

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

DATE: July 17, 2008

TIME: 9:30 am

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

PRESENT: **Policy Committee Members**

Bernie Fiedeldey, Township Representative, Vice Chair
Tim Ingram, Hamilton County Public Health Representative
Wright Gwyn, General Interest Member
Dave Meyer, Public Member
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
Susan Schumacher, Assistant Solid Waste Specialist, Clerk
Catherine Walsh, Program Specialist

Others in Attendance

Chuck DeJonckheere, Hamilton County Public Health
Mike Fair, Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services
Cliff Fullman, Clifford Consulting
Matthew Lemaster, Hamilton County Public Health
Bob Orr, CSI

ABSENT: **Policy Committee Members**

Joe Charlton, Back-Up for Tiffaney Hardy, Largest Municipality Representative
Tiffaney Hardy, Representative of Largest Municipality
Joe Maas, Generator Representative
Todd Portune, County Commissioner, Chair

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Fiedeldey called the meeting to order at 9:35 am and welcomed Mr. Gwyn as the new General Interest member. Mr. Gwyn introduced himself and briefly discussed his background.

2. CLERK'S REPORT

A. Approval of Minutes – May 15, 2008

Mr. Meyer moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Mr. Ingram 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 revenue received through May, 2008 compared to 2007 has decreased by approximately \$19,000. Ms. Christmann stated that she did not think it was anything to be concerned about at this point. Ms. Christmann stated that the primary reason for the decrease was the out-of-district waste and mentioned previous years of out-of-district waste increases.

Mr. Gwyn asked if any studies have been conducted regarding the economic downturn and tonnages going to the landfill? Ms. Christmann stated that in general, when the economy takes a downturn, less waste is generated.

Mr. Riddle stated that at the last meeting, he was asked to give a report comparing January – March 07 & 08 due to the fluctuations in tonnage/revenue. Mr. Riddle discussed the different customer base from last year and this year and also stated that the roll-off tonnages are down due to less construction, etc.

4. POLICY ITEMS

A. 2009 Budget Process

Ms. Christmann stated that Staff is currently drafting the budget for 2009 and, program wise; it is very similar to 2008. Ms. Christmann stated that Policy Committee members will be receiving the budget information in August so the budget can be voted on at the September meeting.

Ms. Christmann stated that included in the 2009 budget will be approximately \$100,000 for a Plan consultant, the hazardous waste program budget will be increased due to the increased participation, Staff is awaiting word from the

County regarding raises for 2009 and asked members to keep this in mind when reviewing the budget.

Ms. Christmann stated if members had any program ideas to please let her know.

B. Priority for District Carry-Over Balance

Mr. Fiedeldey suggested tabling this item because all members were not present. A brief discussion ensued regarding the timeline of the carry-over drawdown.

C. Hamilton County Public Health Report of Odor Complaints

Mr. DeJonckheere gave a powerpoint presentation regarding odor complaints at the Rumpke Landfill since the new 24-hour complaint response program was put into place. The data was from the inception of the program, November 14, 2007 to June 30, 2008.

See Attachment D of the Policy Packet for a full report.

A brief question/answer session ensued.

Mr. Fiedeldey stated that speaking as a Colerain Township Trustee, he wanted to thank Mr. Chadwick and his department, Mr. Ingram, Mr. DeJonckheere, and Mr. Riddle for doing such a great job and this new system is a great improvement.

5. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. District Performance Measures

Ms. Christmann stated that as a result of the Strategic Planning Session in November, 2007, the Committee requested updates on the District's Performance Measures on a quarterly basis. Included as Attachment E is the performance measures, and the Committee could read through at their leisure.

Ms. Christmann stated that over the past two quarters 39 condominiums/ apartment complexes are now recycling through the District's Multi-Family Recycling Program. Forty-three businesses and non-profits have started recycling in their offices through the District's Recycling At Work program, ninety-eight organizations have signed up for the Go Green Challenge, and one-hundred forty-five school presentations and field trips were conducted.

Ms. Christmann stated that overall, most of the programs are on track to meet the goals for the year. Ms. Christmann thanked Staff for all their work on these programs.

Mr. Ingram stated that this was good progress and that Staff was doing a good job.

Ms. Christmann stated that the Compact Fluorescent Light bulb recycling program that the District was going to implement this year will not be implemented due to Home Depot now accepting CFLs from residents for recycling.

B. Annual District Report

Ms. Christmann stated that this item was for informational purposes only and the report was submitted to Ohio EPA the end of May. Currently, Ohio EPA is reviewing the report and the District is waiting for confirmed results of the numbers that were submitted. Ms. Christmann stated that confirmation from Ohio EPA usually occurs in early to late fall.

C. Solid Waste District in the News

Mr. Fiedeldey stated that the District was doing a great job getting their name in the paper and reviewed Attachment G. Mr. Fiedeldey asked the Committee if they knew of any other avenues the District could seek for free advertising.

A brief discussion ensued.

D. Foodwaste Diversion Committee

Ms. Christmann stated that this was reported upon at the May meeting. The District has been receiving a lot of calls relating to food waste diversion from local businesses.

Ms. Christmann stated that the District pulled together a committee and the first meeting was held in May. Approximately thirty people attended the first meeting. The second meeting was held at the Cincinnati Zoo and the room was filled with businesses and institutions ranging from grocery stores to hospitals to universities and restaurants.

Ms. Christmann stated that one thing the District is doing to help the committee is analyzing the amount of food that is being thrown away. At the June meeting, operators from an in-vessel composting facility from the Springfield, Ohio area were present. Ms. Christmann stated that the facility was willing to accept material from Hamilton County as a short-term measure to divert food waste from the landfill.

Mr. Gwyn stated that he was present at the second meeting and discussed the willingness of meeting attendees to see what could be developed and also opportunities that could be developed.

Mr. Meyer discussed the conversation at the May meeting.

E. Emerald Ash Borer Update

Ms. Christmann stated that this was requested to be on the agenda to provide an update.

Ms. Christmann stated to refresh the Committee's memory, Cincinnati Park Board (CPB) has a contract to mill ash trees with a portable saw mill operator. As of now, 40 logs are ready to be milled. Once the material is milled, meaning that the bark is removed and the Emerald Ash Borer is no longer in the tree, CPB will transport the material to Wilhelm Lumber in Indiana. From here, Cincinnati Public Schools (CPS) takes over. Wilhelm Lumber will plane and finish the lumber to CPS's needs. Once finished, it will be used in the new CPS schools.

Ms. Christmann stated that the CPB will contact her once the milling begins so she can view the operation. Ms. Christmann stated she would let the Committee know of the date and that they were all invited.

Ms. Christmann stated that Staff is assisting the CPB because they need more ash trees to feed CPS. Staff is working with Communities that are taking down ash trees to help in this process.

Ms. Christmann stated that in terms of the spread of the Emerald Ash Borer, no other southwestern counties have been quarantined, including Clermont County. Butler, Warren, Hamilton, Montgomery are still under quarantine.

Ms. Christmann stated that in terms of insecticides, there is a lot of research going on. There are some insecticides that they say are useful in treating the Emerald Ash Borer. OSU Extension Office has been keeping Ms. Christmann up to date on this issue.

A brief question and answer session ensued.

6. TENTATIVE FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Priority for District Carry-Over
- Litter Pick-Up Program Update

7. POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Mr. Meyer asked if there was an update on the Litter Pick-Up Program. Ms. Christmann stated that the program should begin the end of July. Mr. Meyer asked if correspondence had been sent to Ohio EPA in light of his concerns. Ms. Christmann stated Ohio EPA had been sent the information and the District has not received any comments.

Mr. Fiedeldey asked Mr. Riddle if the charge for recycling could be reduced or eliminated for residents in light of commodity prices. Mr. Riddle stated that he was the landfill manager and that Rumpke Recycling was a separate entity and discussed different

recycling contracts. Mr. Riddle stated that he would pass Mr. Fiedeldey's concern to Jeff Rumpke. Mr. Ingram suggested creating a forum to discuss the concept. Mr. Gwyn stated that he liked the forum idea and would like to include solid waste collection programs because they have an influence on how much and what types of materials are recycled. A brief discussion ensued.

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, September 18, 2008, 9:30 am** at Hamilton County Environmental Services, 250 William Howard Taft Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45219.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 10:25 am.