



METRO

600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232-2736

MEETING SUMMARY
Solid Waste Advisory Committee
Metro Regional Center, Council Annex
November 15, 2004

Members / Alternates Present:

Councilor Susan McLain, Chair
Mike Hogleund
Wade Lange
John Lucini
Matt Korot
Heather Hansen

Mike Miller
Steve Schwab
David White
Dean Kampfer
Mark Altenhofen
Babe O’Sullivan

David Allaway
Ray Phelps
Tom Badrick
Rick Winterhalter
Eric Merrill
Paul Edwards

Guests and other Metro staff:

Janet Matthews
Roy Brower
Steve Kraten
Jerry Powell

Lee Barrett
Scott Klag
Karen Feher
Kevin Six

Jim Watkins
Barry Peine
Gina Cubbon

I. Call to Order and Announcements..... Susan McLain

- Councilor Susan McLain convened the meeting, and asked everyone to introduce themselves.
- David Allaway of the Oregon DEQ announced the preliminary recycling figures for 2003. While disposal was up approximately 20,000 tons (a 0.4% increase per capita over 2002), recovery was up by 58,000 tons, bringing it to 50.9%. “All the major materials are up,” he said, including asphalt roofing, corrugated cardboard, high grade and mixed paper, newspaper, scrap metal, wood waste, and yard debris. Waste generation per capita, however, is up (6.5%). The region’s recovery rate increased by 3%, bringing it to 50.9%. Final numbers will be released in a few weeks.
- Councilor McLain introduced Heather Hansen, who will be representing Clackamas County rate-payers.
- With no changes or additions to the minutes from the October 25 meeting forthcoming, Tom Badrick moved they be accepted as written; Matt Korot seconded the motion, which was then passed unanimously.

II. Solid Waste & Recycling Director's Update Mike Hogleund

- Mr. Hogleund announced that on Tuesday, December 7 at 2 pm, an informal Council Work Session will focus on the new recycling policies being spear-headed by Lee Barrett.
- Additionally at the session, Jan O’Dell and Janet Matthews will give an update on RSWMP public involvement activities. Since the original round of Let’s Talk Trash meetings, several community groups in targeted neighborhoods have participated in the process. Combined results from all the meetings will be discussed.

- At the December 14 work session, Janet Matthews will speak about a dredge sediment policy report. Metro is considering revising the fees and taxes collected on dredge material that goes to landfills. URS was hired to compile pertinent information about dredge issues such as how the sediment is collected, and disposal options.
- Doug Anderson and Mr. Hoglund will do a presentation to Council at the January 11 work session regarding disposal system planning for the next several years. Issues include Metro's ownership of its transfer stations, the role of private transfer stations, disposal caps (existing and possible future caps), host fees, disposal fees, etc. Much of this will work into the RSWMP. Janet Matthews added that in February and March, various RSWMP issues will be brought to SWAC for discussion.
- Councilor McLain mentioned that the Council is working on improving the Tuesday work sessions. The process is being refined to better accommodate testimony so that industry or other stakeholders can be more involved in session agenda items.
- Mr. Hoglund announced that the five-year contract with Browning-Ferris Industries (BFI) for Metro transfer station operations has been approved by Council.
- Columbia Environmental has applied to build a new transfer station. The first reading before Council will be November 18, followed by a hearing and presentations by the applicant and staff in early December. The current staff recommendation is denial.
- Roy Brower announced that two public notices were sent to the SWAC via e-mail. The first is regarding Thermo Fluids, who is proposing to re-load waste from clean-ups, sort out the hazardous waste, consolidate the rest into drop boxes and take them to a landfill. They will also be involved in collecting and de-watering non-hazardous sludge. The other public notice regards USA Junk, who propose to become a dry mixed-waste MRF. No staff recommendation has been made yet for either license application; comments will be taken through December 13.

III. Hospital Waste Management Tom Badrick

Mr. Badrick, who works for Legacy Health Systems, explained ways that area hospitals are improving their management of waste. "Portland has a whole bunch of hospital systems that are doing a remarkable job [in waste recovery, but] are not getting enough national attention."

Legacy currently has over 20 collection points for non-infectious solid waste generated by hospitals, collecting approximately 200 tons of waste per month. Legacy Health Systems generates roughly 38 tons of non-infectious solid waste per month. Last year, 1,915 tons of non-infectious hospital waste was recycled (mostly paper and cardboard). Many improvements are being made to this waste system. For instance, "sterile blue wrap" is used to sterilize implements; this material is recycled thanks to a partnership between some local hospitals, Kimberly Clark, and Waste Management. The program began 15 years ago; the Northwest is the only part of the US doing this successfully.

Mr. Badrick went on to define infectious waste, which includes biological waste, pathological waste, cultures and stocks, and hypodermics ("sharps") [per ORS 459.386(2), etc. Most is disposed in red bags to indicate that it is infectious waste; however, regular, recoverable material such as paper sometimes gets mixed in, so this is one issue being addressed. Common-sense changes in waste management have cut Legacy's \$1 million annual medical waste bill by almost half. For instance, autoclaving (steam sterilization) has reduced waste costs considerably. Additionally, the plastic containers for sharps are going to start being reused. They're also looking for savings in water, electricity, and by source-reduction, as well as food composting. A round-table of hospital representatives convenes quarterly to discuss issues and exchange ideas.

Unfortunately, not much headway has been made regarding pharmaceutical waste, Mr. Badrick said. Mr. Allaway added that the DEQ is looking into the problem of residential pharmaceutical

waste. People have been taught for decades to flush old medicine down the drain, and that is not a good idea in terms of water quality. A group of DEQ staff is working on identifying best management practices for pharmaceuticals.

IV. Illegal Dumping Update.....Roy Brower with Steve Kraten

Metro has had an illegal dumping program in place for the past ten years. The main goal is to quickly and efficiently clean-up illegal dumpsites and prosecute as much as possible. Work includes cleanups on public property, investigating incidents, and assisting local jurisdictions with large-scale cleanups such as homeless camps. “One small dump breeds a larger dump,” Mr. Brower commented. Quick clean-up helps prevent a larger problem. The goal is to not simply clean up, but to solve the bigger problem. Population density, he has noticed, forces more illegal dumpers to go further out, into farm and forest lands. Clackamas County has created a full-time position just to keep an eye on forest lands.

Mr. Brower described how the program works, and how it benefits the Region’s goals. Future plans include further collaboration with local governments and businesses to help prevent illegal dumping, and expanding education / outreach. Most of the program’s work thus far has been within the City of Portland, and Multnomah and Clackamas counties. Councilor McLain stressed that she hopes Washington County will take more advantage of the services offered.

Wade Lange asked how high illegal dumping fines are. Mr. Brower responded that the most Metro can fine is \$1,000 + the cost of the clean-up. The money is not, he said, easy to collect.

(See attached for complete highlights of Mr. Brower’s presentation.)

V. E-waste Policy Developments in the USJerry Powell

Councilor McLain introduced Resource Recycling Magazine’s Jerry Powell. Resource Recycling recently held the only national conference dealing with the issue of “e-waste” (electronic waste, primarily computers and related items). Over 500 attendees discussed the growing problem; his magazine’s readers currently name e-waste the number 1 topic of interest in the recycling field. 1,000 communities in the US have some form of stable e-scrap recovery. A recent survey of 179 such programs showed that many are charging fees, and seeing stable processing fees. There is also a trend towards permanent facilities rather than collection events. While 3/4ths of e-waste collection programs surveyed note rising participation, “..still, participation on any one event is only one to two percent of the community,” Mr. Powell noted.

The top issues surrounding collection of e-waste are lack of value, logistics (cost of diesel, shipping, etc.), cost of processing, and plastics. On a national or regional level, Mr. Powell continued, there are roughly five options. “You can do the Oregon option: Little or nothing,” he remarked. That is the most common option at this time. Another option is for government to institute landfill bans, but that requires having a recovery system to handle the materials. Up-front retail charges (point of purchase) could capture funding for recycling systems. In January 2005, California will begin a program in which a \$6-10 fee will be charged at the time of purchase on all display devices – CRTs, flat bale, plasma, laptop, and television. “They had to hire 36 tax collectors to find the 225,000 places in California that sell those items,” Mr. Powell said. The state will pay reclaimers \$0.48/lb for the material, keeping \$0.28, and giving the other \$0.20 to local government to administer the program. “The cost of the good pays for the recycling,” is the logic, he stated. Another system would require producers to run the system; Japan and nearly 25

countries in Europe are having success with this option. Finally, there is an option to use a combination of these.

Continuing, Mr. Powell described a program Maine is about to begin, and of various legislation being considered throughout the country. In addition to the up-front fees program, California has passed legislation requiring all cell phones be taken back rather than disposed.

VI. Other Business and Adjourn..... Susan McLain

- Dave White asked that more RSWMP pieces be discussed with the SWAC. In the absence of very much public interest, he feels discussing issues with SWAC would add other perspectives. After some discussion of what the members would like, Ms. Matthews stated that plans currently are to have SWAC delving deeply into some of the RSWMP sections at the February and March meetings. Councilor McLain said she will discuss what to bring to the SWAC with Ms. Matthews and Mr. Hoglund and send the group an e-mail with the results.
- Councilor McLain thanked everyone for attending, and adjourned the meeting at 4:35 p.m.

Documents to be kept with the record of the meeting (copies available upon request):

Update: Metro's Illegal Dumping Program

gbc
M:\rem\od\projects\SWAC\Agenda_Minutes\Minutes\2004\SWAC111504minADOPTED.DOC
Queue