

January 23, 1995

Introduced By: Miller
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biosolids/sdw

Proposed No.: 95-016

MOTION NO. **9472**

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A MOTION supporting the Mountains to Sound Greenway Biosolids proposal and authorizing the County Executive to develop agreements to implement the pilot program.

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WHEREAS, The Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust has proposed a multi-party pilot program to acquire strategic forest lands, and to fertilize and restore selected forest lands with biosolids from treated wastewater recycled by Metropolitan King County Department of Metropolitan Services, and

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WHEREAS, The goals of this pilot program are to maintain the working forest landscape, increase public open space, expand and develop uses for biosolids, and enhance forest soils, tree growth, wildlife habitat and water quality at an economic advantage to the sewer rate payers and taxpayers of King County, and

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WHEREAS, The sewer rate payers and taxpayers of King county would share in the economic and ecological advantages of greater timber productivity of forest lands fertilized with biosolids, and

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WHEREAS, land would be made available and biosolids would be delivered and applied in gradual stages to insure the proper application and to respect all existing alternative biosolid arrangements, and

1 WHEREAS, The Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust has
2 secured commitments from the State Department of Natural
3 Resources, Weyerhaeuser, and the University of Washington
4 College of Forest Resources to participate in this pilot
5 biosolids programs, and

6 WHEREAS, the program goals support the policies of the
7 Countywide Planning Policies and the recently adopted King
8 County Comprehensive Plan to preserve sustainable forest land
9 from conversion to other land uses, to protect wildlife
10 habitat, and to provide open space along the greenway
11 corridor, and

12 WHEREAS, King County recently appropriated \$3 million to
13 fund a working forest program to preserve rural forest
14 districts and also adopted the Cedar River Legacy Program to
15 preserve and restore habitat and aquatic lands in the Cedar
16 River basin, and

17 WHEREAS, the Metropolitan King County Council supports
18 the proposal in principle and authorizes that the Executive
19 work with the other involved parties to develop the
20 implementation agreements;

21 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT MOVED by the Council of King
22 County:



**PROPOSAL FOR A PILOT PROGRAM
TO RECYCLE BIOSOLIDS IN WORKING FORESTS
IN METROPOLITAN KING COUNTY**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust (MTS) proposes that strategic forest lands be acquired and that treated sewage biosolids be recycled within Metropolitan King County with the goal of increasing public open space and enhancing forest soils, tree growth, wildlife habitat and water quality at an economic advantage to the sewer rate payers and taxpayers of the County. These rate payers and taxpayers would share in the greater timber productivity of forest lands fertilized with biosolids.

There are two parts to the proposal:

1. Under a 50 year pilot program with the State Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Metropolitan King County Water Pollution Control Department (Metro) would acquire private forest lands in the County and convey these lands to DNR for professional management, reserving the right to receive net harvest receipts. In turn DNR would assemble and make available to Metro an appropriate area of forest land in the County which is suitable for biosolids recycling. The University of Washington (UW) would design and monitor these applications to meet all environmental and safety requirements. The program would be funded by receipts from sustainable forest harvests, by application fees and by savings generated from short haul biosolids recycling.
2. Under a six year pilot program MTS would purchase Class A biosolids compost and apply it to replanted steep slopes and hillside road scars in the Greenway.* MTS would recruit and manage volunteers from service and youth groups to perform this work. This program would be funded by Metro using part of the savings from short haul deliveries of biosolids to the Weyerhaeuser Co. Snoqualmie Tree Farm. Weyerhaeuser has offered to modify its existing contract with Metro to make these savings available for Greenway purposes.

The overall proposal is expected to achieve significant environmental benefits and to produce substantial economic advantages for Metro sewer rate payers, King County taxpayers, DNR and its trust beneficiaries.

*"Greenway" means the portion of the Mountains to Sound Greenway located within Metropolitan King County.

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PRINCIPAL POINTS

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Compost Pilot Program

1. Purchase and application.

A. For six years beginning with 1995, MTS would purchase Class A biosolids compost (Groco) at market prices and supervise its delivery and application on steep slopes, road scars and new tree plantings in the Greenway. MTS would use donated plants and volunteers from youth and service groups to speed up the greening of these high visibility areas.

B. To encourage acceptance by Metro of the MTS proposal, the Weyerhaeuser Co. has offered to modify its existing contract with Metro to take a firm 25,000 tons per year of Class B biosolids at the Snoqualmie Tree Farm for six years - 20,000 tons more per year than planned. Metro would retain the University of Washington School of Forest Resources (UW) to design and monitor the additional biosolids applications at the Tree Farm.

2. Funding.

A. The reduced costs to Metro of delivering hauling biosolids to the Snoqualmie Tree Farm vs. additional deliveries to agricultural sites in eastern Washington would save approximately \$217,000 per year or \$1.3 million over six years. Existing farm contract deliveries would not be affected.

B. From these savings Metro would make six annual \$130,000 payments to MTS to cover the costs of its compost application program. Metro would also make 6 annual payments of \$30,000 to UW for its services on Snoqualmie tree farm. Metro would retain the remaining savings (approximately \$340,000) to reduce sewer rate payer costs.

Public Forest Expansion Pilot Program

1. Acquiring forest land.

A. Metro would acquire approximately 2400 acres of private lands in King County using approximately \$8 million of proceeds from the sale of other Metro lands, supplemented by grants where available. The particular lands to be acquired would be jointly determined by Metro, DNR and MTS with the advice of UW. Beginning in 1995 the Metro acquisition funds would be drawn upon in stages as required to accomplish these purchases. Properties would be acquired from willing sellers at appraised values by purchase or exchange.

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B. The lands acquired by Metro would be conveyed to DNR, and in each deed 60% of gross harvest receipts would be reserved to Metro and 15% of gross harvest receipts would be reserved by Metro for agencies levying taxes in King County. The remaining 25% of gross harvest receipts would be retained by DNR to pay its costs of management of these lands. DNR would manage these lands in the same way that County Forest Board lands are managed, i.e., for commercial forestry purposes and for recreational and educational uses consistent with forestry. Forest practices would comply with state standards and mutually approved Greenway standards. These "Metro trust lands" would be conveyed to DNR with a perpetual covenant against conversion to development. Some of these lands would not be suitable for biosolids application and some would be exchanged for suitable DNR lands on an equal value basis.

2. Increasing forest growth with biosolids.

A. In return for Metro's purchase of forest lands and its commitment to the long term delivery of biosolids, DNR would make available approximately 3600 acres of forest land for Class B biosolids application by Metro. These lands would be made available in stages and would be mutually approved DNR forest land located in King County. To insure that these lands are appropriate for biosolids application they would be selected by Metro and DNR jointly with the advice and approval of UW. These lands would remain available for biosolids application for 50 years.

B. DNR would use its best efforts, at the time of initial designation, or in subsequent equal value land exchanges with Metro, to cause approximately half of the lands designated for biosolids application to become Metro trust lands.

C. The biosolids application program would be designed and monitored by UW to comply with all EPA environmental requirements and all state and county health and safety requirements. Results would be annually reported in writing by UW to all parties. Metro would pay UW \$25,000 annually for these additional design, monitoring and reporting services.

D. Biosolids would be delivered to designated lands and applied by Metro in gradually increasing amounts beginning in 1995 in accordance with a schedule to be mutually approved. Biosolids would be applied under terms similar to the existing Metro-Weyerhaeuser contract except that DNR would provide the use of necessary roads at mutually approved locations without charge to Metro while Metro would provide application paths and equipment. Metro would be responsible for biosolids quality and assume any public liability arising from application as it does under existing biosolids contracts.

3. Sources and uses of funds.

A. Metro would pay the costs of delivering and applying biosolids to approximately 3600 acres of lands managed by DNR. Metro would realize savings from the reduced costs of delivering biosolids to these DNR lands in King County compared to the cost of delivering to alternative agricultural sites in eastern Washington.

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- B. DNR would pay Metro \$2.00 per wet ton for biosolids applied to DNR managed land with payments to be made quarterly and to be adjusted every fifth year in accordance with the consumer price index.
- C. Metro would pay approximately \$8 million for the purchase of new public forest lands to be managed by DNR and Metro would receive sixty percent of the gross harvest receipts from the sustained selective harvest of trees on these lands or on lands exchanged therefor.
- D. Agencies presently levying taxes on lands purchased by Metro would receive 15% of gross harvest receipts from these lands or lands exchanged therefor.
- E. Trust beneficiaries of other DNR trusts would receive 75% of the additional revenues from the net increased yield on their trust lands which are fertilized with biosolids. The principal beneficiaries of such additional revenues would be common schools or higher education institutions.
- F. DNR would pay all costs of managing the growth, pruning, thinning, harvest, replanting and road maintenance of forests on Metro trust lands and would receive 25% of timber receipts from such lands. DNR would also receive 25% of the additional revenue derived from increased timber yield on other trust lands which would be fertilized with biosolids.

4. Periodic Review

In 2002 and every ten years thereafter the terms under which biosolids are applied and paid for would be reviewed by Metro and DNR in light of then current conditions and the terms modified to reflect economic and technological changes. Unresolved differences would be submitted to mediation.

5. Public Education Program

A six year public education program would be conducted on the safety of and ecological necessity for biosolids recycling and on the environmental and economic effects of maintaining sustainable commercial forests. Goals of such education would be better public understanding of the ways multi-use forests can protect water quality, absorb CO2 emissions, help meet human needs for scenic preservation, outdoor recreation and wood fibre products and the needs of wildlife and native plants for connected habitat and adequate food supply. This education program would be managed by MTS and funded equally by Metro and DNR at a mutually agreed amount.

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6. Definitive Agreement

If the principal points of this proposal are accepted by the Metropolitan King County Executive and Council and, the Department of Natural Resources each party should authorize its designated executive officers and legal counsel to jointly prepare and enter into appropriate definitive agreements consistent with the principal points of this proposal on or before December 30, 1994.

Respectfully submitted this 30th day of November 1994,

MOUNTAINS TO SOUND GREENWAY TRUST

By _____

President