

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE HAMILTON COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
POLICY COMMITTEE
September 11, 2003**

DATE: September 11, 2003

TIME: 2:00 pm

PLACE: Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services
250 William Howard Taft Road
Cincinnati, Ohio 45219

PRESENT: **Policy Committee Members**
Tony DiPuccio, Generator Representative
Dr. Carl Evert, General Interest Member
Karl Graham, Representative of Largest Municipality
Dr. James O'Reilly, Public Member
Todd Portune, County Commissioner, Chair
Larry Riddle, Ex-Officio Member

DOES Staff
Jeffrey W. Aluotto, Solid Waste Manager
Cory Chadwick, Director
Holly Christmann, Community Outreach Coordinator
Sarah Dowers, Public Affairs Coordinator
Ken Edgell, Environmental Administrative Coordinator
Christy Kellner, Business Specialist
Ali Khodadad, Operations Coordinator
Sue Magness, Education Specialist
Susan Schumacher, Administrative Secretary, Clerk

Others In Attendance
Karen Ball, Aide to Commissioner Portune
Brian DePeel, Environmental Enterprises, Inc.
Alice Kennedy, Citizen
Karen Luken, RW Beck
Dave Nutini, Hamilton County General Health District

ABSENT: **Policy Committee Members**
Keith Corman, Township Representative, Vice Chair
Tim Ingram, Hamilton County General Health District Representative

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Portune called the meeting to order at 2:05 pm and welcomed everyone. Mr. Portune asked for a moment of silence in honor and remembrance of September 11, 2001.

II. CLERK'S REPORT

A. Approval of Minutes - June 5, 2003

Dr. O'Reilly moved to approve the June 5, 2003 minutes. Mr. Graham seconded; all were in favor and the minutes were approved.

B. Additions/Changes to the Agenda

Mr. Aluotto requested that the Market Development Grants be moved from an Informational Item to a Policy Item.

Mr. Aluotto requested that the Education Program Update and School Grants be moved up on the agenda due to Sue Magness' time restraints.

III. DISTRICT REVENUE UPDATE

Mr. Graham stated that revenue is slightly ahead compared to last year and it looks as if the District will finish the year at \$2.75 million.

IV. POLICY ITEMS

A. District 2004 Budget

Mr. Portune stated that Dr. O'Reilly was going to touch upon and highlight that within the budget, there are elements of attorney's fees that take the form as nothing more than a paper bill by the Prosecutor's office for legal services rendered.

Dr. O'Reilly motioned for purpose of the discussion, that the line item, 713 of the budget narrative, dated July 29, 2003, General Office Administration 560003, be deleted of the \$13,000 figure and request permission from the County Commission to hire alternative council.

Mr. DiPuccio asked if other District's were using outside council and how much they were paying. Mr. Aluotto stated that staff would benchmark the District's current spending and legal process versus how much other counties are spending for inside and outside services.

A very in-depth discussion ensued and a second motion resulted as follows: Dr. O'Reilly's stated that he would amend the motion so that it states that the words "from the County Prosecutor's Office" be stricken from the budget narrative 2004 General Office Administration 560003, line item 713, we strike the words "from the County Prosecutor's Office." Dr. Evert seconded. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

Mr. Portune asked Mr. Aluotto if there were any items in the 2004 budget that he wanted to highlight. Mr. Aluotto stated that he would like to suggest some amendments that have arisen since the Finance SubCommittee meeting in August. 1) Under Education and Community Awareness-Health Department, section 877, a total of 5,800 needs to be added to that line item giving a 3% increase to the Health Department. The final numbers are \$349,000 for the Hamilton County General Health District and \$127,400 for the Cincinnati Board of Health. 2) An addition of \$15,000 to 560029, section 781-Advertising under general awareness. Next year the District will be piloting the permanent HHW facility. The District is trying to partner with MSD for advertising/promoting the new facility; due to this not being finalized as of yet, an additional \$15,000 is being requested. The updated Advertising amount will now be \$71,000. 3) Refer to the 2003-4 Additional Programming Opportunities Fact Sheet (was not included in the Policy Packet-Policy Committee was provided a copy at the meeting) a) Container Loan Program- this program would assist with open dumping complaints b) Industrial Internship Partnership c) Multi-Family Recycling Pilot.

Mr. Aluotto discussed each one of the programs and a question and answer session occurred.

Mr. Aluotto continued the general budget discussion and stated that the District and the Hamilton County General Health District both were hurting for vehicles. New vehicles are not in this budget but may need to be purchased in 2004 depending on how much longer they last.

Mr. Portune stated that the carry-over balance was not directly related to the budget but questioned if it needed to be addressed in the context of our budget and budget goals that are presented to county administration for approval. Mr. Aluotto stated that every year, the District gives administration an appraisal of where the carry-over balance stands and what those funds can be authorized to be used for. Mr. Aluotto stated the fundamental question is "How is that money to be used?" In the past, the District has slowly spent down the carry-over balance. Another idea was to use the carry-over balance for some other large scale capital needs that could be addressed using this opportunity.

Mr. Aluotto stated that whether this item needs to be in the budget discussion depends on if the Policy Committee plans on doing something of that nature; to change the policy on how the District is using the carry-over balance.

Mr. Graham stated that the Finance Subcommittee's recommendation was that the Policy Committee should proceed ahead with the 2004 budget, including the additions and dealing with the carry-over balance was related but still a distinct issue.

Mr. Aluotto continued his budget highlights discussion in stating that there were some additional changes from last years budget; 1) \$100,000 allocation towards the HHW permanent collection pilot program, 2) \$95,000 allocated toward a plan re-write requiring a consultant starting in January, 2004, 3) An additional \$15,000 for E-Waste, 4) An additional \$10,000 for tire collection, 5) Allocated \$15,000 for the mercury collection program 6) \$20,000 subsidy for a compost bin sale 7) \$15,000 for Education and Outreach funding for HHW 8) \$8,000 total personnel increase 9) Contractual increase of \$30,000 (Health Departments, Yardwaste, etc.), 10) New copier at approximately \$20,000.

Dr. Evert discussed the mercury collection program and asked if the District and Health Department thought of any other sources that mercury would exist. i.e. running shoes with lights This item was briefly discussed and Dr. Evert asked if the District could find out if mercury was in the shoes and if Ohio EPA would be able to reclaim the mercury.

Mr. Portune moved, the approval of Attachment C as amended by, and in accordance with as if fully rewritten therein, the discussions regarding the amendments to the 2004 Budget goals at \$3,028.033.00. Dr. O'Reilly seconded; all were in favor and the motion was approved.

B. District Carry-Over Balance

Mr. Portune stated that due to time restraints, this item will be tabled.

C. Household Hazardous Waste Programming

Mr. Aluotto stated that the District will be spending approximately \$300,000 in HHW programming, next year the District will spend \$100,000 and depending on the results of that program, a significant amount of funding subsequent to that on HHW programming.

Mr. Aluotto stated Mr. Jim Skora of JAS Consulting has very unique and significant experience in the field of HHW management. Mr. Aluotto discussed Mr. Skora's experience in the HHW field and the savings JAS Consulting could provide the District. The services Mr. Skora could provide would be less than \$15,000.

Mr. Aluotto stated that the Staff Recommendation is that the District be given the authority to contract with JAS Consulting services to provide guidance on recommendations on future HHW programming.

After discussion, Mr. Graham moved approval of contracting with JAS Consulting, not to exceed \$15,000. Dr. O'Reilly seconded; all were in favor and the motion was approved.

D. School Grants

Ms. Magness stated that 6 Hamilton County Schools have applied for the School Waste Reduction Grants and the District is recommending funding for all of those schools. The applicants (Dater Montessori, Loveland Primary & Elementary, Mt. Healthy South Middle School, Queen of Angels Montessori, St. Aloysius Gonzaga and St. Aloysius on the Ohio) are asking for funding assistance for additional public awareness, posters through out their schools, and contracting with local haulers. Ms. Magness stated that Dater Montessori has been funded in the past and they are requesting funding to "go to the next level" which means that they will be approaching their administration to request that recycling become a line item in their budget.

Mr. Portune stated that his children attend Dater Montessori and will abstain from voting on this grant.

The Policy Committee conducted a brief question and answer session regarding the grants. Dr. O'Reilly motioned to approve Loveland Primary & Elementary, Mt. Healthy South Middle School, Queen of Angels Montessori, St. Aloysius Gonzaga and St. Aloysius on the Ohio. Mr. Graham seconded; all were in favor and the motion was approved.

Dr. O'Reilly motioned to approve Dater Montessori. Mr. Graham seconded. Mr. Portune abstained. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

Mr. Portune stated that he was delighted to see the schools that did apply and is also disappointed that so few schools applied and requested the District increase efforts to try and interest more schools to apply for the grant.

E. Communities Achieving Recycling Excellence - District Recycling Awards

Mr. Aluotto explained the whole process of the CARE awards (application, categories, deciding the winners, etc.) and announced the winners: Best Recycler - Indian Hill and Sycamore Township; Most Improved - Crosby Township and Green Township were tied. A total of six applications were received.

Staff is recommending that the Policy Committee forward the winners to the Board of County Commissioners for recognition.

A brief question and answer session ensued.

Mr. Portune motioned that upon the announcement of the District CARE award winners, that the winners be forwarded to the Board of County Commissioners for recognition. Mr. DiPuccio seconded; all were in favor and the motion was approved.

F. District Market Development Grants

Mr. Aluotto stated that the Market Development Grants were included as Attachment G in the Policy Packet and discussed the history of the grants and the District's role.

Mr. Aluotto stated that this year, the District has three applicants that have made it through the pre-proposal process. The three companies that were invited to submit grants are: Cincinnati

Paperboard, 3R Recycling, and BioLumber. Mr. Aluotto gave a brief description of what each company would be using the \$150,000 grant funding.

Dr. O'Reilly moved to forward the three final grant proposals to ODNR. Mr. Graham seconded.

A question and answer session ensued regarding all three grant applicants and Mr. Riddle stated some concerns he had with 3R Recycling; subsidizing industry with public funding for a service that is already available. By subsidizing, it doesn't meet the competition factor by providing \$150,000. Ms. Kellner stated that the accounts 3R will be pursuing is multi-family dwellings.

Mr. Aluotto reminded the Policy Committee about the situation that arose last year regarding a company wanting to apply for the grant and Rumpke disagreeing due to the process being "duplication of services". The District is viewing 3R's project as being different; this is an operation that is pulling in a certain amount of material, looking to increase the amount. 3R is hoping to obtain some capital improvement. In talking to 3R and seeing their operation, the District does not believe they have designs on, or even space for, anything that approaches the scale of the Rumpke MRF.

Mr. Portune reiterated the motion and second. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

V. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. City of Cincinnati Update

Ms. Luken stated that the Policy Committee has been provided a draft copy of the Yardwaste Collection Analysis that was conducted for the City of Cincinnati.

Ms. Luken provided the Committee a history of the yardwaste program and reasons for the analysis with the main one being the City considering eliminating yardwaste collection and the ripple effect this could cause.

Ms. Luken summarized the analysis and listed some of the factors that were studied to produce savings. Ms. Luken discussed each factor: 1) Overall savings of only \$360,425 if the program were altogether eliminated 2) Overtime 3) Spread out the disposal or distribution of the yardwaste material to allow more than one facility to accept it 4) Replacement of vehicles.

Ms. Luken stated that RW Beck's recommendation was that if you look at the program on a cost per ton recovery basis, the City's program without yardwaste is \$81/ton compared to recycling programs, it is one of the most cost-effective mechanisms to reducing a significant portion of the waste stream and produces a product that is very easily marketed.

Mr. Aluotto stated that the report has been delivered in draft form to the City of Cincinnati.

A brief question and answer session occurred. Mr. DiPuccio stated that since the District paid for the study, he would like to see the RW Beck copyright removed. Mr. Aluotto stated that it was in the contract and would be done.

B. Education Program Update

Ms. Magness gave the Policy Committee a copy of the Fall, 2003 Spencer's Team News which includes an insert on how to get a recycling bin.

Ms. Magness stated that the Policy Committee was given an Education Update packet at the last meeting and asked if any members had any questions. Ms. Magness outlined highlights from the packet: 1) The District and Cincinnati Public Schools have formed a partnership using the District's curriculum for 1st grade teachers, "Taking Care of Nature's Resources". The District has developed a kit that includes all of the supplies and materials needed to use the curriculum activities. The District also trains the teachers on how to do the activities. 2) The District is working with the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. The Archdiocese uses a document called "The Greater Course of Study for Science" for their environmental focus for every grade level. Ms. Magness stated that recycling is being incorporated into the curriculum beginning in 2nd grade so extensive training is being done for the teachers. 3) The District has hired a few contractor's (Crystal Clear Science & Mother's Nature) to conduct outreach presentations in addition to Ms. Howard, who is Ms. Magness' assistant. 4) Ms. Magness is serving as the Region V director for the Environmental Education Council of Ohio. 5) The District has been working with the Ohio River Valley Sanitation Commission developing the floating classroom. 6) Ms. Magness will be serving as co-chair for the Hamilton County Children's Water Festival. 7) The District has developed the School Waste Reduction Grants as well which the Policy Committee will be voting on today.

- C. The Policy Committee accepted the Solid Waste Management Plan Update, the Legislative Update, Upcoming District Events, and the Waste Characterization Study as outlined in the Manager's Memo.

VI. TENTATIVE FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

District carry-over balance, wastewater treatment and the Policy Committee's role, and the Fernald Uranium Processing Plant dumping uranium tainted water into the Great Miami River. Dr. O'Reilly stated that HB 592 excluded sewers. The Policy Committee could get involved in the disposition from the material that comes out.

VII. POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Dr. O'Reilly stated that because no one is running against him for the seat on Wyoming City Council, he is likely to win on the November 4, 2003 election. He will not be able to attend the November 13, 2003 Policy Committee meeting. The Wyoming City Council position is a part-time position and he does not intend to speak on behalf of the City of Wyoming and encourages the Policy Committee to consider him as a continuing member as the public member but would also understand if the Committee can not do that.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Aluotto stated that a while back, NU-BLEND Paints requested \$250,000 from the empowerment zone and received it. Just recently, NU-BLEND received an additional \$60,000 from the empowerment zone which supplemented that with an additional \$230,000.

Mr. Aluotto stated that the District worked with the Hamilton County Development Company and a meeting is set up to have the HCDC investigate how NU-BLEND Paints can operate more efficiently.

IX. UPCOMING DISTRICT MEETINGS

Mr. Portune stated that the next Policy Committee meeting will be at 2:00 pm on November 13, 2003 at the Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services, 250 William Howard Taft Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45219.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 4:20 pm.

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