paid for it. Chair Kirkpatrick said the PRTF would draft some suggestions.

#### 1. Update on Plastic Composite Technology Center

Chair Kirkpatrick noted Jerry Herrmann was unable to attend this meeting and give an update on the Plastic Composite Technology Center.

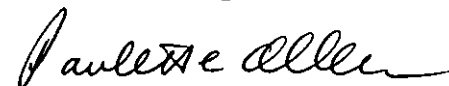
#### Discussion of Proposed Plastics Legislation

Chair Kirkpatrick said the Council Solid Waste Committee planned to hold a special meeting in July on legislation for the next legislative session. She said the Interim Committee had not dealt with plastics issues, but thought the PRTF should prepare language on legislation it had supported. She said three bills should be re-submitted and the PRTF needed information on a fourth bill regarding flotation dock legislation. Chair Kirkpatrick said one bill was on labelling, the second was on DEQ designation of principal recyclables that the PRTF had some concerns about, and the third bill related to the RCTF. She asked if there was any other legislation the PRTF should comment on.

The PRTF reaffirmed their support for plastics coding, designation of plastics as a principal recyclable and RCTF legislative support pieces. Lissa Wienholt said haulers had discussed curbside recycling extensively. She said market development was extremely important. Chair Kirkpatrick asked if other states had done any market development research the PRTF could look at. Ms. Wienholt said both California and Wisconsin had adopted significant market development legislation but did not know whether that legislation related directly to plastics. Those present discussed such legislation further.

Chair Kirkpatrick adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,



Paulette Allen  
Committee Clerk  
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