

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF  
THE HAMILTON COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING  
January 15, 2009**

**DATE:** January 15, 2009

**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  
Wright Gwyn, General Interest Member  
Joe Maas, Generator Representative  
Dave Meyer, Public Member  
Todd Portune, County Commissioner, Chair  
Larry Riddle, Ex-Officio Member

**Staff**

Michelle Balz, Community Outreach Coordinator  
Cory Chadwick, Director  
Holly Christmann, Solid Waste Program Manager  
Sarah Dowers, Public Relations Coordinator  
Ken Edgell, Environmental Administrative Coordinator  
Keebler Holley, Education Specialist  
Ali Khodadad, Operations Coordinator  
Cher Mohring, Education Assistant  
Susan Schumacher, Assistant Solid Waste Specialist, Clerk

**Others in Attendance**

Chuck DeJonckheere, Hamilton County Public Health  
Mike Duncan, City of Blue Ash  
Kristen Kameen, Commissioner Greg Hartmann's Aide

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

Tim Ingram, Hamilton County Public Health Representative  
Tiffaney Hardy, Representative of Largest Municipality

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Portune called the meeting to order at 9:35 am and welcomed everyone. Mr. Portune stated that he has been asked by the Board of County Commissioners to continue as Chair of the Solid Waste District Policy Committee. Mr. Maas stated that as a matter of record, Mr. Portune would receive a unanimous vote and that that the Committee appreciates Mr. Portune serving on the Committee.

**2. CLERK'S REPORT**

**A. Approval of Minutes – November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

Mr. Portune entertained a motion to approve the minutes as written. Mr. Maas moved to approve the November 20<sup>th</sup> minutes as written. Mr. Gwyn seconded. Mr. Meyer and Mr. Fiedeldey abstained. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

**B. Additions to the Agenda**

Ms. Christmann introduced Mr. Keebler Holley as the District's new Education Specialist and discussed his background.

**3. DISTRICT REVENUE UPDATES/ANALYSIS**

Ms. Christmann stated that the 2008 year-to-date revenue is not yet available and the District is expecting it within the next week. Through November, compared with 2007, revenue has increased approximately \$76,000 primarily due to out-of-district waste because Rumpke is temporarily accepting waste from Montgomery County and Miami County.

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

**4. POLICY ITEMS**

**A. 2009 District Revenue**

Ms. Christmann stated that as discussed in previous meetings, Rumpke has received the Montgomery and Miami County waste contract. This waste was originally set to be disposed at Rumpke's Brown County landfill. While Brown County landfill was awaiting its expansion permit, that material was being disposed in Rumpke Sanitary Landfill located in Colerain Township.

Ms. Christmann stated that the Brown County landfill received its permit and on January 12, 2009 that waste was officially shifted to Brown County. With this shift in waste, coupled with the current economic conditions, the District is expecting a potential 20 percent revenue reduction in 2009.

Ms. Christmann stated that this 20 percent roughly equates to \$600,000 annually. Some of the District's carry-over could be used to help fund the 2009 budget. Ms.

Christmann stated that the District started January 1, 2009 with almost a \$3,000,000 carry-over balance. If revenues are anticipated to be \$2.5 million, given this potential reduction, and expenses are predicted to be \$3.1 million in 2009, the carry-over will be \$2.3 million this time next year which is approximately \$300,000 over the eight months operating amount.

Ms. Christmann stated that Staff would keep a close eye on the situation. Ms. Christmann stated that she wanted to bring this to the attention of the Committee because, over the next few meetings, Staff may be introducing program modifications for the 2010 year.

Mr. Riddle clarified when the Montgomery County waste shift started and stated that RSL will average about 6,500 - 7,000 tons/day.

Mr. Portune stated that although the Committee receives revenue reports, they need to be monitored very closely and this reduction is going to have implications on the Plan.

Ms. Christmann stated the Plan includes a list of the programs the District will provide. In the current Plan, some flexibility was incorporated in certain programs. Ms. Christmann stated that the top programs were the Residential Recycling Incentive (RRI), Household Hazardous Waste Program, Health Department funding, and the Yardwaste Drop-Off Program. These programs alone total approximately \$2,000,000.

Ms. Christmann stated that the District does have flexibility in altering the Household Hazardous Waste program. In 2008, it cost almost \$300,000 to provide this service to Hamilton County residents.

Ms. Christmann stated that Staff will begin to update the Plan within the next several months and knowing this revenue shortfall, it can be planned for in the Plan Update.

Mr. Maas discussed his concerns about the hazardous waste program and suggested charging residents for the service.

Mr. Portune stated that Hamilton County's recycling rates have continued to increase and have exceeded what is required on an annual basis. Mr. Portune stated that the residential/commercial rate is over 40% and the industrial rate is over 50%.

Ms. Christmann discussed how a recycling rate is established and a brief discussion ensued on packaging and the recycling market.

Mr. Portune stated that Hamilton County could benefit from the District to serve as a clearing house of information on the benefits of reduced packaging and communicate this to the business community as a whole and gave an example.

Ms. Christmann stated that the District was going to encourage waste reduction in 2009 amongst business, community, and education sectors.

Mr. Gwyn discussed recycling markets and wondered how this would affect future bids and the District. Mr. Riddle suggested he speak with Tom Turchiano.

Mr. Meyer stated that the District may want to look at another fee structure and gave an example.

**B. Television Recycling Program**

Ms. Christmann stated that included as Attachment C were options to assist Hamilton County residents in managing televisions as a result of the February 17<sup>th</sup> switch from analog to digital broadcasting.

Ms. Christmann discussed the options: 1) Not conducting an event; instead conducting a public information campaign identifying private sector outlets. Ms. Christmann stated that currently there are two places that recycle televisions for \$30; USA Lamp & Ballast and Technology Recycling Group (TRG). TRG, through a partnership with Sony's take back program, will accept Sony, LG, and Zenith televisions at no charge. 2) Conduct a 1-2 day event funded by the District a) District-funded b) District-sponsored event; residents are charged per television 3) Conduct a television event where residents pay a per unit cost.

After discussion Mr. Maas moved that the District put forth a promotional campaign providing information to the citizens, the residents, of the county as to what disposal options are available to them. Hopefully, that the District would also make efforts to achieve a reduced cost as a result of this promotional change. He would extend, as part of his motion, that were that not to be accomplished; we would provide the information. Attempts would be made to take advantage of what we can do for the residents wherever possible but hopes that we support that we provide that information and that it should start the first of February which is only a couple of weeks away and that is a pretty tough thing but as soon as possible thereafter the first of February because it's coming regardless of if even they happen to push the start back a few weeks. Mr. Mass stated that he thought people are replacing their TV's currently; if they are replacing their TV's. Mr. Meyer seconded.

Mr. Riddle suggested that instead of the promotional campaign starting the first of February, start it whenever Staff can get it out, he thinks immediately.

All were in favor and the motion was approved.

Mr. Duncan introduced himself as the public works director for the City of Blue Ash. Mr. Duncan stated that currently, residents can set televisions out with their regular trash and unless television recycling is made easy, fairly inexpensive, or free to residents, televisions will end up in the landfill.

Mr. Duncan stated his concerns about just having a PR campaign and felt that this would result in a lot of televisions going to the landfill as opposed to people making the effort to drop-off their television at an event. Mr. Duncan reiterated his earlier comments about making it easy and inexpensive for residents.

Mr. Duncan applauded the Committee for doing a promotional campaign and stated the information would be posted on Blue Ash's website, urging residents to recycle, etc.

Mr. Duncan asked specific questions about the potential reduced costs for residents i.e. could Blue Ash collect televisions and deliver them to the vendor? Ms. Christmann stated that this happened with several communities in 2008 in regards to computers and that the District would explore this option.

**C. District Priority Grants**

Ms. Christmann stated that at the November, 2008 Policy Committee meeting, District Priority Grant funding was approved for communities and non-profits. Crosby Township, Whitewater Township, and the City of Forest Park were not recommended for full or partial funding due to: 1) the applications did not meet the priority areas of the grant; 2) applications have been funded by the District for several years, therefore, the applications were lower priority; 3) the District has expended the majority of the \$50,000 allocated for the community grants.

Ms. Christmann stated that Staff was asked to reconsider grant funding for the above communities and Staff has decided to stay with the original recommendation and not fund the communities for the reasons stated above.

Ms. Christmann stated that a concern of the Committee was that the programs would not continue as a result of not receiving grant funding. As summarized in Attachment D of the Policy Packet, all the programs will continue without grant funding, advertising dollars may need to be cut back. Ms. Christmann gave examples.

Mr. Portune stated that as the Committee accepted the Staff Recommendation, no action needed to be taken.

Mr. Fiedeldey discussed his concerns about the total amount of the grant funding versus the tons collected and gave examples. Mr. Fiedeldey suggested to put a cap on the amount of money the District would spend on a per ton basis.

Mr. Portune stated that the intent of these grants were not to anticipate what the market would bear or how many residents participate in the program, but to try and generate some traction around recycling in communities that are on their own trying to generate traction with their residents to obtain greater participation. Mr. Portune stated that in light of this, mixed results may be obtained and gave an example.

Mr. Portune stated that he thought it would be fair to introduce a “level of expectation” for future grants.

Ms. Christmann gave an example of how a community spent \$31,000 on a yardwaste chipper and this chipper is still in use and diverting yardwaste.

Mr. Portune stated that the example that Ms. Christmann provided was very helpful and requested that Staff create summaries for previous grantees.

A brief discussion ensued.

**D. Storm Debris Update**

Mr. Portune discussed the wind storm of September 14, 2008 and the amount of yardwaste that was generated. Mr. Portune reiterated what the Policy Committee did to alleviate some of the cost to communities to grind and remove the material.

Mr. Portune thanked Staff for their hard work in addressing this issue.

Ms. Christmann stated that the FEMA reimbursement process was going quite well and they were very impressed with the documentation the District provided. Ms. Christmann stated that she received a call from the Ohio Emergency Management Agency in Columbus prior to Christmas and that FEMA was concerned that the District was not an eligible applicant for reimbursement.

Ms. Christmann stated that FEMA stated that the District was not responsible for managing this material. Ms. Christmann stated that Ohio EPA sent a letter on behalf of the District explaining that managing yardwaste was one of the responsibilities of solid waste districts.

Ms. Christmann stated that as of Monday, FEMA has still not given the District an answer as to if reimbursement will be provided. Now FEMA is stating that the District did not charge communities for this service. Ms. Christmann gave an

example of how another Ohio solid waste district was reimbursed after an ice storm and the area was declared a federal disaster area.

Ms. Christmann stated that this information was given to Ohio EMA this past Monday. Ms. Christmann stated that Ohio EMA has been a great advocate for the District.

Ms. Christmann stated that Ohio EMA has stated that if FEMA declines the District's application for reimbursement, the District has the opportunity to appeal. Currently, Ms. Christmann is waiting to hear from Ohio EMA as to the appeal process.

Mr. Portune entertained a motion to authorize Staff to process and pursue an appeal if FEMA declines the District's reimbursement request and ask the Board of County Commissioners to also pursue a political solution in conjunction with any appeal.

Mr. Meyer moved; Mr. Charlton seconded. Mr. Fiedeldey amended the motion to reflect that the Board would be authorized to pursue a political solution immediately. Mr. Meyer accepted Mr. Fiedeldey's amendment. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

Ms. Christmann gave a brief update regarding the removal of the wood chips and tub grinding operations.

## **5. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **A. Quarterly Performance Measures**

Ms. Christmann stated that the quarterly performance measures were attached as Attachment F and it compared District program goals by quarter and year to date for 2008. Ms. Christmann discussed some of the highlights.

Mr. Portune asked who received the quarterly performance measures report. Ms. Christmann stated that the Committee received it and Ohio EPA will receive something similar included in the annual report. Part of the report is included in conjunction with Environmental Services annual report.

Mr. Portune stated that there were many people that would be interested in this type of report. Ms. Christmann stated that Staff would identify ways to send this type of information out to interested parties.

Mr. Riddle asked if the information was on the District's website. Ms. Christmann stated no and that Staff would work with the Public Relations Division.

A brief discussion ensued regarding stadium recycling.

**B. Media**

Ms. Christmann stated that included as Attachment G identifies all of the non-paid media the District has received in 2008. Ms. Christmann and Ms. Dowers discussed some of the highlights.

Mr. Portune asked if the information was media stories and if District had any success with PSAs. Ms. Christmann stated that this information was generated by press releases. Mr. Portune asked that outside of the media report, did the District do any work in public service announcements about District activities and wondered what sort of success the District had.

Ms. Dowers stated that the District did not produce PSAs primarily due to the budget. In light of this, all efforts are geared at press releases, articles, direct phone calls, etc. Ms. Dowers discussed the news room site on Environmental Services web site.

Mr. Portune stated that there were opportunities, through Community Bridges, to produce free public service announcements, etc. Mr. Portune stated that as promotional campaigns, etc. are considered, wondered if Staff should take a look at this in determining if any traction could be made with local media to air these sort of things.

A brief discussion ensued regarding community newsletters.

**C. 2009 District Workplan**

Ms. Christmann stated that the workplan (Attachment H) shows what the District's program goals are for 2009. Ms. Christmann stated to feel free to contact her if something is missing or if the Committee would like to see a particular item included.

A brief discussion ensued about the Plan Update.

Mr. Portune asked if Staff could provide the Policy Committee a quarterly report which tracks the program goals of the workplan versus the current performance measure.

**D. Waste Reduction**

Ms. Christmann stated that one of the themes for the District in 2009 is to promote the first of the three R's which is waste reduction. Ms. Christmann stated that typically the District focuses on recycling but in speaking internally, Staff thinks that pushing this message across the board for all of the District's programs will be beneficial.

A brief discussion ensued on waste reduction.

**6. TENTATIVE FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Revenue
- Community Contracts/Commodity Markets and How This Affects the Cost of Recycling
- Alternative Technologies

**7. POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERS' COMMENTS**

Mr. Meyer asked that a copy of the source reduction message be provided to Committee Members.

Mr. Meyer stated that a concern of his was the lack of recycling at festivals and stated that he would work with the District to make this change if containers are available. Ms. Christmann stated that the District did have a container loan program and briefly discussed it.

Mr. Portune stated that the new County Commissioner, Mr. Greg Hartmann, was sworn into office on January 5, 2009 and welcomed his Aide, Kristen Kameen to the meeting. Ms. Kameen thanked Mr. Portune and stated that they looked forward to working with the Committee and the District.

Mr. Meyer stated that the District has done a wonderful job this year on everything, including unforeseen obstacles such as the wind storm and Staff is to be commended on this.

**8. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Ms. Christmann stated that she wanted to recognize Ms. Balz from the District as her article about the Recycling at Work Program will be published in a national recycling magazine in February.

Ms. Christmann stated that Environmental Services is applying for an Ohio Environmental Education Fund grant to help fund recycling outreach this year in conjunction with the Air Quality Division of the office. Ms. Christmann stated that through the Environmental Services Youth Council, text messaging will be used as an outreach tool.

Mr. Duncan commended Ms. Christmann and her Staff for their work dealing with the wind storm issue and briefly discussed the results.

Mr. Duncan stated that he wanted to thank the District for one of the priority grants and that Blue Ash is purchasing permanent recycling containers for their downtown. Mr. Duncan briefly discussed the need for the containers.

Mr. Duncan stated that the Household Hazardous Waste program the District sponsors is a very important program. Collecting almost 600 tons of hazardous waste and diverting it from the landfill is extremely important. Mr. Duncan encouraged the District to continue to fund programs such as the Household Hazardous Waste program to continue to divert material from the landfill.

Mr. Charlton stated that the Department of Public Services will be handing off the curbside recycling program to the Office of Environmental Quality. The last three years that Public Services have been involved with the program, it has grown and he believes the program will finish strong this year.

Mr. Charlton gave accolades to Ms. Christmann and Ms. Balz for all the help they have provided the City to increase their recycling rate and gave an example.

**9. UPCOMING DISTRICT MEETINGS**

The next regularly scheduled Policy Committee meeting will be **Thursday, March 19, 2009, 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 11:18 am.