

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE HAMILTON COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
January 17, 2008**

DATE: January 17, 2008

TIME: 9:30 am

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

PRESENT: **Policy Committee Members**

Joe Charlton, Back-Up for Tiffaney Hardy, Largest Municipality Representative
Tim Ingram, Hamilton County Public Health Representative
Dave Meyer, Public Member
Todd Portune, County Commissioner, Chair
Larry Riddle, Ex-Officio Member

Staff

Michelle Balz, Program Specialist
Cory Chadwick, Director
Holly Christmann, Solid Waste Program Manager
Sarah Dowers, Public Affairs Coordinator
Ken Edgell, Environmental Administrative Coordinator
Ali Khodadad, Operations Coordinator
Sue Magness, Education Specialist
Cher Mohring, Education Assistant
Susan Schumacher, Administrative Secretary, Clerk

Others in Attendance

Nee Fong Chin, Hamilton County Prosecutor's Office
Chuck DeJonekheere, Hamilton County Public Health
Dave Fossaluzza, City of St. Bernard
Susan Hamm, City of Montgomery
Gerri Harbison, City of Montgomery
Scott Lamb, RecycleBank
William Noes, Harrison Township
Bob Orr, CSI
Ken Suer, City of Montgomery
Tom Turchiano, Rumpke
Bill Wolfram, RecycleBank

ABSENT: Policy Committee Members

Tony DiPuccio, Generator Representative
Bernie Fiedeldey, Township Representative, Vice Chair
Tiffaney Hardy, Representative of Largest Municipality
Glenn Welling, General Interest Member

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Portune called the meeting to order at 9:47 am and welcomed everyone.

2. CLERK'S REPORT

A. Approval of Minutes – November 15, 2007

Mr. Portune entertained a motion to approve the November 15, 2007 minutes. Mr. Charlton moved; Mr. Meyer seconded. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

B. Additions to the Agenda

- Ms. Christmann introduced Cher Mohring as the District's new Education Assistant. Mr. Portune welcomed Ms. Mohring.
- Go Green Challenge Update: Mr. Portune stated that the County Commission had adopted two resolutions. 1) Adopting, as policy for the County, that the County will be an environmental steward and has asked Administration to develop a variety of policies that will govern purchasing, construction and design, energy usage, etc. 2) The Commission formally adopted becoming a member of the Cool Cities, Cool Counties challenge which requires the County to reduce consumption of global warming energy by 2% annually and up to a 80% reduction by 2050.

3. DISTRICT REVENUE UPDATES/ANALYSIS

Ms. Christmann stated that the District has received revenues through November and are waiting for December. In comparing with 2006, revenue is up approximately \$196,000 and is primarily due to the increase of out-of-district waste. Out-of-state and in-district has remained very steady.

Ms. Christmann stated that the current District carry-over balance is \$2.9 million which is \$500,000 more than anticipated, due to the increase in revenue as well as cost cutting the District went through last year. As of today, this is an almost one year carry-over balance versus the eight months that the Policy Committee recommended.

Mr. Portune stated that this speaks very well of the District and also presents some interesting opportunities. Mr. Portune stated that some good, strategic thought should be applied in how the carry-over could be used to promote the mission of the District and stated that this could be an agenda item for the March meeting.

4. POLICY ITEMS

A. RecycleBank and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources' Community Development Grant

Ms. Christmann stated that she was very excited to present this concept to the Policy Committee. Ms. Christmann stated that this is a potential pilot project with RecycleBank, Rumpke, the City of Montgomery and the District.

Ms. Christmann stated that as discussed in the Strategic Planning session in November, the Committee members want the District to come forward with innovative ideas. Ms. Christmann stated that RecycleBank was the most innovative idea she was aware of to increase residential recycling.

Ms. Christmann stated that RecycleBank rewards residents based on the amount of material they recycle by sending them coupons in the mail.

Ms. Christmann stated that RecycleBank approached Rumpke about the idea of bringing this pilot to Hamilton County. In late December and early January, the District met with RecycleBank and Rumpke to discuss the specifics of the program.

Ms. Christmann stated that to fund this program, the District could apply to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to offset some of the capital costs required to purchase larger recycling carts (64 gallon). In addition, for this program to launch, additional funding would be required from both Rumpke and the District.

Ms. Christmann stated that representatives from RecycleBank were present to conduct a presentation about the specifics of the program. Mr. Lamb, CEO of RecycleBank, thanked the Committee and presented a powerpoint presentation of the RecycleBank program.

Mr. Portune complimented Mr. Lamb on his incredible presentation and thanked him.

Mr. Portune asked how long the pilot would last. Ms. Christmann stated that the pilot would last two years. Ms. Christmann stated that the reason Montgomery was chosen was that their residents are already used to using wheeled carts for their garbage.

Mr. Portune asked if it was possible to consider other communities for the pilot. Ms. Christmann stated that this could be discussed with all partners.

A brief question/answer session ensued.

Representatives from the City of Montgomery and Rumpke expressed their excitement about being a part of the RecycleBank pilot program.

Mr. Portune asked if Committee members could receive a copy of Mr. Lamb's powerpoint presentation.

Ms. Christmann stated that the cost to the District will be approximately \$76,000 which would come out of the carry-over balance. The District would pay for the toters but Rumpke would own them. Ms. Christmann briefly discussed the agreement.

Mr. Portune entertained a motion to approve the Staff Recommendation: That the District moves forward to submit an application to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources for a grant that would provide a portion of the funding for a pilot project to introduce the RecycleBank concept in the City of Montgomery, Ohio, in partnership with Rumpke. Mr. Meyer moved; Mr. Charlton seconded. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

B. Action Plan and 2008 District Workplan

Ms. Christmann thanked the Committee for attending the strategic planning session in November and stated that she thought it was very worthwhile.

Ms. Christmann stated that as a result of the Planning Session, the Committee identified five priority areas: 1) The scope of the Policy Committee is clearly defined 2) Assure that the Solid Waste Management District is protective of the environment, health and safety 3) Provide policy leadership aligned with the District's vision 4) Promote zero waste and 5) Engage the community.

Ms. Christmann stated that following the strategic planning session, Management Partners developed an action plan which was included as Attachment C of the Policy Packet. The action plan provides an overview of some of the new projects the District will be undertaking as well as additional information that will be presented to the Committee.

Ms. Christmann stated that Attachment D of the Policy Packet provided a more specific look at the District, which is the District's 2008 Workplan. This Workplan lists all of the programs, projects, etc. that will take place in 2008.

Mr. Portune entertained a motion to approve the Action Plan as developed by the Committee's Strategic Planning Session. Mr. Ingram moved; Mr. Meyer seconded. Mr. Meyer stated that in reviewing the action plan, the Committee may want to make an effort to focus on industrial recycling and maybe this should be a new category as the State numbers are not reaching the goal. Mr. Meyer also

stated that nothing in the action plan stated to follow major new technology for landfills and recycling.

Mr. Portune stated that Mr. Ingram made the original motion and asked if he was willing to accept Mr. Meyer's comments as an amendment. Mr. Ingram stated yes. All were in favor and the amended motion was approved.

C. Approval for District Priority Grants

Ms. Christmann stated that at the November meeting, Mr. DiPuccio suggested the idea of the Policy Committee potentially not needing to approve the District Priority Grants that are under \$15,000. Ms. Christmann briefly gave background information relating to the grants. Ms. Christmann stated that Mr. DiPuccio chose the \$15,000 limit and anything that comes in higher should come before the Committee and anything lower should not. Ms. Christmann stated that Staff will keep the Committee informed of grants of less than \$15,000.

Ms. Christmann stated that making this change will expedite the process for the grants that are under \$15,000.

Mr. Portune stated that he thought this was reasonable and acceptable as long as there is communication made about the grants before any action is taken by the District. Mr. Portune also directed Staff to use their discretion to flag items that may be, or prove to be, controversial. Ms. Christmann agreed.

Mr. Portune asked Ms. Chin if there was anything the Committee had to be concerned with as a matter of law, regarding this potential change. Ms. Chin stated no.

Mr. Portune entertained a motion to approve the Staff Recommendation. Mr. Meyer moved; Mr. Charlton seconded. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

D. Wood Utilization Update

Ms. Christmann stated that at the November meeting, the Committee received an update on the Ash, from the emerald ash borer, that Cincinnati Public Schools is looking at using the Ash in their new schools. Ms. Christmann stated that this is a very exciting program and it is moving along between Cincinnati Park Board and Cincinnati Public Schools.

Ms. Christmann stated that under the leadership of Nancy Sunnenberg, Sam Sherrill, and the Cincinnati Park Board, they are applying for a US Department of Agriculture grant through the Forest Service to help fund a person to oversee directing the end-markets to make this program take off and to develop a business plan.

Ms. Christmann stated that this grant application is due in early February. Ms. Christmann stated that today, Ms. Sunnenberg and Mr. Sherrill are meeting with the Cincinnati Park Foundation to discuss applying through the Park Foundation as a way to expedite the grant process.

Mr. Portune asked to what extent the Hamilton County Park District was involved. Ms. Christmann stated that they have been at the general emerald ash borer meetings. Ms. Christmann stated that this is being looked into being expanded out to the County as a long term goal to try and find marshaling yards where municipalities and private sector tree companies could bring saw logs. Once there are enough logs, the portable sawmill would be delivered to the marshaling yard so the material can be milled.

Ms. Christmann stated that the group is starting to have talks with some municipalities about space requirements, etc. Mr. Portune stated that at 1:30 pm, he had a presentation at the meeting of the County Park District Commissioners and asked Ms. Christmann to forward any additional information to him.

Mr. Meyer stated that projects like this are a perfect example of what the Policy Committee should be doing. A brief discussion ensued.

5. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Policy Committee – Generator Representative

Ms. Christmann stated that Mr. DiPuccio's last meeting would be the March meeting. The District is seeking a new generator representative to the Policy Committee and applications are currently available.

B. Creative Outdoor Advertising

Ms. Christmann stated that the Prosecutor's Opinion was received by the District and it stated that the District does not have to go out for bid because it will not cost the County any money, however, the Prosecutor's Office suggested the District put out an Expression of Interest. Ms. Christmann stated that she worked with the Purchasing Department to assist in drafting the Expression of Interest. Currently, the Prosecutor's Office is reviewing that final document and she anticipates the document being received by the District very soon.

Mr. Portune stated that he was approached by the Bench Billboard Company and their attorney. The Bench Billboard Company was interested in a process that did not require public bidding and wondered what exactly the District was doing. The Bench Billboard Company asked if they could participate as well. Mr. Portune explained to the Bench Billboard Company the direction the District was going.

C. Solid Waste District in the News

Ms. Christmann stated that an internal goal for the District was to get the word out about the District and its programs in 2007. Included as Attachment E of the Policy Packet was all the press the District received. Just the television coverage totaled \$15,000 in free press.

Ms. Christmann thanked the Committee for their leadership.

Mr. Meyer suggested that relating to the grants, was there a way to parlay this into free media attention by going out to the communities and presenting them? Ms. Christmann stated that this was a great idea and thanked Mr. Meyer for his suggestion.

D. Stark-Tuscarawas-Wayne Court Decision

Ms. Christmann stated that Stark-Tuscarawas-Wayne is a joint solid waste district comprised of three counties. In their recent Plan Update, they adopted a rule where any Ohio county that wants to send waste to the private sector landfills in the three counties must have a recycling rate that is higher than the Stark-Tuscarawas-Wayne solid waste district. If the rate was not higher, other Ohio counties would not be permitted to landfill their waste at these facilities. Ms. Christmann gave an example.

Ms. Christmann stated that the National Solid Waste Management Association filed suit and the common pleas court of Stark County ruled in favor of the solid waste district stating that limits could be placed on counties sending waste to private sector landfills. This new rule will go into effect June 1, 2009 if not appealed.

Ms. Christmann stated that she has not heard yet if there will be an appeal process. Ms. Christmann gave examples of why solid waste districts have lower recycling rates than neighboring districts (district infrastructure, industrial surveying efforts, etc.).

A brief discussion ensued.

E. Go Green Challenge Update

Ms. Christmann stated that the Go Green Challenge is a partnership with Children's Hospital, Christ Hospital, the University of Cincinnati, Keep Cincinnati Beautiful, and the District to encourage organizations in the County to reduce their environmental impact.

The Go Green Challenge was kicked off at a press conference in September, 2007 and is doing quite better than expected. So far, twenty-five organizations and industries have signed up for the challenge.

Ms. Christmann stated that there will be a networking luncheon at the Cincinnati Zoo on Tuesday, January 22. All of the Go Green Challenge participants and interested people were invited to attend. Ms. Christmann stated that as of today, almost seventy people have sent in their RSVP.

Ms. Christmann gave examples of what organizations have taken the Challenge.

6. TENTATIVE FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Ingram suggested that if the ODNR grant application is not approved, to include RecycleBank as a future agenda item.

Mr. Meyer stated that OEPA agrees with the District on how industrial waste is tracked and hoped the 2007 recycling rate shortfall could be resolved.

Mr. Portune stated that in light of the two resolutions the Board of County Commissioners adopted yesterday, to the extent the District is contributing to the development of policy, to include this as a future agenda item.

7. POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERS' COMMENTS

There were no Policy Committee members' comments at this time.

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments at this time.

9. UPCOMING DISTRICT MEETINGS

The next regularly scheduled Policy Committee meeting will be **Thursday, March 20, 2008, 9:30 am** at Hamilton County Environmental Services, 250 William Howard Taft Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45219.

10. ADJOURNMENT (Target Time – 11:00 am)

The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 11:10 am.