

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS  
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**Friday, October 21, 1994**

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.           Solid Waste Municipalities Committee Meeting (Commissioners' Hearing Room).

1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.           Budget Work Session - General.

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Friday, October 21, 1994, with Commissioners Harvey Wolden, Robby Robinson and Robert Hart present.

**SOLID WASTE MUNICIPALITIES COMMITTEE MEETING.**

Robin LaRue, Assistant Director of Public Works, reviewed the composition of this committee, which is composed of the 8 mayors who executed the Solid Waste Plan and the County Commissioners. The purpose of the committee is to propose changes or improvements significantly affecting the solid waste disposal system prior to any final decisions being made, thereby providing adequate review and appropriate deliberations by those most affected. Mr. LaRue stated that this is an effort to open communications, to work together, and not only to discuss alternatives to the resolution of problems, but also to address other issues relative to solid waste.

Mr. LaRue suggested that perhaps a Technical Advisory Committee should be formed to meet on a monthly basis or as needed. Mr. LaRue opened the floor for discussion on the composition and purpose of such a committee.

Commissioner Hart stated that he firmly believes that staff people of the County or individual cities have more knowledge of what is going on in solid waste, and are the ones who have contact with actual solid waste operations. Commissioner Hart indicated that it is essential that these people have a close working relationship with each other, whether they meet or merely have regular communication.

Commissioner Robinson indicated that progress can be made if good information is brought forward.

Mayor Ray Reep stated that cities, in the majority, do not have the expertise to participate in this technical area.

Commissioner Hart reiterated that the technical staffs should be on this type of committee, rather than elected officials who do not have expertise on solid waste.

Chairman Wolden indicated the need to have this type of technical group meet more often rather than the Solid Waste Advisory Council (SWAC). Chairman Wolden further stated that it is necessary to get the proper people together to formulate ideas that are able to be brought to fruition.

Mayor Dean Maxwell stated that, as an elected official, he cannot spend the time that needs to be spent on these types of issues, and feels it is necessary to have such a technical solid waste staff committee. It was Mr. Maxwell's opinion that SWAC recommendations are not as effective as recommendations would be from a Technical Committee.

Mr. LaRue indicated that any action taken by the technical committee would come to this municipalities committee for discussion and approval.

Chairman Wolden indicated that staff people making recommendations to elected officials rather than lay people making recommendations is preferable. Chairman Wolden further stated that the Technical

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS**  
**Friday, October 21, 1994**  
**Page #2**

Committee needs to meet with SWAC and relay the results of such meetings to the elected officials.

Chairman Wolden also pointed out that SWAC is dealing with Skagit County Public Works only, and is not interacting with the staff of the various municipalities.

Mayor Reep expressed his feeling that the technical committee will help expedite SWAC recommendations for approval by this group.

Ed Little, a voting member of SWAC for the last 2 years, reviewed that SWAC's task was to gather information from all sectors, to open communications with the cities and facilitate the development of the solid waste plan. Many hours of time were put in the development of the plan, but implementation is up to the cities. If SWAC's involvement is desired, this cohesive group should mandate what direction the cities and County want to take.

Mayor Reep assured Mr. Little that this group is not making light of what SWAC has accomplished in the past.

Mayor Maxwell suggested that perhaps it would be appropriate for the technical committee to meet at the same time as SWAC.

Commissioner Robinson indicated his desire to form the technical committee, and that the group should keep in mind that SWAC is a volunteer committee that has done much work for the benefit of the entire County.

Mr. Little indicated that the next SWAC meeting is October 26, at 7:00 p.m., in one of the County Hearing Rooms. Mr. Little explained that a number of voting members are involved in the private sector. There is a healthy exchange of ideas, which is very informal, and SWAC would be happy to mail information on meetings to staff at the directive of this group.

Mr. LaRue suggested that perhaps the Chairman of SWAC should be a member of the technical committee rather than SWAC in its entirety.

Mayor Reep stressed the important need to get other cities represented.

Mr. LaRue indicated that he will put some information together and contact the cities. Mayor Maxwell agreed to write a letter to non-represented cities today to advise of the formation of such a technical committee.

The next agenda item for discussion was the Privatization of the Resource Recovery Facility. After a brief introduction by Mr. LaRue, Commissioner Hart stated that the County is a long way from reaching any decision, and he cannot see permitting any kind of hazardous waste disposal facility within the County.

A general discussion ensued on the concerns of medical waste.

Commissioner Hart pointed out that hazardous and international waste income is high because of the intensive costs of specialty handling and trained individuals.

Mr. LaRue then briefly reviewed the proposals that are being considered for privatization. These include:

## RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS

Friday, October 21, 1994

Page #3

1. Dynamic Energy Corporation - proposal to lease facility and to burn municipal solid waste.
2. Northwest Recovery, Ltd., Seattle, - proposal to purchase the facility, burn municipal solid waste, and install a pick line.
3. Bio-Mass Systems, Inc., California - lease the facility and burn municipal solid waste.
4. Skagit Environmental Services, Seattle - looking to lease facility and, jointly with the County, expand to burn municipal solid waste, light industrial, tires and plastic.
5. Wheelabrator, New Hampshire - lease the facility and burn municipal solid waste.
6. A&C Development Corp., Mount Vernon - lease the facility, and burn municipal solid waste, bio-medical, solid waste from international sources, and non-hazardous solid waste.
7. HRS, Inc., Blaine - proposal to operate facility, lease and operate, or purchase, and burn municipal solid waste.

Mr. LaRue then reviewed with the Board the proposed timeline for this project, culminating in a public hearing on November 29 where a final report will be made to the Board. Mr. LaRue reviewed the composition of the committee consisting of County employees Rich Medved, Gary Sorensen, Mike Woodmansee, Marcia Jaeger, Brian Stephan, Jeff Hegedus, and the President of SWAC, Robin Kurowski, together with legal representation by Liz Thomas and Doug Rosenberg from Preston, Gates & Ellis. Mr. LaRue advised that interviews are progressing today. Mr. LaRue indicated that this is an ambitious timeline, and the Department is committed to adhere to the schedule as presented.

Commissioner Robinson noted that it is important to stress that because we are interviewing doesn't mean one of these will be the ultimate proposal. Commissioner Robinson stated that it is necessary to explore all possibilities and get as much information as possible to make the entire picture clear.

Commissioner Hart indicated that the Board is committed to doing everything possible to maintain the \$80 tipping fee.

Mayor Reep indicated that the taxpayers would be quite pleased to hear that garbage rates will not be raised in the near future.

A discussion ensued on the state mandate requiring 50% recycling by mid-1995 and the impossibility of accomplishing this without some federal assistance on flow control and incentives. The possible impact of deregulation of the trucking industry was also briefly discussed.

Mayor Maxwell noted that recycling will be encouraged if the average resident's bill can be reduced by doing so.

Mr. LaRue reviewed a News Release on the privatization proposals and advised that said proposals are available for review by the public in the Public Works Department office.

Mr. LaRue briefly reviewed the closure of the Inman Landfill.

A discussion ensued on the meeting frequency of this group. It was the consensus of the group for this

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS**  
**Friday, October 21, 1994**  
**Page #4**

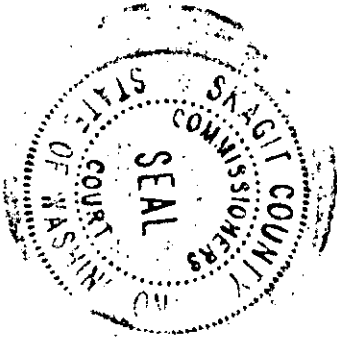
committee to have SCOG facilitate such meetings after the regular monthly RTPPO and SCOG meetings.

Mr. Little confirmed that the chairman of SWAC would be represented on the technical committee.

**ADJOURNMENT.**

Commissioner Robinson motioned to adjourn the proceedings. Commissioner Hart seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**



  
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Harvey Wolden, Chairman

  
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Robby Robinson, Commissioner

  
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Robert Hart, Commissioner

**ATTEST:**

  
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Patti J. Owen, Clerk  
Skagit County Board of Commissioners