

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF  
THE HAMILTON COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING  
September 17, 2009  
*(Technical difficulties; no recording available for this meeting)*

**DATE:** September 17, 2009

**TIME:** 9:30 am

**PLACE:** Hamilton County Public Health  
250 William Howard Taft Road, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45219

**PRESENT:** **Policy Committee Members**  
Bernie Fiedeldey, Township Representative, Vice Chair  
Wright Gwyn, General Interest Member  
Tim Ingram, Hamilton County Public Health Representative  
Joe Maas, Generator Representative  
Sue Magness, Largest Municipality Representative  
Dave Meyer, Public Member  
Todd Portune, County Commissioner, Chair

**Staff**

Michelle Balz, Community Outreach Coordinator  
Cory Chadwick, DOES Director  
Holly Christmann, Solid Waste Program Manager  
Sarah Dowers, Public Relations Coordinator  
Ken Edgell, Environmental Administrative Coordinator  
Irene Hart, Environmental Permit Technician, Clerk  
Keebler Holley, Education Specialist  
Ali Khodadad, Operations Coordinator  
Cher Mohring, Education Assistant  
Catherine Walsh, Program Specialist

**Others in Attendance**

Chuck DeJonckheere, Hamilton County Public Health  
Linda Holterhoff, Keep Cincinnati Beautiful  
Kristen Kameen, Director of Communications, Commissioner Hartmann

**ABSENT:** Larry Riddle, Ex-Officio Member  
Susan Schumacher, Assistant Solid Waste Specialist, Clerk

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Portune called the meeting to order at 9:35 am and welcomed everyone. Ms. Christmann introduced Ms. Hart as the Clerk for this meeting given Ms. Schumacher's absence.

**2. CLERK'S REPORT**

**A. Approval of Minutes – July 16, 2009**

Mr. Portune entertained a motion to approve the minutes as drafted. Mr. Meyer moved to approve the July 16, 2009 minutes. Ms. Magness seconded. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

**B. Additions to the Agenda**

There were no additions to the agenda.

**3. DISTRICT REVENUE UPDATES/ANALYSIS**

Ms. Christmann stated that through July, revenue is down 11% or \$192,000 compared to 2008. Ms. Christmann stated that Staff is expecting a \$500,000 reduction in fees through the end of 2009. Staff is planning on \$2.6 million in revenue with a 1-time reimbursement from FEMA bringing the total to \$2.8 million for 2009.

Ms. Christmann stated that Staff is predicting revenue of \$2.51 million in 2010. This is a reduction of \$500,000 compared to the average revenue received from 2006-2008.

Mr. Fiedeldej moved to approve the revenue report and Mr. Maas seconded. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

**4. PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT**

Mr. Ingram provided an update on the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter report. Mr. Ingram stated the nuisance complaint numbers have increased and asked Mr. DeJonckheere to discuss the latest developments at Rumpke Landfill.

Mr. DeJonckheere provided an update on the suspected sub-surface fire at Rumpke Landfill. Mr. DeJonckheere stated that currently there are approximately 200 landfill gas recovery wells on the 275 acres of placed waste. These wells are routinely monitored for gas composition. New in 2009, more aggressive dewatering was taking place of water filled wells. Possibly, as a result of dewatering, one, now two of the wells at the facility began showing high temperatures.

Mr. DeJonckheere stated that Rumpke sampled the affected wells and several surrounding wells for more detailed gas analysis. Some showed carbon monoxide in significant quantities (generally product of incomplete combustion). On August 31, Rumpke reported the elevated temperatures and CO detection to the appropriate agencies and implemented their contingency plan.

Initial efforts to address the situation included:

- Reduced vacuum on gas wells in the area and placement of additional cover (1 foot of clay on 11.6 acres to date) to starve the reaction of oxygen.
- Frequent monitoring of gas composition and well temperatures in the area of approximately 18 wells
- 2 wells are a concern (170°-190°), 4-5 others are being watched (130°-140°)

Mr. DeJonckheere stated that updates and dissemination of data amongst Rumpke, OEPA, Hamilton County Public Health (HCPH), Hamilton County Environmental Services (DOES) have occurred daily. That communication has now been reduced to twice a week.

Rumpke and several agencies are working together to monitor the situation, including:

- HCPH – daily presence at landfill
- HCPH and DOES – air monitoring for contaminants of concern are CO, VOCs and H<sub>2</sub>S. All are currently background levels off-site and not a health concern.
- USEPA – Emergency Response has been involved and performed air monitoring and mapped off-site perimeter levels of H<sub>2</sub>S and VOCs (all were well below ppm level on 9/8/09).

There is nothing visible at the surface (no smoke or sink hole). In fact, this and some of the gas composition data leads some to believe it may be a biological process or other chemical reaction. Theories aside, the wells are too hot and you treat it the same, starve the reaction.

Mr. DeJonckheere stated that there was a lot of good talent on the problem from Montauck, Rumpke, SCS Engineers and various agencies. This situation may take awhile to resolve as the waste mass is very insulating and it could take months. Mr. DeJonckheere stated that he is hopeful this issue will be resolved with these efforts without a surface manifestation.

The committee discussed the issue.

Mr. Ingram stated that in these cases, you prepare for the worst and plan for the best. Mr. Ingram stated that everything at the landfill was stable at this time. Mr. Ingram stated that there should be an alternate plan for the waste should anything happen. The committee discussed contingency plans.

Mr. Fiedeldej made a motion and Mr. Maas seconded. All were in favor to approve the health department's reports.

## **5. POLICY ITEMS**

### **A. Litter Collection Program**

Ms. Christmann reviewed the litter collection program.

Ms. Christmann discussed the options available to fund this program. Option 1 is to approve funding of the litter collection program through December 31, 2009. Ms. Christmann stated that she wanted to change the date to February 2010, allowing Staff time to collect 2009 revenue information to compile a current assessment of the needs and revenues. Option 2 is to discontinue funding the litter collection program effective September 25, 2009.

Ms. Christmann stated that it costs \$3100 per month to cover the cost of the Sheriff's department.

Mr. Portune asked if Ms. Holterhoff wanted to speak before the committee.

Ms. Holterhoff reiterated that Keep Cincinnati Beautiful is very much in favor of keeping the program. Ms. Holterhoff stated that the help the Sheriff's department was providing was working out very well.

Mr. Ingram had questions regarding the 200 pocket ash trays that were distributed at local bars. Ms. Holterhoff described how the pocket ash trays function and the purpose of handing them out. Ms. Holterhoff stated employees were not going into the bars but standing outside and passing out the pocket ash trays. Ms. Holterhoff stated that their van was parked outside providing everyone with advertisement of who they were. Mr. Ingram raised this concern because bars can be cited for violating the no smoking law if ash trays are seen in the bar.

Mr. Maas stated that he was very satisfied with the litter program and thanked Staff for their hard work in keeping this program going.

Mr. Maas made a motion to continue the program in Option 1, until February 2010 and Mr. Ingram seconded.

Mr. Gwyn stated that from his understanding, the initial proposal for this program consisted of a request by KCB to help fund a litter collection program for Over-The-Rhine. The Policy Committee expressed concerns about including other communities outside Cincinnati. The result was the additional inclusion of not only 8 communities outside Cincinnati, but also an additional 7 communities within Cincinnati. Mr. Gwyn asked why the program was expanded to an additional 15 communities and couldn't we reduce the number of communities involved and still achieve the initial goal of assisting with litter cleanup in Over-The-Rhine while still reducing the programs cost?

Mr. Gwyn discussed the reasons for continuing the litter collection program including this being an opportunity to keep a sheriff on the streets and an opportunity to provide litter cleanup services to communities who want it.

Mr. Gwyn asked if these were the right reasons for funding a litter collection program? Why can't we modify the program so it targets the community for which it was originally intended?

Mr. Gwyn stated that he had funding concerns, as a revenue reduction of \$500,000 is predicted and waste tonnages are the only consistent revenue source for the District.

Mr. Gwyn stated that the education component of this program is lacking and discussed the results to date.

Mr. Gwyn stated that this program is not in the context of the District's mission.

Mr. Gwyn stated the cost per ton of recyclables collected in this program is \$108,000/ton with 88% of the collected litter coming from Cincinnati communities .

Mr. Gwyn stated this was called a “pilot program.” Mr. Gwyn stated that his experiences with these types of programs include specific steps:

1. the program implementation
2. the program’s examination and evaluation
3. the program’s modifications (if necessary),
4. and then, if possible, the program’s re-implementation

Mr. Gwyn stated that he hasn’t seen this process with this program.

Mr. Gwyn stated if this committee decides to continue with this program, he moves:

- that this litter collection program only be funded until the end of this year or a time that is most convenient for District Staff,
- during this time frame, District Staff will brainstorm possibilities that could make the litter collection program more efficient, more effective, and hopefully less expensive. (for example - possibly modifying the existing program or consider allowing community Adopt-A-Spot litter collection programs in their Priority grant) and,
- at a stated time, Ms. Christmann will present the District’s ideas to the Policy Committee for improving this program before the program’s funding ends.

Mr. Fiedeldey stated that revenue from Hamilton County represented 30% and 70% came from other sources. He questioned if the District was receiving revenue from 3CDC. There was a brief discussion regarding using volunteers.

There was an amendment to the motion to direct Staff to develop options for making the program sustainable made by Mr. Meyer and Mr. Maas seconded. There was a motion to continue this program until February 2010 by Mr. Maas and Mr. Ingram seconded. All were in favor.

Ms. Christmann asked for clarification: does the funding through February include education? Mr. Portune responded no.

#### **B. Solid Waste Management Plan Update Timeline**

Ms. Christmann reviewed the solid waste plan update timeline. Ms. Christmann stated that the Policy Committee Work Session will be held this November. It will cover the key issues to be selected for the issue papers.

#### **C. Household Hazardous Waste**

Ms. Christmann stated that the District opened bids for the 2010 HHW program. Four vendors submitted. After evaluating, Staff is recommending to enter into a contract with Clean Harbors for the operation of the HHW program. This will be a new location. In 2010 the program will only have one drop-off site, not two.

Mr. Ingram made a motion to approve Staff to move forward with a contract with Clean Harbors and Mr. Meyer seconded. All were in favor, motion approved.

**D. Solid Waste Vehicle Purchase**

Ms. Christmann stated that the District's vehicle must be replaced. Ms. Christmann stated that Staff has researched hybrids and flex fuel vehicles to find one that meets the District's needs. This vehicle needs to be able to haul compost bins, tables, etc. Ms. Christmann stated Staff is hoping to find a vehicle for under \$20,000.

Mr. Portune stated to find a vehicle that was green. Ms. Christmann stated they have looked at hybrids and flex-fuel vehicles. To date, none of those vehicles meet the cargo needs of the District.

Mr. Gwyn stated that a vehicle that was safe to drive in bad weather conditions needed to be considered as well as the size of the vehicle for hauling equipment.

Mr. Ingram made a motion directing Staff to purchase a green vehicle in an amount not to exceed \$30,000 and Ms. Magness seconded. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

**E. Cincinnati Yardwaste**

Ms. Christmann reviewed the status of Cincinnati's yardwaste program. The Committee requested information on how the city was advertising the changes to the program.

**F. Creative Outdoor Advertising**

A brief discussion about Creative Outdoor Advertising took place. Ms. Magness stated that the City is currently researching ways to ban all advertising in the public right of way. No motion was made on this matter.

**6. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

A motion was made by Mr. Portune to accept the reports in Attachments F, G and H without review or discussion.

Mr. Maas requested an update on the Television Recycling program. Ms. Christmann stated that 901 TVs were received through mid-August.

**7. TENTATIVE FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Ms. Magness suggested a report on the City of Cincinnati's Recycling & Enhancement Program.

Ms. Magness suggested an update on the Solid Waste consortium.

**8. POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERS COMMENTS**

Mr. Gwyn congratulated Ms. Christmann on being appointed to the Solid Waste Advisory Council.

**9. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments at this time.

**10. UPCOMING DISTRICT MEETING**

The next regularly scheduled Policy Committee meeting will be Thursday, November 19, 2009 at 9:30 am at Hamilton County Public Health's Conference Room.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Fiedeldey made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Ms. Magness seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 am.