

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF  
THE HAMILTON COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING  
March 19, 2009**

**DATE:** March 19, 2009

**TIME:** 9:30 am

**PLACE:** Hamilton County Public Health  
250 William Howard Taft Road, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45219

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

Bernie Fiedeldey, Township Representative, Vice Chair  
Wright Gwyn, General Interest Member  
Tim Ingram, Hamilton County Public Health Representative  
Sue Magness, Largest Municipality Representative  
Dave Meyer, Public Member  
Todd Portune, County Commissioner, Chair

**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  
Ali Khodadad, Operations Coordinator  
Susan Schumacher, Assistant Solid Waste Specialist, Clerk

**Others in Attendance**

Nee Fong Chin, Hamilton County Prosecutor's Office  
Chuck DeJonckheere, Hamilton County Public Health  
Dan Steed, Bavarian Waste  
Tom Turchiano, Rumpke

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

Joe Maas, Generator Representative  
Larry Riddle, Ex-Officio Member

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Portune called the meeting to order at 9:34 am and welcomed Sue Magness as the new City of Cincinnati member of the Policy Committee. Mr. Portune thanked Mr. Ingram and the Hamilton County Public Health for the use of their conference rooms.

**2. CLERK'S REPORT**

**A. Approval of Minutes – January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

Mr. Portune entertained a motion to approve the minutes as drafted. Mr. Meyer moved to approve the January 15<sup>th</sup> minutes. Mr. Fiedeldey seconded. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

**B. Additions to the Agenda**

Mr. Portune asked Ms. Christmann where the District sat in terms of any stimulus money and requests that are being processed through the District or that impact the work of the District through Environmental Services. (Holly-This was not brought up again during the meeting.)

**3. DISTRICT REVENUE UPDATES/ANALYSIS**

Ms. Christmann stated that Attachment B detailed revenue comparisons from January, 2008 and January, 2009. Ms. Christmann stated that revenue was down approximately \$30,000 which equates to 12.5%. Ms. Christmann stated that this is the lowest January revenue since 2004.

Ms. Christmann stated that since 2003, January revenue has been approximately \$225,000. Ms. Christmann stated that as discussed at the January meeting, the District is predicting a 20% reduction in revenue due to the economic situation. Ms. Christmann briefly discussed other solid waste districts in the state facing the same revenue scenario.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the recession, landfill tonnages, and the District's expected 20% revenue reduction.

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. PRESENTATION ON RECYCLING MARKETS – TOM TURCHIANO, RUMPKE**

Mr. Turchiano thanked the Committee for the opportunity to present and gave a presentation on recycling markets (fluctuations, past history, etc.).

A brief question and answer session ensued.

**5. HEALTH DEPARTMENTS UPDATE**

Ms. Christmann stated that as a result of the strategic planning process that was conducted a few years ago, the Committee requested quarterly updates regarding funding. Attachment C provides those updates for the fourth quarter of 2008.

Ms. Christmann briefly summarized each Health Department's number of landfill inspections, Notices of Violations issued, compost facility inspections, transfer station inspections, odor complaint hotline, and other reported line items.

A brief discussion ensued, specifically, an open dumping issue in Anderson Township and a pilot program Hamilton County Public Health is currently working on (partnering with townships for the clean-up of residents' properties when the occupants are removed and the house is condemned).

## 6. POLICY ITEMS

### A. Household Hazardous Waste Program Modification

Ms. Christmann stated that in light of a 20% potential revenue reduction, the District was researching ways to reduce costs. The Household Hazardous Waste program is one of the District's largest program costs.

Ms. Christmann discussed the history of HHW programming and stated that the District has always struggled with the cost. Ms. Christmann stated that the cost of the program has increased over the years and in 2008 the District spent almost \$300,000 which yielded 585 tons of household hazardous waste from approximately 10,000 households.

Ms. Christmann stated that currently, the contract is structured in that the District is billed \$28.50 per household. In examining the program, it was found that almost 70% of material collected was paint. Of this 70%, over 50% is latex paint. Ms. Christmann stated that latex paint was not hazardous.

Ms. Christmann stated that the proposed change to the household hazardous waste program was to discontinue the collection of latex paint in an effort to obtain significant cost savings; roughly \$80,000.

Ms. Christmann gave examples of other solid waste districts that have eliminated latex paint from their HHW programs.

Ms. Christmann briefly discussed the pros and cons regarding this change and stated that this recommended change would not occur until March, 2010. Ms. Christmann stated that this would give the District one year to educate residents about the change and discussed advertising efforts.

A discussion ensued regarding the District's advertising efforts including a bill stuffer from Rumpke and the Cincinnati Water Works.

Mr. Portune entertained a motion to approve the program change as outlined in Attachment D for the household hazardous waste collection program (Eliminating

latex paint from the household hazardous waste collection program in 2010). Ms. Magness moved; Mr. Ingram seconded. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

**B. State Tipping Fee Increase**

Ms. Christmann stated that Staff sent a notice to the Policy Committee announcing Governor's Strickland's proposed budget where an increase to State tipping fees on municipal solid waste (MSW) and construction & demolition debris (CD&D) is outlined.

Ms. Christmann stated that as outlined in the Manager's Memo, the proposed increase for MSW will be \$1.25/ton which will create the new fee as \$4.75/ton.

Ms. Christmann stated that the proposed increase for CD&D is \$2.70/ton making the new fee \$4.40/ton.

Ms. Christmann spoke with the Director's from OEPA and ODNR and was informed the fee increases will assist in removing departments from the general fund due to Ohio's current budget situation. Ms. Christmann stated that collected fees will be used to fund various OEPA programs and ODNR's Soil & Water Conservation Districts (this funding would funnel to local soil & water conservation districts).

Ms. Christmann discussed the District's concerns and elaborated on each concern:

- Impact on Communities (fee increase will be passed to them)
- Impact on Community Recycling Programs (contract communities pay per household)
- Impact on Waste Flows (As the District is a border county, Kentucky's tipping fee is lower)

Mr. Portune questioned if the Committee should take a formal position. Ms. Christmann stated that only one Ohio solid waste district that she knew was opposing the fee increase and most were not taking a position.

Mr. Ingram asked if any sort of cost cutting analysis was conducted prior to proposing fee increases and if any responsibility will be assigned to these generators in terms of assistance (regulations, educating consumers that use the facilities of the importance of the facility, etc.).

Mr. Gwyn discussed pay-as-you-throw and suggested providing incentives to control/reduce the amount of solid waste so the resident can control the cost. Mr. Gwyn suggested the District research this option.

Mr. Portune suggested gathering Committee members' comments that outlines talking points regarding all the issues. Mr. Portune suggested that Ms. Christmann inquire with other solid waste districts to gauge their interest in this suggestion.

Mr. Ingram agreed with Mr. Portune.

Mr. Fiedeldey asked Ms. Christmann if the new funding structure would be an increase or decrease to their current budget. Ms. Christmann stated that she would check.

Mr. Ingram stated that as it seemed that Ms. Christmann was going to coordinate this, he would like to offer himself and some of his Staff to help on the CD&D side of the white paper. Mr. Portune offered to help as well. Ms. Christmann stated that she appreciated the help.

Ms. Christmann stated that as a matter of record, this would be on behalf of the Hamilton County Solid Waste Management District and not her affiliation with the Ohio Solid Waste Districts Organization and discussed the reasons.

## **7. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **A. Alternative Technologies**

Ms. Christmann stated that as a result of the Policy Committee's Strategic Plan, alternative technologies were to be researched. The District has since organized a food waste committee who has been meeting every few months. This committee is made up of haulers and generators. The goal of the committee is to identify ways to divert organics from the waste stream and overcome any obstacles. Currently, the big obstacle is identifying a facility to accept food waste.

Recently, a meeting was conducted which included just the haulers and composting facilities to discuss obstacles. Ms. Christmann stated that Marvin's Organic Gardens in Warren County has recently received their Class II composting license to start composting and would be willing to accept 12 tons/day. The District is maintaining contact with Marvin's to see how they are progressing.

Ms. Christmann stated that Ohio EPA is in full support of the committee and recently, the District received a letter from the Director of OEPA commending the District's efforts.

A brief question and answered session ensued.

### **B. Update on RecycleBank**

Ms. Christmann stated that through the end of January, a 60% increase in recycling tonnages has been recorded. The City of Montgomery's recycling rate has increased from 19% to 29%.

Ms. Christmann stated that there is a lot of interest from the State of Ohio regarding RecycleBank and discussed a presentation herself and Mr. Turchiano conducted to the Solid Waste Advisory Council.

Ms. Christmann stated that this program was very expensive and was still in the pilot phase. Since the program is still in the early pilot phase, determining how the cost compares to the tons diverted will not be known in the near future. Ms. Christmann stated that she would keep the Committee updated.

Ms. Christmann stated that in December, 2008, the Village of Terrace Park started using carts for recycling and now Staff will be able to do a side by side comparison on whether it is the carts or the incentive that increases recycling. Ms. Christmann stated that, again, she would keep the Committee updated.

**C. Update on Urban Timber Project**

Ms. Christmann stated that the Cincinnati Park Board (CPB) and Cincinnati Public Schools (CPS) have developed a wonderful urban timber program. Ms. Christmann explained that CPS is taking the trees that CPB takes down (typically Ash & Oak). That material is being rough milled at Mt. Airy Forest by a contracted portable saw mill operator. Once milled, CPB transports it to Wilhelm Lumber in southern Indiana, where the wood is kiln dried and further planes it. At this point, the material is transported to Creative Shapes in Woodlawn where the wood is made into furniture for CPS.

Ms. Christmann stated that since the end of March, approximately 4,400 Board Feet of material has been put through and additional material is still being milled.

Ms. Christmann stated that on behalf of CPS, the District applied for an Ohio Department of Natural Resources grant for \$80,000. On April 23, 2009, the District will find out if grant funds will be received through an official announcement where Commissioner Portune, Willie Carden with CPB, CPS, and the Lieutenant Governor will be present.

Ms. Christmann stated that through this grant, CPS, CPB, and the District are hoping to spread the word to other private sector tree companies so they will bring their logs to Mt. Airy for milling. CPS is still in need of more material than CPB can provide at this time.

Ms. Christmann stated that Hamilton County Park District (HCPD) is speaking with CPB to move their logs to this program. This has really blossomed into a

very nice program and has gained support from the State to help expand the program further.

Mr. Christmann commended CPS and CPB for their efforts.

Mr. Portune asked how much money this program has saved for CPS. Ms. Christmann stated that she would try and find out. Mr. Fiedeldej stated that in the Manager's Memo, it lists five steps that the urban timber program takes for an end product to be produced and asked how much money steps 1 – 4 cost. Ms. Christmann stated she would let him know.

**D. Litter Collection Update**

Ms. Christmann stated that this partnership was started in July, 2008 with the District, Keep Cincinnati Beautiful (KCB)/the City of Cincinnati, and 3CDC each of which are paying \$40,000. The District's \$40,000 is paying for the collection of litter in eight communities outside the City of Cincinnati, as well as providing litter outreach.

Ms. Christmann stated that included as Attachment F of the Policy Packet was details of the results of the program through December, 2008 (District-funded only). Ms. Christmann summarized the attachment.

Mr. Portune asked if statistics from the City were available. Ms. Christmann stated that she did not include that information as the District was not funding that aspect but would provide the information to Mr. Portune.

A brief question and answer session ensued.

**E. Waste Reduction**

Ms. Christmann stated that the District's "theme" for 2009 was waste reduction and at the January, 2009 meeting, a member asked to see a timeline. Attachment G outlines this timeline which kicks off April 1, 2009. Ms. Christmann summarized the timeline.

**8. TENTATIVE FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Anderson Township/Hamilton County Public Health Clean-Up Partnership
- Litter Collection Program - Other Communities, Continuation of the Program?

**9. POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERS' COMMENTS**

Mr. Meyer asked about television recycling. Ms. Christmann discussed the District sponsored computer/television event scheduled to begin May 1 and also stated that listed on our website was other recycling options for television recycling.

**10. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments at this time.

**11. UPCOMING DISTRICT MEETINGS**

The next regularly scheduled Policy Committee meeting will be **Thursday, May 21, 2009, 9:30 am** at Hamilton County Public Health, 250 William Howard Taft Road, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Cincinnati, Ohio 45219.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 11:22 am.