

**HAMILTON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
MANAGER'S MEMORANDUM**

DATE: May 6, 2004

TO: District Policy Committee Members

FROM: Jeffrey W. Aluotto, Solid Waste Manager
Cory R. Chadwick, Director

I. Introduction/Opening Comments

NOTICE: This memo is for the meeting to be held on May 13, 2004. This meeting will be held at 2:00 pm at the Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services, 250 William Howard Taft Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45219.

Policy Committee Information (Agendas, Manager's Memos, Minutes, etc.) now available on the District's Website at www.hcdoes.org.

II. Clerk's Report/Additions to the Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes – Minutes from the April 7th meeting will be available for review and approval at the July meeting.

B. Additions to the Agenda

Please contact Susan Schumacher at 513-946-7734 or susan.schumacher@hamilton-co.org if you have items to add to the agenda.

III. District Revenue Updates

Updates will be provided on current revenue receipts and comparisons with prior years, as included in Attachment A.

IV. Policy Items

A. Container Loan Program – See Attachment B

At the January Policy Committee meeting, the District Policy Committee approved the concept of testing a Container Loan Program to assist community groups, and local governments in the County with the clean-up of open dumps. Through this program, the District will fund the container costs for the clean-up of open dumps targeted by community groups or local governments. The community groups or local governments would be responsible for obtaining the labor and other resources necessary to perform the clean-up.

The purpose of the program is simply to eliminate the financial hurdle associated with landfill and container charges. There are two policy issues which still need to be finalized for this program can be initiated:

1. Should clean-up be allowed on private property?

Staff's conversation with legal counsel conclude that clean-up on private property is possible. However, if this occurs, the property owner will need to sign a waiver allowing the clean-up to occur on their property. It would be recommended that the property owner sign off on a waiver stating that they agree to be held liable for container and waste disposal costs if it is ever found that they caused, or allowed, the dumping to occur on their property.

2. If the District does allow clean-up on private property, should it seek cost recovery in all cases?

If the District seeks cost recovery for all cases where clean-up occurs on private property, the willingness of residents to participate may be seriously compromised. In addition, those less able to afford such costs will be the least likely to agree to such an arrangement. In addition, cost-recovery may be extremely difficult in this case as it would have to proceed through court. It is still uncertain if the District has the legal right to perform the clean-up and attach a lien to the subject property.

The other option for the District would be to prohibit the use of these funds on private property and allow the use of funds solely on public property. This would limit the effectiveness of the program but would avoid arguments that the District is paying to remedy what is, in fact, someone else's responsibility.

***Staff Recommendation:** The container loan program should have the ability to be utilized on public or private property – consistent with advice from legal counsel. Staff should be extremely cautious, however, in terms of how this program is used in that capacity. The program policy sheet included as Attachment B should be strictly adhered to.*

B. Nu-Blend Paints

At the last Policy Committee meeting, Nu-Blend Paints discussed their current financial situation. Since that time, the Committee has been forwarded financial information relating to the revenues and expenses of Nu-Blend Paints – broken down by business unit. This issue will once again be before the Policy Committee for their consideration. Representatives from Nu-Blend will also be in attendance to answer any questions.

C. Permanent Drop-off Locations

For the past several years, the District has operated two temporary mixed paper recycling locations. The drop-offs are available on the first Saturday of each month. Each year, approximately, 50 tons of paper are recycled through this program which serves approximately 2,400 residents per year. The program is not provided for its ability to produce a significant amount of tonnage – but more for its ability to serve a particular niche of the community. These locations provide County residents with the opportunity to recycle a commodity typically not included in curbside programs. It also provides another opportunity for multi-family residents who typically don't have access to recycling locations.

District staff is currently examining the possibility of making these drop-offs permanent. Doing so, however, would represent a change in past District policy as it would represent the first permanent recycling sites managed by the District.

In addition to this, Rumpke has recently informed District staff that they are seeking to expand their drop-off locations in the County. They plan on using front-load containers which are more economical to service than the typical 30 yard drop-off containers. Rumpke has inquired as to whether or not the District would like to have some sort of involvement in this program. While this may present an option for the future, it is unknown what impact District owned, full-service drop-offs would have on the District's curbside infrastructure. As such, the drop-offs being proposed are for mixed paper only. There are advantages and disadvantages to managing permanent drop-off locations. These are described below:

Advantages of Permanent Mixed Paper Drop-offs

- a. District already provides this service. Permanent location would simply expand the opportunity for residents to utilize the program.
- b. Would eliminate staff overtime used to man the sites.
- c. Continues to provide a needed outlet for a material not included in most curbside programs.

Disadvantages of Permanent Mixed Paper Drop-offs

- a. The District will need to have a procedure for managing dumping issues which may occur at the sites. Possibilities include working with local public works departments to monitor individual sites.
- b. Would represent a change in District policy in that the District has never managed permanent drop-offs.

***Staff Recommendation:** District staff recommends that the Policy Committee approve the establishment of permanent locations for mixed paper only and continue to explore the idea of how to successfully integrate drop-off opportunities into the District without damaging the current network of curbside recycling programs.*

D. District Plan Issues

Over the past several weeks, the District has been in the process of soliciting input from various stakeholders relating to the Plan Update. At this point in the Policy Committee meeting, a brief presentation will be made detailing some of the issues which have been raised most prominently among District stakeholders.

V. Informational Items

A. Computer Collection Event

The District's Computer Collection Event was held on April 15, 16 and 17. Approximately 200 businesses and 200 residents participated in the event. The District collected approximately 240 tons of computer equipment which was shipped to RET 3, in Cuyahoga County, for recycling and refurbishment.

B. Construction and Demolition Debris Legislation

A new version of construction and demolition debris legislation is currently making its way through the Ohio General Assembly. Staff forwarded the letter contained in Attachment C to the Energy and Environment Committee on May 3, 2004.

C. Waterfest

Waterfest was held on April 21. Waterfest is an annual educational event for children – primarily in fourth and fifth grades. The event brings these children to the Cincinnati Convention Center where they learn about various environmental topics and how those topics relate to water. Over the past several years, the District’s educational staff has ensured that numerous of the educational activities and topics relate to solid waste and recycling. This enables the District to reach thousands of children in one day through what has become one of the premier environmental education events in southwestern Ohio. This year, almost 2,000 students attended together with approximately 300 teachers.

D. Permanent Household Hazardous Waste Collection Pilot

The HHW pilot project will officially be initiated on May 4. More information will be provided at the Policy Committee meeting.

E. Compost Bin Sale

The District’s compost bin sale was held on May 1. Approximately 1,200 compost bins were sold to residents at locations in Blue Ash and Colerain Township.

F. Work Resource Center

Included as Attachment D is a letter from the Work Resource Center thanking the District for the grant funding provided to their organization.

VI. Tentative Future Agenda Items

- A. Conflict of Interest Policy – Staff continues to research the issues raised by the Policy Committee as it relates to this topic.

VII. Policy Committee Members' Comments

VIII. Public Comments

IX. Upcoming District Meetings

The next regularly scheduled Policy Committee meeting will be July 8, 2004.

X. Adjournment (Target Time: 3:30 pm)