



**SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMISSION
MARCH 10, 2010, 6:30 P.M.
SOLID WASTE SERVICES OFFICE
1520 RUTHERFORD LANE, ROOM: CAFETERIA (1ST FLOOR)
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78754**

CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS:

Gerry Acuna, Chair
Brent Perdue

Rick Cofer, Co-Chair
Bob Schafer

J.D. Porter
Maydelle Fason

Fayez Kazi

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

The first four speakers signed up prior to the meeting being called to order will each be allowed a three-minute allotment to address their concerns regarding items not posted on the agenda.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Discussion – Recycling Ordinance Sub-Committee Update
- b. Discussion – Private Hauler License Fee Sub-Committee Update
- c. Discussion and Action – Solid Waste Management District Sub-Committee Update
- d. Discussion and Action – Climate Change and Zero Waste
- e. Discussion and Action – Greenstar Extension Amendment (Staff Presentation)

4. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Discussion and Action – Consideration of a new RFP for a Short Term Contract for the Interim Processing of the City of Austin Recycling Materials
- b. Discussion and Action – Definition and Explanation of the City of Austin's No-Contact Procedures

5. STAFF BRIEFINGS

- a. Discussion – Director's Report
- b. Discussion – Audit on Composition of Materials Taken to Greenstar

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

ADJOURNMENT

The City of Austin is committed to compliance with the American with Disabilities Act. Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications will be provided upon request. Meeting locations are planned with wheelchair access. If requiring Sign Language Interpreters or alternative formats, please give notice at least 4 days before the meeting date. Please call Annette Moreno at Solid Waste Services Department, at (512) 974-1987, for additional information; TTY users route through Relay Texas at 711.

For more information on the Solid Waste Advisory Commission, please contact Annette Moreno at (512) 974-1987.

CITY OF AUSTIN
SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMISSION
Solid Waste Management Districts Subcommittee
Recommendations to SWAC
2.26.2110

The Subcommittee has completed its research concerning solid waste management districts (SWMDs) as charged by the Solid Waste Advisory Commission (SWAC). Our final report, presented under separate cover, includes the data we have compiled from our own research and from that of staff and stakeholders. Having reviewed, analyzed, and discussed this data, the Subcommittee offers the following conclusions and recommendations for SWAC's consideration.

As stated in Austin's *Zero Waste Strategic Plan*, some type of regional management entity that could be used to oversee the implementation and operation of elements of the *Plan* should be considered. While creation of a solid waste management district was cited by the *Plan* as one option, it was not the only option. Therefore, the Subcommittee, in order for its research to be complete, also explored other forms of regional coordination to compare to SWMDs for efficiency and effectiveness. This research included a review of Interlocal Agreements (ILAs).

While our research indicated that SWMDs can provide useful, beneficial, and cost effective services to the cities and counties that they serve, it also revealed that, in Texas, the time, cost, and political capital required to establish a new SWMD of a size and scope necessary to provide the coordinating mechanism required to implement a successful Zero Waste program in Central Texas would be formidable. Establishing such an entity would require an act of the Legislature, acceptance by the Governor, and buy-in by all of the local governmental jurisdictions in the region. Additionally, all of these steps would need to occur simultaneously. It is the opinion of this Subcommittee that a project of this scope would require resources beyond those that could reasonably be expected to be provided by the City of Austin at this time.

Repeatedly, in the course of our research, the use of ILAs as an instrument for creating a mechanism for cooperative action between governmental jurisdictions came to the fore. Examples of previous successful applications of ILAs in our own region are attached to our aforementioned final report. Recommendations from staff, both our own and those employed by other governmental jurisdictions, have reinforced the view that the efficiency, effectiveness, and relative ease with which ILAs can be generated makes them an attractive option for local governments wishing to work cooperatively with each other for mutual benefit. ILAs require no action by state government, can be initiated by any governmental jurisdiction, can include any legal provisions agreed to by all parties, can be modified as needed and agreed to by the member parties without external authorization, and allow the realization of regional goals

utilizing existing staff and infrastructure. Further, it is an uncomplicated process for additional parties to become signatories to existing ILAs, thereby allowing a measured, sequential process of adoption and implementation of regional goals at a pace determined by the parties involved.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of this Subcommittee that SWAC request Council to direct staff to investigate and negotiate the creation of an ILA with Travis County for the purpose of developing an Austin-Travis County Zero Waste Plan compatible with the Austin Zero Waste Strategic Plan. This will initiate the process of developing a regional scope for Zero Waste in Central Texas. It is further recommended that such an ILA be crafted with the intent of both allowing other potential regional partners to easily become parties to the Agreement and providing regional governmental jurisdictions with a template for generating their own Zero Waste Plan oriented ILAs. It is further recommended that SWAC urge Council to move expeditiously on this recommendation so that this process can proceed apace and be compatible with the development of Austin's Solid Waste Master Plan.

**Solid Waste Management Districts
SWAC Subcommittee Recommendations**

| Solid Waste District Subcommittee Recommendation | Staff Recommendation |
|---|--|
| <p>SWAC requests City Council to direct staff to investigate and negotiate the creation of an ILA with Travis County for the purpose of developing an Austin-Travis County Zero Waste Plan compatible with the Austin Zero Waste Strategic Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ILA to be crafted with the intent of allowing other potential regional partners to easily become parties to the agreement • ILA to be crafted with the intent that the document could be utilized as a template by regional government jurisdictions for their own Zero Waste Plan oriented ILA's. | <p>Recommends with comments. Staff is in full support of investigating and beginning preliminary discussions for the creation of an Inter-Local Agreement (ILA) with local surrounding jurisdictions. Staff notes that policy and program recommendations related to regional coordination are addressed in the Austin Zero Waste Plan and are also included within the scope of the Master Plan. Staff recommends that regional coordination efforts, including finalizing an ILA with local surrounding jurisdictions, be coordinated via the Master Plan.</p> |

GREENSTAR EXTENSION **AGREEMENT**

Presentation to SWAC

March 10, 2010

Bob Gedert

Director, Solid Waste Services

City of Austin

974-1926

Greenstar Extension

- Council directed SWS to negotiate with Greenstar and **bring back to Council**
- Negotiated extension **incorporates** SWAC recommendations
- Economic savings of **\$16,000/month**
- Offers extension until **March 2011** for 100% of City delivered recyclables
- Extension until **Sept 2011** for 50% of flow

Greenstar Extension

- Key negotiated terms:
 - Stronger audit language – grants City inspection rights and defines payment processes more clearly
 - Stronger market value definition
 - Guarantees that material is recycled, including audit rights

Greenstar Extension

- MRF Proposals received 2/9/10:
 - 8 proposals received
 - 6 Public/Private Partnerships
 - 1 Private only and 1 Public only
 - Shortest timetable to Occupancy:
August 2011
 - Longest timetable to Occupancy:
March 2012

Greenstar Extension

| | Savings/ ton | Total Savings (existing contract) | End of Contract | 6 – month options | End of Contract w/extensions |
|---------------------------------|--|---|---|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| Existing Contract Option | NA | NA | Sept 2010 | 2 | Sept 2011 |
| Proposed Extension Option | \$3.50/ton reduced fee | Approx. \$400,000 Based on tonnage | 100% of mat'l until Mar 2011, then 50% from Mar 2011 to Sept 2011 | Unlimited | Flexible |
| MRF RFP Timeline | Council selects vendor: May 2010 Council authorizes contract: July 2010 Contract Executed: Aug 2010 MRF operational: Sept 2011 – Apr 2012 | | | | |

Greenstar Extension

Timeline Assessment

| 6 Month Periods: | Mar 2010 - Sept 2010 | Oct 2010 - Mar 2011 | Apr 2011 – Sept 2011 | Oct 2011 - Mar 2012 | Apr 2012 - Sept 2012 |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------------|--|--|---|
| Existing Contract Option | Contract ends Sept 2010 | 6-month Option to Mar 2011 | 6-month Option to Sept 2011 | | |
| Proposed Extension Option | 100% | 100% through Mar 2011 | 50% through Sept 2011 | 6-month Option (if needed) | 6-month Option (if needed) |
| Earliest MRF Proposal Start Date | | | Transitional period beginning in Aug 2011 | Operational beginning Aug/Sept 2011* | |
| Latest MRF Proposal Start Date | | | | Transitional period beginning in Mar 2012 | Operational beginning Mar/Apr 2012* |

Greenstar Extension

Projected MRF Startup

| 6 Month Periods: | Mar 2010 - Sept 2010 | Oct 2010 - Mar 2011 | Apr 2011 - Sept 2011 | Oct 2011 - Mar 2012 | Apr 2012 - Sept 2012 |
|------------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Proposal A | GS 100% | GS 100% | GS 50% | Aug/Sept 2011* | |
| Proposal B | GS 100% | GS 100% | GS 50% | Aug/Sept 2011* | |
| Proposal C | GS 100% | GS 100% | GS 50% | Sept/Oct 2011* | |
| Proposal D | GS 100% | GS 100% | GS 50% | Oct/Nov 2011* | |
| Proposal E | GS 100% | GS 100% | GS 50% | Jan/Feb 2012* | |
| Proposal F | GS 100% | GS 100% | GS 50% | Feb/Mar 2012* | |
| Proposal G | GS 100% | GS 100% | GS 50% | GS 50% | Mar/Apr 2012* |

*First 60-90 days of operations may require transition of load flows due to equipment adjustments and potential shutdowns

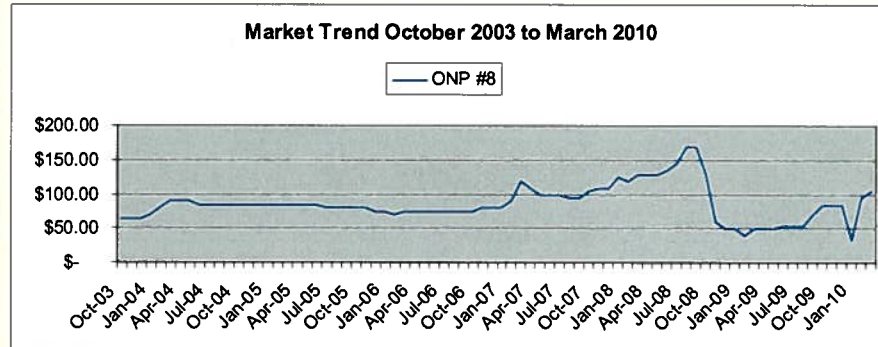
Greenstar Extension

Past/Future Financial Performance

- **Contract Review & Monitoring**
 - Source Documents Reviewed
 - Full Access to Records
 - Documentation that material is recycled – not landfilled
- **Market Value Determination**
 - #8 Newsprint
 - High side of Southwest Region OBM
 - City outgoing weights

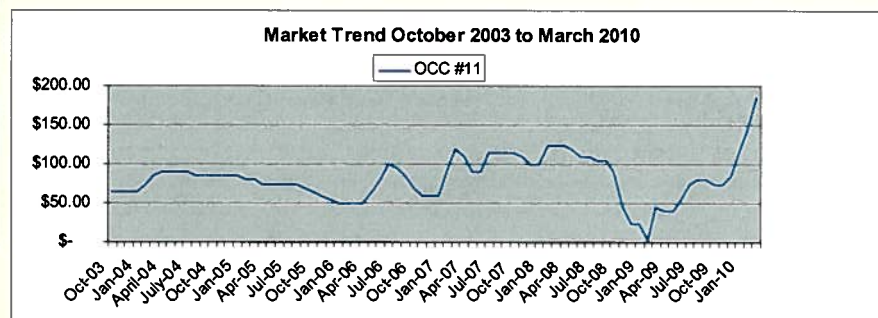
Greenstar Extension

■ ONP #8 Market Value – 7 year history



Greenstar Extension

■ OCC #11 Market Value – 7 year history



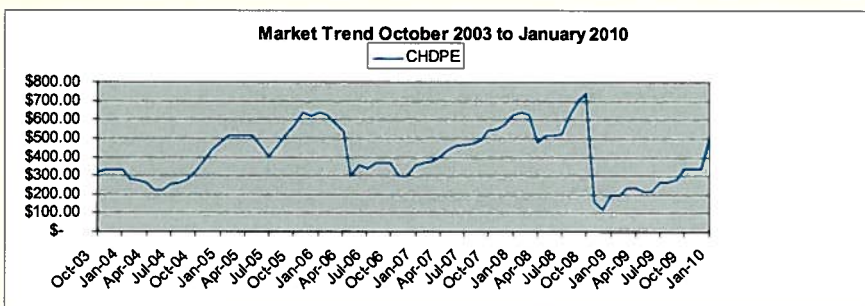
Greenstar Extension

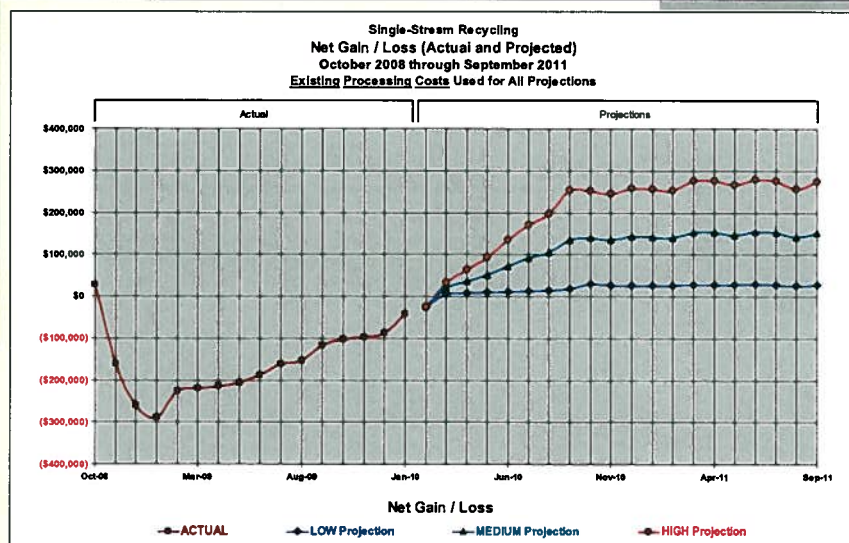
■ Mixed Paper #1 Market Value 7 year history



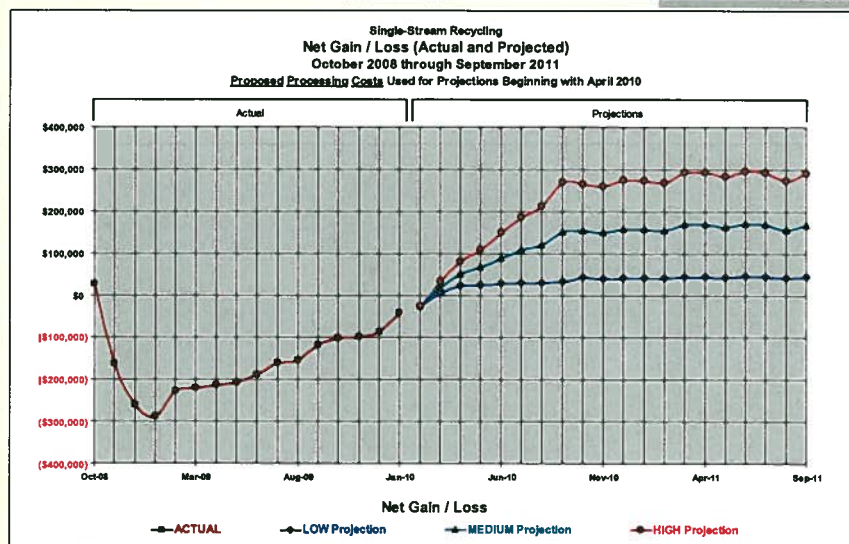
Greenstar Extension

■ HDPE Market Value – 7 year history





Greenstar Extension



Greenstar Extension

Expense/Revenue Net Assessment

- Market Values Rising – offsetting transportation & processing fees
- Former Staff Estimate
 - 3 Year Net **(\$7,121,581)**
- New Staff Estimate
 - FY08/09 **(\$2,185,463)**
 - FY09/10 **+ \$742,746**
 - FY10/11 **+ \$1,938,327**
 - 3 Year Net **+ \$ 495,610** (Existing Agreement)
 - Extension Agreement – **Add \$315,000**

Greenstar Extension

■ Conclusion

- **Strong Contract Compliance History**
- **Fair Market Price Definition**
- **Transparent Relationship** – open books
- **Rising Market Values**
- **Increasing Positive Benefit to City**
- **Net Gain beginning in March 2010**

Greenstar Extension

Questions?

**Comments and
Considerations?**



City of Austin Waste Characterization

Performed on
February 24, 2010



Waste Characterization Process

- Industry Standards
 - Processor clears floor and belts of all material – runs only City recyclables
 - Routes selected to represent entire City
 - Total tons processed usually represents 20% of daily average material flow
 - All separated classes weighed precisely
 - Process witnessed by City staff
 - City controls process and procedures



Waste Characterization Process

- **Background**

- Four Major Texas Cities Contacted
 - Fort Worth, Plano, San Antonio, El Paso
 - Each City Assess 17.6% - 19.8% of monthly volume twice a year
- Based on Feedback; SWS collected four trailer loads of material equaling 51.16 tons, representing entire city
- Total tons represent approximately 25.6% of COA daily average of 200 tons



Waste Characterization Process

- **Route Selection**

- Five routes selected that represent a mixture of heavy, medium, and low volume areas

- **Collection of Materials**

- February 22nd, material transferred to designated trailers
- Trailers weighed, outbound load tickets marked as Waste Characterization material
- Material shipped to designated area at GreenStar and held until February 24th



Waste Characterization Process

- **Inspection Process**

- SWS Team members arrive at GreenStar
- GreenStar MRF Manager provided a walk-through of processing area and explanation of sorting procedures at each location
- MRF Manager and SWS team conducted visual inspection of facility
- Inspection included visual observation of
 - segregated City of Austin material
 - empty commodity bunkers
 - clean areas under processing equipment



Waste Characterization Process

- **Processing Material**

- SWS Team allowed to observe process
- Duration was approximately 2 hours

- **Bailing and Weighing**

- SWS team members staged at two balers to observe material being baled
- SWS team members staged at scale to verify weights



Waste Characterization Process

- **Glass Weighing Procedures**

- Loader weighed to determine tare weight (empty weight)
- Glass is weighed by using full weight of loader (with glass loaded in bucket) and subtracting tare weight



Waste Characterization Process

- **Finalization of Procedures**

- Once all commodities & residuals were weighed and recorded, the weight data was entered into spreadsheet by MRF Manager and percentages were determined
- Upon completion of audit, copies of supporting documentation was given to SWS Staff
- The Waste Characterization Process duration was approximately 4 hours

Waste Characterization Results

| Commodity | Dual-Stream Waste Characterization (May 2008) | Single-Stream Waste Characterization (2/24/10) | Percentage Change |
|--|---|---|----------------------|
| ONP | 55.5897% | 18.3258% | -37.2639% |
| OCC | 9.3401% | 16.6009% | 7.2608% |
| Mixed Paper | 1.6601% | 17.1462% | 15.4861% |
| <i>Phone Books (paid as mixed paper)</i> | 0.0000% | 1.6497% | 1.6497% |
| PETE | 2.9680% | 3.2105% | 0.2425% |
| HDPE Natural | 0.8550% | 0.9109% | 0.0559% |
| HDPE Color | 1.2069% | 2.0367% | 0.8298% |
| *Plastics 3-7 | 0.0000% | 0.7047% | 0.7047% |
| UBC | 1.0101% | 1.4484% | 0.4383% |
| TIN CANS | 1.9599% | 2.4677% | 0.5078% |
| GLASS | 18.9300% | 23.6708% | 4.7408% |
| RESIDUAL | 6.4802% | 11.8276% | 5.3474% |
| Total | 100.0000% | 100.0000% | |

Waste Characterization Results

| Commodity | Dual-Stream Waste Characterization (May 2008) | Single-Stream Waste Characterization (2/24/10) | Percentage Change |
|--|---|---|----------------------|
| ONP (#8) | 55.5897% | 18.3258% | -37.2639% |
| OCC | 9.3401% | 16.6009% | 7.2608% |
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Waste Characterization Process

- **Summary and Observations**
 - Difference in Dual vs. Single Stream
 - Newsprint down, Mixed Paper up
 - Cardboard up – Increased consumerism
 - Glass up – credit to Downtown glass collection efforts
 - Residual increased to 11.2% – need more public awareness and education
 - 9.34 Pounds/Wk per household too low – residents not recycling as much as possible – requires an increase in public education



Waste Characterization Process

- **Conclusion**
 - Waste Characterization Study performed professionally in accordance with industry standards
 - Payments from March through September will be based on these composition statistics
 - Staff trained to continue contract compliance
 - Greenstar offers open books for inspection
 - Market definitions more clearly delineated
 - Staff tracking material sales to ensure material is recycled
 - Staff tracking various Market Indices