

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF  
THE HAMILTON COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING  
September 18, 2008**

**DATE:** September 18, 2008

**TIME:** 9:30 am

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

**PRESENT:** **Policy Committee Members**

Wright Gwyn, General Interest Member  
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**

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**

Nee Fong Chin, Hamilton County Prosecutor's Office  
Chuck DeJonckheere, Hamilton County Public Health  
Bob Orr, CSI

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

Joe Charlton, Back-Up for Tiffany Hardy, Largest Municipality Representative  
Bernie Fiedeldey, Township Representative, Vice Chair  
Tiffany Hardy, Representative of Largest Municipality

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Ingram called the meeting to order at 9:39 am and stated that Mr. Portune would arrive momentarily.

**2. CLERK'S REPORT**

**A. Approval of Minutes – July 17, 2008**

Mr. Meyer moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Mr. Maas seconded. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

**B. Additions to the Agenda**

- Ms. Christmann stated that she will provide an update on the Storm Debris situation.
- Ms. Christmann stated that Sue Magness, Education Specialist, has accepted a position with the City of Cincinnati Office of Environmental Quality. The Policy Committee wished Ms. Magness well in her new position.
- Mr. Portune stated that regarding the wind storm of 9/14/08, Mr. Ingram raised the idea of temporarily increasing the tonnage/day that Rumpke can accept through an executive order to the Governor to assist Hamilton County through the recovery; up to 15,000 tons/day. Currently, Rumpke may accept 10,000 tons/day. Mr. Portune stated that currently, the Governor is working through the legalities to make this possible. Mr. Portune discussed other temporary adjustments (i.e. increasing the hours CDL drivers may work).
- Mr. Portune stated that another addition to the agenda was to have the Policy Committee consider approving an allocation of a certain amount of funds that underwrite an assistance program to be developed by Staff in conjunction with political jurisdictions in handling the massive quantities of yardwaste due to the September 14, 2008 wind storm. Mr. Portune stated that he would suggest the amount be equal to the difference between the total amount of the District's reserve and the amount needed to maintain the reserve pursuant to the budget policy.

Mr. Portune stated that those budget dollars are subject to be reimbursed from State and Federal emergency resources. Mr. Portune stated that the declaration of emergency the county has made will allow the County to petition both Federal and State government for reimbursement for the full cost of all emergency relief. Mr. Portune discussed the program and possible solutions to assist communities (i.e. tub grinder). Ms. Christmann stated that, in terms of reimbursement, the District would receive reimbursement; not the County general fund and this is something that would need to be worked out.

The Policy Committee discussed this proposed assistance program and Mr. Portune moved that under the authority of the Hamilton County declaration of emergency that remains in effect as of this date and hour and consistent with all restrictions of the use of Solid Waste Management District funds set forth in the Ohio Revised Code and/or any

administrative regulations promulgated thereunder, that the Hamilton County Solid Waste Management District Policy Committee authorize the District Director, Holly Christmann, and Staff, at her direction, to enter into discussions with representatives of the forty-eight Hamilton County Villages, Municipalities, and Townships for the purpose of assessing the best way that the Solid Waste Management District can assist in the management of, handling of, and disposition of yardwaste; including without limitation, wood waste created by the severe wind storm event of Sunday, September 14, 2008 consistent with the stated mission, policies and purposes of the County Solid Waste Management District and to be funded by District reserve funds in an amount up to, but not necessarily requiring the expenditure of an amount equal to, the difference between the total amount of District funds in reserve and that amount necessary to be maintained on reserve pursuant to budget policies adopted by the District Policy Committee. Mr. Meyer seconded. All were in favor and the motion was approved. Mr. Maas suggested amending the motion to include making this information available to the public.

The Committee discussed additional details of the motion and Mr. Portune stated that on Friday, September 19, there would be a conference call including all political jurisdictions to further discuss their needs.

### **3. POLICY ITEMS**

#### **A. 2009 Budget**

Ms. Christmann stated that members should have received a budget packet in August. The total budget request for 2009 is \$3,017,372.49. This amount is higher than projected revenue of \$2.9 million so the District is looking at using some of the carry-over. The main reason for the increase is the Solid Waste District Plan Update. The District will be contracting for a consultant to work through this process which is approximately \$100,000. In order to accommodate the Plan Update, Staff is recommending several reductions:

To account for the increases in certain programs such as the Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off (\$10,000 increase) and to reduce the budgetary impact of the Solid Waste Management Plan, Staff recommends the following program reductions:

- \$8,000 - reduction in advertising for programs and outreach.
- \$10,000 - reduction in waste assessments based on past year's usage.
- \$9,000 - elimination of the printed version of the District's teacher newsletter – publication will be an electronic newsletter.
- \$7,500 - reduction in compost bin sale as Staff has developed ways to reduce the cost to the District while still providing cost-effective bins for residents.

- Other reductions in the 2009 budget include: \$16,000 in personnel costs; \$9,000 in administration budget (postage, indirect costs, etc.); \$6,300 in education budget (outreach supplies and special events).

Ms. Christmann stated that the prediction for the carry-over as of January 1, 2010 will be \$2.7 million. Due to the policy decision of maintaining 8 months of operating costs, \$2 million will be reserved.

Mr. Meyer stated that at the last meeting, forming a recycling forum was discussed and asked that with the reduction of advertising, will the District have enough money to address this.

Ms. Christmann stated that the District could expend existing funds for a recycling forum or a recycling forum could be included in the Plan Update process as part of the District's public meetings and public outreach. Ms. Christmann stated that the District is also working with Metropolitan Sewer District who will be conducting an Environmental Forum to educate residents on a whole host of environmental issues.

Mr. Meyer stated that with the departure of Staff, and as Staff continues to juggle responsibilities, real life responsibilities should be looked at and compensation should be adjusted accordingly.

Ms. Christmann stated that Mr. Meyer raised a good point about raises and this was her biggest concern and that she, as the Manager, was losing Staff because this will be the second year in a row Staff did not receive raises.

Mr. Portune stated that if the Policy Committee would have a desire to consider salary figures that would include raises irrespective of what the County Commission does relative to the County general fund and wages that are supported through the County general fund, this Committee has the authority to exercise its own discretion in that area. For those operations that receive their money outside of the general fund, the budgets are by, in large, approved ultimately by the Board. How the money is spent within that budget remains ultimately up to the discretion of their boards and/or their Director.

Mr. Portune stated that if this Board wants to do it, it can.

A brief discussion ensued regarding salaries.

Mr. Portune entertained a motion to approve the 2009 budget. Mr. Ingram moved; Mr. Meyer seconded. All were in favor and the budget was approved.

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

Ms. Christmann reminded the Committee to take into consideration that the Plan Update will be occurring in 2009 (\$100,000), RecycleBank will begin October 27(\$70,000), and Litter Clean-Up (\$40,000) will continue in 2009 and that these amounts should be deducted from the carry-over balance.

Ms. Christmann gave a brief update on Creative Outdoor Advertising.

In light of time restraints, this item was tabled.

Ms. Christmann stated that the District was working with the Cincinnati Bengals to start tailgating recycling in the six Bengal's controlled lots and is hoping this will begin October 19. The District is hoping that this is a start to move recycling into the stadium in the future.

**C. Stark-Tuscarawas-Wayne Solid Waste District Rules**

Ms. Christmann stated that as discussed several months ago, the Stark-Tuscarawas-Wayne (STW) Joint Solid Waste District enacted new rules in their plan which limits the amount of waste that can be disposed in the privately operated landfills in those three counties. Basically, the rules state that if a county wants to ship waste to one of those three landfills, that county's recycling rate must meet or exceed STW's recycling rate. This will go into effect on June 1, 2009. Ms. Christmann stated that the letter that was sent to solid waste districts from STW required district's to document their current recycling rate if they wanted to ship waste to STW.

Ms. Christmann stated that currently, the District is exceeding the residential/commercial recycling rate and is not meeting the industrial rate, therefore, is not eligible to send waste to STW. During the past few years, an average of about 8 tons/year of industrial waste has been sent to one of the landfills in STW solid waste district.

Ms. Christmann stated that she was recommending to the Policy Committee that the District does not submit the paperwork to STW because Hamilton County does not need it.

Ms. Christmann stated that currently, the case is in the 6<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals, and is being argued on the National Solid Waste Management Association to rescind those rules.

A brief discussion ensued and no action needed to be taken as this was more of an informational item.

**4. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

The Committee accepted the District Revenue/Updates, Health Department Quarterly Update, and Informational Items as presented.

**5. TENTATIVE FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Salary Adjustments
- Priority for Carry-Over

**6. POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERS' COMMENTS**

There were no Policy Committee Member comments at this time.

**7. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments at this time.

**8. UPCOMING DISTRICT MEETINGS**

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

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 10:43 am.