

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF  
THE HAMILTON COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING  
May 15, 2008**

**DATE:** May 15, 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  
Bernie Fiedeldey, Township Representative, Vice Chair  
Tim Ingram, Hamilton County Public Health Representative  
Joe Maas, Generator 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  
Susan Schumacher, Assistant Solid Waste Specialist, Clerk  
Catherine Walsh, Program Specialist

**Others in Attendance**

Chuck DeJonckheere, Hamilton County Public Health  
Linda Holterhoff, Keep Cincinnati Beautiful  
Bob Orr, CSI

**ABSENT:** **Policy Committee Members**

Tiffaney Hardy, Representative of Largest Municipality  
Glenn Welling, General Interest Member

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Portune called the meeting to order at 9:35 am and welcomed Mr. Maas as the new Generator Representative. Mr. Maas thanked Mr. Portune and stated that he appreciated all the work the District and Committee have done.

Mr. Portune stated that he also wanted to publicly acknowledge and commend Ms. Schumacher for being a Hamilton County Employee of the Year.

**2. CLERK'S REPORT**

**A. Approval of Minutes – March 20, 2008**

Mr. Portune entertained a motion to approve the March 20, 2008 minutes. Mr. Fiedeldey moved; Mr. Charlton 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 the first attachment compared revenue and tonnage from January – March, 2007 & 2008. Revenue was down roughly \$32,000 compared to last year at this time; primarily due to a slight decrease of out-of-district waste.

A brief discussion ensued regarding out-of-district waste.

Ms. Christmann discussed the second attachment which was revenue and tonnages by quarter from 2004 – 2008 and stated that revenue was very similar to the first quarter in 2007.

Mr. Riddle suspected that last year in January, Rumpke had a project that increased revenue and it may have not happened this year. Mr. Portune asked Mr. Riddle to check and give an update at the next meeting.

Mr. Portune entertained a motion to approve the financial report. Mr. Fiedeldey moved; Mr. Meyer seconded. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

**4. HEALTH DEPARTMENT QUARTERLY UPDATE**

Ms. Christmann stated that the quarterly updates for the Cincinnati Health Department and Hamilton County Public Health have been provided as a result of the strategic planning session.

Ms. Christmann stated that Attachment C provided summaries that the District received from the respective health departments. Ms. Christmann discussed both health departments quarterly activity.

Mr. Portune stated that he noticed that there were nineteen odor complaints at the Rumpke Landfill and asked how the new complaint process was working. Mr. Ingram stated that a meeting was just held with Environmental Services, Colerain Township, Hamilton County Public Health and Rumpke about the new complaint procedures. Mr. Ingram stated that a full report was provided at the meeting and stated that he could provide it to Committee members. Mr. Ingram stated that some things were learned and the process should continue for the next six months.

Mr. Ingram briefly discussed the report and stated that this could be a future agenda item as a 1 – 2 page summary. A brief discussion ensued about complaints.

Ms. Christmann gave an update on the Cincinnati Health Department.

Mr. Portune stated that the Health Department summaries were helpful and requested that, in terms of the information the Committee is receiving, have Staff identify trends or problem areas that could be addressed by a partnership with the Health Departments.

## **5. POLICY ITEMS**

### **A. Request for District Funding for Litter Pick-Ups**

Mr. Portune stated that this was a request that he brought forward at the March meeting. Mr. Portune stated that he had been approached by Linda Holterhoff at Keep Cincinnati Beautiful about whether there was a possibility of the District partnering with other stakeholders in reinstating the inmate clean up detail in Over the Rhine.

Mr. Portune stated that a couple of years ago, the County introduced the Sheriff deputy patrols in Over the Rhine, from a public safety perspective, one of the elements that was brought to the community by the Sheriff was this initiative using inmates to help clean up litter in the community.

Mr. Portune stated that when, our ability to maintain the Sheriff's deputies in Over the Rhine was no longer there, as a consequence of funding issues the County faced then and continues to face, the patrols were terminated and with them, so was the inmate clean up detail. After a while, the neighborhood began to look a little bit worse for wear without having that regular initiative in place.

Mr. Portune stated that the request was made to see whether we could reinstate that with a number of stakeholders sharing in the cost of the program and the

District being asked whether it could provide roughly one-third of the cost of funding for this.

Mr. Portune stated that this was the background of how this issue comes to the Committee. Mr. Portune stated that number one, from the standpoint of “are we allowed to do this as a matter of law”, I think that has been answered affirmatively that the District can expend District funds for this type of an effort, is that right? Ms. Christmann stated yes and that she did request a written response from Ohio EPA on this expenditure, at the request of the Prosecutor’s office. Ms. Christmann stated that the District obtained a verbal approval but wanted it in writing and it was received last night. Ms. Christmann read what Ohio EPA’s response: “*We are aware that many solid waste districts fund these types of litter clean ups. Ohio EPA has never expressed concern over this type of expenditure*”

Mr. Portune stated that if we want to do it, as a matter of policy, we can do it. We can expend District funds. Ms. Christmann stated, yes, according to Ohio EPA.

Mr. Portune stated that before we take up anymore on this, he would like to invite Ms. Holterhoff to speak and to share a little bit of her and Keep Cincinnati Beautiful’s thoughts on why she thinks this would be beneficial and appropriate and helpful and all those great things.

Ms. Holterhoff thanked Mr. Portune for taking this suggestion up. Ms. Holterhoff stated that when the Sheriff’s inmate detail stopped in Over the Rhine, they immediately started getting calls about the area. Keep Cincinnati Beautiful started working with the Over the Rhine Chamber and approached the Sheriff’s office to ask if they would reinstate the inmate detail and what it would take. Ms. Holterhoff stated that the Sheriff’s Office gave them a proposal and it was brought back to the City. Ms. Holterhoff stated that then, they also started negotiating with 3CDC a little bit because they are the redevelopment corporation in Over the Rhine and they had a vested interest in that as well.

Ms. Holterhoff stated that the thought then became to get the County to help us out as well with the cost because it was over what the City could expend. The City has budget problems as well as the County. Ms. Holterhoff stated that with that, KCB started working on a plan to also expand this into the County. KCB looked at a schedule of events that she believes members have, to also impact some of the County municipalities outside the City of Cincinnati.

Ms. Holterhoff stated that she had a meeting with Ms. Christmann, Commissioner Pepper with the thought being, they not just provide pick up services. Obviously, Keep Cincinnati Beautiful believes that it is an individual’s responsibility to take care of their environment so KCB is very much in favor of adding an educational

component to the whole process. So that was requested of KCB by Commissioner Pepper, to develop that and also to develop criteria of how they pick those communities in the County.

Ms. Holterhoff stated the other part of that is bringing programming out to those communities, not just the pick up. Keep Cincinnati Beautiful will have put in to the proposal, putting eight hours per week into developing a program within these different communities that will be receiving services. That would mean KCB's education program, adopt a spot, all the programming that KCB offers, encouraging them to take part in Great American Clean-Up and Make a Difference Day.

Ms. Holterhoff stated the work detail works eight hours a day, five days per week. So they are out there every day. The schedule that Commissioner Pepper and Commissioner Portune put together is very equitable.

Mr. Portune stated that the other thing he thinks is important and maybe we need to nail it down a little bit more, but that can happen over time as the program is up and running. But there has to be the element of education and then ownership over the effort by individual communities. Mr. Portune stated that this could not be an initiative where we are providing an additional trash pick up service on a regular basis that will always be there. The whole issue of litter prevention and clean up is, at the end of the day, about self-realization by communities to take care of their own corner of the world. There has got to be included within this a planned phase-out of the public support where the community is taking ownership and taking this on and in the end they are doing it all and we are not providing any help because we do not need to because communities are cleaning up their own litter and that is the way it should be.

Mr. Portune stated that it has got to be, in his mind, if we are going to do this, that has got to be an element as well, which is sort of a phase out; a planned phase out of the help so that people know that they are going to have to take ownership in their own neighborhoods to keep them cleaned up. We are not going to just do it for them.

Ms. Holterhoff stated that she thinks the phase out is entirely something that we can do.

Mr. Portune stated that Ms. Christmann has been involved in the planning sessions and asked her what her perspective was. Ms. Christmann stated that it has been a pleasure to work with Ms. Holterhoff and Commissioner Pepper on this project. From the District's perspective, concerns have been laid out in the Policy Committee's packet with the main one being "does it fall within the vision of the District"? Ms. Christmann stated that she did discuss this with

Commissioner Pepper and he has received an e-mail of some of the concerns that will be laid out today.

Ms. Christmann stated that this is by far the number one concern that the District has. "Are we getting away from our vision or not"? This is a question for all of us to answer.

Mr. Portune stated that this was a fair question and his view is that we are in the business, at the end of the day, if we are going to move to become a zero waste community, we need to educate first and foremost, and we need to educate the public about how we become that. While just picking up litter is not necessarily reflective of that vision, if that is all that this was going to be, he would say no, we shouldn't get involved in it. But the way this has evolved and how it is going to be presented, which will include, education elements will include a phase out which requires the community to be educated and to take ownership. Mr. Portune stated that he would certainly think that as we are picking up this litter, we are going to be applying principles of the recyclability of the waste that is being picked up. If we are not, we should; so that bottles and cans are segregated and glass and other recyclable paper products and the balance of the waste and that is a component that promotes the mission of the District. Mr. Portune stated that we can use these opportunities to introduce the educational programs at KCB, to bring forward those aspects of what this District is all about in educating the general public and making people aware of our programs and other things.

Mr. Portune stated that he thought it fits. And it is not something that we are committing to doing forever, in light of the approach that would include a phase out element of it. Mr. Portune stated that this was his take on it and he will acknowledge that it, for some, it might be a close call; in terms of the true mission of the District but he thought we could use this opportunity; not just in Over the Rhine but in other communities throughout the County to promote exactly what this District is all about as we are helping people, we are educating people as we are cleaning up, we are advising people how they can clean up and how things, rather than becoming litter, could become that next generation of product simply by applying simple recycling techniques to it all.

Mr. Portune stated that there was a real opportunity here, he thinks, to promote the mission of the District and as long as we incorporate those aspects into this, and he would certainly not approve this if we did not, he could see it fitting.

Mr. Maas stated that you are on a first strike when it was an Over the Rhine clean up; it did not seem to exactly fit this mission but as the role expands it, quite frankly, he became a bit more in favor of it. Quite frankly, when you talk about that each community has to sort of take care of their own part, it's hard to believe to look at the budget, 3CDC is throwing in, they are funding, he would think,

about their portion of the clean up. They are paying for a third of it and it looks like roughly a third of the services are going to take place in Over the Rhine so, arguably, they are eventually self funded in a sense and Keep Cincinnati Beautiful is doing as well.

Mr. Maas stated you spent \$40,000 and like you said, we are not committed to doing it forever. It is just forty grand for a year and it is now encompassing more of the District. He does like the educational, the public awareness aspect of it and our goal is to try to get to a zero waste community and he agrees with Mr. Portune that through education, or part of it, he can assure you that Simon Leis is excited about doing this. He really is and he actually talked to him before and he likes that to be part of his role as well because keeping public, keeping the area safe and keeping the area clean as well.

Mr. Riddle asked if the funding was approved, would it also include all the other components that were talked about or tracking recyclables, public education and awareness with different communities, would that be included in this value or is there a component cost above that is not being looked at or could that be absorbed in that and still cover it all.

Ms. Christmann stated that when she initially talked to the Sheriff's office about collecting recyclables, he said it was not a problem and that they could do it. The education component is broken out here for Keep Cincinnati Beautiful Staff and it will be \$9,000 per year which is included in the total cost of the funding.

Mr. Meyer asked Ms. Christmann who the Ohio EPA opinion was from. Ms. Christmann stated that it was from the planning unit at Ohio EPA which is who we report to; our solid waste planner who we report to sent the e-mail last night.

Ms. Christmann stated that in terms of the allowable uses, if you do look at the allowable uses very narrowly, you will see that it is not included, but again, with the information we received from Ohio EPA last night, is something they have no concerns over. Mr. Portune asked if it was not specified as a permissible use or if it is specifically excluded. Ms. Christmann stated that the only language it talks about in terms of litter, is providing funds for litter enforcement through either the health departments or the Sheriff; it can only be to enforce the litter laws. Mr. Portune stated that there was not a clause that states "districts shall not use funds for the following..." and this is included in that. Ms. Christmann stated no.

Mr. Portune asked Mr. Meyer if it would help at all that as a regular part of what the inmate litter program, Sheriff's office and the deputies issue citations to violators and directly provide litter enforcement in that respect. In the process of the pick up, educating individuals to that extent as well.

Mr. Charlton stated that he supports this program for reasons that have been previously stated. Mr. Charlton stated that because of his close working relationship with Ms. Holterhoff, asked if he could vote on this issue or would it be considered to be a conflict.

Mr. Portune stated that there is a conflict and he should not vote.

Mr. Fiedeldey stated that he was the Township Representative on the Committee and did not get a chance to distribute the allowable uses to all the townships but did send it to Colerain Township's administrator, David Fogelsong and asked him to give him a quick report.

Mr. Fiedeldey read Mr. Fogelsong's e-mail as follows:

*Bernie, I have reviewed the information you sent me along with the information sent out by the Solid Waste District regarding the County Clean-Up Partnership. I agree with your position that if the County is going to provide financing for the Clean-Up program, the communities in the County should share in the benefits of the program. It appears that the suggested program schedule for the clean up efforts in Over the Rhine will utilize 12 of the possible 20 time slots per week, which leads on to believe that the litter in Over the Rhine is 60% or 12 times greater than litter in any other community within Hamilton County. The suggested financing from the Solid Waste District of 33.3% (\$40,000 of the \$120,000) would certainly justify that same percentage of program time would be used outside the City of Cincinnati (the primary funding source). This would allow the out-reach clean up programs for the communities outside the City to be at least 7 out of the 20 available slots per week. This would allow 7 communities per week to have a litter program, to meet the litter control needs of that community. If all the communities were to take advantage of this program, the communities would have a four hour litter patrol every other month. The communities would have control of what area of their community they would like to have cleaned up. Internally, we could have the zoning inspectors provide the areas of the community that need the clean up and set a schedule to be sent to the organizers of the program.*

*I do believe that if the District decides to offer funding, it needs to be to the benefit of the entire County, not the single Over the Rhine neighborhood within the City of Cincinnati.*

Mr. Ingram stated he would support this as a demonstration project for one year. It is \$40,000. As long as we would have something in the contract that dealt with how many warning letters, citations were issued as part of the pick up. There is an expectation, an output, an outcome we are looking for in that regard and then report back to the Policy Committee and then decide whether or not we should expand it out based on what we have done with this miniature, small project.

Mr. Ingram stated that Mr. Fiedeldey raised a good point. Our funding portion is \$40,000, the City is putting in \$80,000; that is \$120,000. We have been talking about Over the Rhine area, he does not know if that is 2 miles, 10 miles, etc. and he is not sure how we can find this. He knows that area but he does not know if that represents 20 acres of land or do you see what I'm saying? It's all about density anyhow and generally the more density you have, generally, you have more litter unfortunately.

Mr. Ingram stated that this is the way he feels. He realizes that there is a concern by using this money for this purpose but it's kind of a demonstration project and it is a little bit different area we are going into but he does think if we can get some citations out and get some of the people that are stupid enough to through litter out in front of the Sheriff's patrol while they are picking it up might get issued a citation.

Mr. Portune stated that what he would suggest, in listening to the conversation, is this: And that would be, that we approve that the Hamilton County Solid Waste Management District would be authorized to enter into a cooperative agreement, collaborative agreement, with Keep Cincinnati Beautiful for the purpose of underwriting a County clean up partnership demonstration project for one year, funding not to exceed \$40,000 or the project would call for community clean up efforts on a two week schedule as outlined in the attached program schedule covering the neighborhoods of Over the Rhine and sixteen other identified communities that the project would further include and underwrite enforcement effort of existing litter laws and health regulations including, without limitation, the issuance of warning letters and if necessary, citations to offenders and further, that the demonstration project would support a comprehensive, proactive approach to reducing community blithe and waste and encouraging prevention and recycling efforts within the identified communities to include, without limitation, the following educational programs and he would leave it up to Keep Cincinnati Beautiful and the District to list what some of those are as a representative sample.

Mr. Portune stated that this would be his proposal on this. It is a demonstration project, it assists in litter prevention and clean up, it's in Over the Rhine in the City which under that schedule, it would be there 60% of the time and given that the funding is 67% from City and 33% from the County, that's not unreasonable with the other sixteen communities identified working that out into the County. We can't force it on anybody but who wouldn't want it; that concern was raised by someone and it would be for very precise and identified uses and outcomes of those uses to include and it would be specified enforcement of litter laws and regulations and also working proactively to educate through any one of a number of different efforts and the District would identify what some educational

programs are or measures would be and that would be communicated through this. Again, very much in line with what the District does.

Mr. Portune stated that is the kind of motion he thinks we should entertain and that he would recommend that we entertain. Mr. Ingram moved. Mr. Ingram asked if it was Mr. Portune's intention to have some performance expectations written in the contract but that there be an expectation that some warning letters would be issued to make sure there is some major benchmarks in there.

Ms. Christmann stated that she would prefer that. Mr. Portune stated that he would accept that as a friendly amendment to the motion. Mr. Ingram so moved.

Mr. Maas stated he did not know if it falls within Keep Cincinnati Beautiful's reach, he is from an outlying township yet still in Hamilton County. He did not know if Harrison Township, Crosby Township, Whitewater Township has a desire for this or not, but they may. Mr. Maas stated it is a nice parlay of dollars for what he would consider a small sum of money, a lot of work gets done and a great deal of effort gets done.

Mr. Portune stated we have got Over the Rhine and another sixteen communities that have not been named. Those other sixteen communities can be townships that want this, other municipalities that want this and he thinks it is already written in that we could extend this and as a demonstration project, you have got Over the Rhine and potentially sixteen other communities that would receive benefit. That is how this is set up under the program schedule if he is reading that correctly.

Ms. Christmann stated that she would like clarification; would it be sixteen political jurisdictions or sixteen political jurisdictions plus other neighborhoods within the City. Ms. Christmann stated that we have talked about it briefly with Commissioner Pepper but never came to an actual agreement on how it is going to work.

Mr. Fiedeldey stated that you could do it a bunch of different ways and he was just spearheading going to suggest this because the City is coming up with some money and it is a pilot program. He would suggest that besides Over the Rhine, all is would boil down to various, different political entities who would want this service, but the bulk of this would go to Over the Rhine as laid out in this program. Eight other neighborhoods within the City if they so choose or need it, four identified townships get some of this clean up and four other municipalities get some of the clean up.

Mr. Fiedeldey stated that it's a little different when you send it but it's pretty much the same; 67% is going to Over the Rhine, eight other neighborhoods within the City, four of them go to municipalities if they want that and four of them go to

townships. Now it is diversified and it is spread out all over and it is a pilot program.

Mr. Fiedeldej stated that there were sixteen other slots and make those available to the City. Four of those slots are available to the townships and four of those slots are available to other municipalities. But that way, it's not just we will identify them, at least we know that some of the townships are going to get some help and some of the municipalities are going to get some help and of course the City will get the wide share.

Mr. Portune asked from a percentage basis, doesn't that, just cautioning, that has more than 67% being City neighborhoods. Mr. Fiedeldej stated that he was OK with that.

Mr. Riddle stated that where the County, of the townships and other cities where they choose to spend that money is up to them. Mr. Fiedeldej stated that you would still have the Sheriff's deputy's doing it. The majority of the money is being spent in Over the Rhine; it's everyday and that's the way it's laid out. Mr. Riddle stated if it is, they should decide where they should spend their money, diluted however they like; if they want to spend it over nine communities in the City; fine or if they want to spend it in Over the Rhine where they get the major impact; it's going to be seen. That's just diluting that funding by spreading it all over the City and if the City chooses to have it in Over the Rhine.

Mr. Portune stated that if we were going to be this precise in terms of the division of the service, there needs to be a back door exit or flexibility element where, if you don't have communities lining up to request the service equal to the breakdown that we have some flexibility to apply this elsewhere.

Mr. Portune asked, with respect to Mr. Fiedeldej's suggestion on that kind of a breakdown, are we OK with that as a Board?

Mr. Ingram stated that he didn't have a problem with it but he was just curious if we had enough money. Mr. Fiedeldej stated that the money would stay the same. Mr. Portune stated that it is still the same number of communities, Mr. Fiedeldej is just trying to ensure that there is a consideration of geographic diversity of the program. Mr. Fiedeldej stated yes, because it's their tax dollars.

Mr. Portune stated that we were going to add Mr. Fiedeldej's breakdown to the motion.

Mr. Portune stated that Mr. Ingram said he was willing to make the motion. Mr. Ingram stated that he thought he did. Mr. Portune asked Mr. Ingram if he was willing to accept the amendments to the motion of Mr. Fiedeldej? Mr. Ingram

stated yes. Mr. Portune stated that a motion was on the table and asked if there was a second. Mr. Meyer seconded. Mr. Charlton abstained. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

Mr. Meyer suggested going back to Ohio EPA to tell them that we are doing this program and some of the funds may be spent on litter control and ask them to tell us if that's an issue and that way we have been totally above board and we have told them exactly what we are doing and its going to be primarily on enforcement and education and some of the funds may be spent there just so none of us have our pictures in the paper.

Mr. Portune stated that he agrees with the idea and he thinks that being forthright is always the best approach. When we have written up what the program demonstration project will be and its components, we should communicate with Ohio EPA and tell them that this what we are intending to do and tell them that one third of the funding comes from the District, is there any problem with this?

Mr. Charlton stated that he wanted the record to show that he did not vote.

Mr. Portune thanked Ms. Holterhoff and stated that he would notify his Board of what the Committee has done.

Mr. Portune asked Ms. Holterhoff, in terms of start-up, does she have an idea of how quickly things could come together? Ms. Holterhoff stated that as quickly as a contract can be drafted, reviewed by the Prosecutor, etc. Mr. Portune stated that it would also come before the Board of County Commissioners to authorize execution of the contract. Ms. Christmann stated she felt it would be about two months.

**B. General Interest Member**

Ms. Christmann stated that Mr. Welling's last meeting would have been today. Ms. Christmann stated that herself, Mr. Meyer, and Mr. Welling conducted interviews for the General Interest Member.

Mr. Meyer stated that the District received six applications and interviewed four candidates, two of which had served on the Committee before. Mr. Meyer stated that deciding factors for the General Interest Member were the issues that would be coming up in the future and that the selected candidate had a good solid waste background and gave examples.

Mr. Meyer stated that the interviewing committee has selected Wright Gwyn as the new General Interest Member to the Policy Committee.

Ms. Christmann reminded the Committee that only the four statutory members could vote on this item.

Mr. Ingram moved to recommend that the Board of County Commissioners of Hamilton County appoint Wright Gwyn to the Hamilton County Solid Waste Policy Committee. Mr. Charlton seconded. All statutory members were in favor and the motion was approved.

**C. District Priority Grant**

Ms. Christmann stated that each year, the District solicits applications for the District Priority Grants. In anticipation of those applications, Staff list three priorities for which Staff would like to see applications. Ms. Christmann stated that the selected priorities require Policy Committee approval.

Ms. Christmann stated that Staff has met and discussed what three issues were somewhat pressing to the District and are recommending the following: recycling promotion, recycling in public areas, and food waste composting.

Ms. Christmann stated that this grant opportunity is not for private sector facilities; only non-profits and communities.

Mr. Meyer suggested changing “food waste composting” to something different to allow for different technologies that compost. Mr. Portune asked if “diversion” provided the flexibility to encompass a broad array of options. Mr. Meyer concurred.

A brief question and answer session ensued.

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

**D. Priority for District Carry-Over Balance**

Mr. Portune stated that the District’s carry-over is \$2.9 million, which is approximately \$900,000 above the policy of maintaining eight months operating costs in the carry-over. Attachment E outlines potential uses for the carry-over.

Ms. Christmann stated that the carry-over list was developed by Staff and discussed several options.

Ms. Christmann reminded the Committee that the Plan Update will begin in 2009 which will cost about \$100,000, \$76,000 will be used for the RecycleBank pilot in Montgomery, and \$40,000 that was just approved for the litter program.

Mr. Portune suggested that the Committee review the potential uses for the carry-over balance and vote at the next meeting on the items that have been presented for consideration. The Committee concurred.

Mr. Fiedeldey suggested to think about spending the carry-over down over the course of 3 – 4 years. The Committee concurred.

**E. Expansion of RecycleBank**

Mr. Portune stated that RecycleBank is a pilot demonstration project in which the District has been asked to partner in an effort to encourage greater residential participation in recycling through an initiative that will retrofit garbage trucks so they will be able to pick up the toters and weigh the toters.

Mr. Portune stated that every residential recycler would receive a monthly statement from RecycleBank which would state the volume of recyclables for the month and also include credits that can be redeemed with participating retailers for goods or services. Mr. Portune stated that in other areas of the country, the average family of four earns approximately \$310 - \$315 of redeemable credits during the course of a year.

Mr. Portune stated that this program has enhanced residential participation significantly. In Hamilton County, the District was asked to partner in this program in which the first pilot community would be the City of Montgomery.

Mr. Portune stated that in discussing the Montgomery pilot, the Committee agreed that other communities might want to get tested that give a truer representation of all of Hamilton County and gave examples.

Mr. Portune stated that Montgomery was selected to participate because they already have a fairly strong residential recycling program in effect which will not give the District a true reading. Montgomery is educated and has it available. How will RecycleBank be perceived in a community that is not doing these things already?

Mr. Portune stated that Attachment F included criteria that Staff developed to potentially expand the program to other communities. Mr. Portune stated the main criteria was an additional \$230,000 of District expenditure.

Ms. Christmann stated that Staff would like to keep an eye on RecycleBank and how they are doing; in addition, with just tabling the carry-over balance, wondered if the Committee wanted to discuss this in the context of the carry-over balance discussion.

Ms. Christmann stated that the District did receive the ODNR \$100,000 grant and thanked Ms. Balz for writing the application.

A brief discussion ensued and Ms. Christmann discussed the criteria.

Mr. Charlton stated that maybe one of the 52 neighborhoods in the City of Cincinnati could qualify for the criteria.

Mr. Portune requested Ms. Christmann develop a list of communities within the City and outside the City that fit the criteria and circulate to members prior to the next meeting.

Mr. Portune asked for an update on next steps that will be taken with respect to receiving the ODNR grant. Mr. Christmann stated that the grant between Hamilton County and ODNR has been sent to County Administration for signature and bid specs will be put out tomorrow for the 64 gallon carts. Ms. Christmann stated that the program will not begin until October.

**6. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Mr. Portune suggested to accept the informational items as written unless the Committee or Ms. Christmann wanted to highlight a specific item. Ms. Christmann stated the District's industrial recycling rate has been increased to 53% after working with the OEPA on some disposal discrepancies. Mr. Portune congratulated Staff.

**7. TENTATIVE FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Rumpke odor report
- Carry-Over Balance
- RecycleBank
- EAB Update

**8. POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERS' COMMENTS**

There were no Policy Committee comments at this time.

**9. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments at this time.

**10. UPCOMING DISTRICT MEETINGS**

The next regularly scheduled Policy Committee meeting will be **Thursday, July 17, 2008, 9:30 am** at Hamilton County Environmental Services, 250 William Howard Taft Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45219.

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

The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 11:28 am.