

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

DATE: September 2, 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 September 9, 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 July 15, 2004 Policy Committee meetings are included as Attachment A.

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 B.

IV. Policy Items

A. District Budget

District staff has prepared the 2005 District Budget which is included as Attachment C. The Budget contains several modifications from 2004 including the elimination of the Mercury Collection program, EPP Program, and several other smaller programs in order to fund the Household Hazardous Waste Pilot program for a second year.

The total amount of the 2005 Budget is \$2,902,033. \$31,250 of this amount is grant funded. Thus the total impact to the District **\$2,870,783**. As District expenditures typically total 97% of budgeted amounts (due to staff turnover, program participation fluctuations, etc.), this budget should allow revenues to match expenditures.

At their meeting, on August 17, the Finance Subcommittee voted to recommend to the Policy Committee that the budget was consistent with the Solid Waste Management Plan.

The following represent policy items pertinent to the 2005 budget:

Health Department Funding

Perhaps the most significant alteration from the 2004 Budget is the fact that the Health Department funding for monitoring groundwater around Construction and Demolition Debris sites expired in 2004. The 2005 budget, therefore, shows a \$50,000 reduction in Health Department funding. During the Finance Subcommittee meeting, the Health Department requested that the funding for this program be continued..

Environmentally Preferable Purchasing

No funding was requested by staff for implementation of EPP activities for 2005 due to the fact that staff is unaware of any pending EPP projects in the County. EPP programming could be added to the 2005 budget with minimal impact to the carry-over balance. As an alternative, however, District staff could approach the Policy Committee in 2005 if, in fact, desirable EPP projects become available.

Budget Options

Option 1 - Approve Staff Budget as Submitted

Impact: This option would maintain funding for basic District programming as well as funding for the District's HHW pilot program. This option would also reduce the Health Department's funding for the monitoring of groundwater around Construction and Demolition Debris Landfills. This option also eliminates funding for the District's Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Assistance.

Option 2 – Approve Staff Budget as Submitted w/ Addition of Health Department Monitoring and/or EPP Programming. No additional changes.

Impact: This option would entail acceptance of the current staff budget with the addition of funding for groundwater monitoring by the Health Department and/or EPP programming. The immediate impact of this option would be the projection of expenditures higher than revenues in 2005. Re-authorizing the funding for the CDD monitoring, if continued each year, would entail the depletion of the District's carry-over balance one year sooner than currently projected. Currently, depletion of the carry-over balance is projected between 2011 and 2015 (depending upon inflation rates, programming, etc.)

Option 3 – Approve Staff Budget w/ Addition of funding for Health Department Monitoring and/or EPP Programming combined with other off-setting program reductions

Impact: This option would continue Health Department monitoring of CDD facilities and/or EPP funding. This option would attempt to match these increases with off-setting program reductions in other areas.

B. District White Papers

Each member of the Policy Committee should have received copies of three white papers focusing on: District fees/revenues, District Siting Strategy, and District Disposal Capacity. These white papers will be the focus of discussion at the Policy Committee's October 7 work session.

This portion of the Policy Committee meeting will be reserved to answer questions of clarification, regarding the white papers, prior to the Policy Work Session.

C. Host Community Fees

At the last Policy Committee meeting, Mr. Fiedeldey introduced an item for discussion regarding Host Community fees in Ohio. Mr. Fiedeldey stated that the community host fee, in Ohio, had not been increased since its inception in the early 1990's and that an initiative should be created to do so. Mr. Fiedeldey stated that an increase is necessary in order to compensate host communities for increased costs and lost revenues associated with the siting and operation of a solid waste facility. Mr. Fiedeldey also stated that an increase to the statutory host fee would prompt more communities to be willing to discuss the idea of siting a solid waste facility and thus would eliminate much of the difficulty in siting these facilities.

D. School Pilot Program

District staff is currently assisting the communities of Norwood, Mt. Healthy and Greenhills with the task of improving their recycling participation rates. As part of this effort, District staff will be coordinating public awareness efforts in these communities. One of these efforts will involve educating local school children to bring the recycling message home to parents. Typically, the District has attempted this through outreach presentations, workshops, etc.

In a change to existing policy, however, District staff would like to conduct a pilot program concentrating on schools in these three communities. The pilot will involve the establishment of a recycling collection program at six schools in these three communities. While the District will be responsible for paying the recycling hauling cost, schools will be responsible for establishing a recycling education program in their school designed to reach parents as well. Pre and post surveys will be conducted to evaluate the impact that this program is having on the propensity of families to recycle in those communities. This pilot will be very similar to the District's school grant program – with the exception that each school will be held to a higher standard in terms of ensuring that the educational message makes it home to parents.

If successful, this program could provide direction for the future of District educational priorities. This pilot program requires no additional funding, but instead re-directs funding from traditional school outreach programs.

***Staff Recommendation:** District staff recommends that the District proceed with one year recycling pilot programs at no more than six schools in the communities of Mt. Healthy, Norwood and Greenhills. Pre and Post survey information will be forwarded to the Policy Committee as a way of evaluating future District education programming.*

V. Informational Items

A. Household Hazardous Waste Update

Since May 4, the District has been conducting a pilot Household Hazardous Waste Collection program in conjunction with Environmental Enterprises. The pilot program will be concluding at the end of September. Through September 1, over 4,200 vouchers have been issued. Through this same date, it is estimated that between 1,500 and 2,000 residents have utilized the site. Included as Attachment D is a Mid Term Report on the program results.

An analysis of communities where participation rates have been lower than expected indicates that low participation may have more to do with community promotional efforts than with the geographic location of those communities. For instance, Norwood's participation is lower than expected, while Symmes Township's participation is currently exceeding expectation (It was assumed that each community's participation would roughly equal that community's percentage of the overall Hamilton County population). Similarly, North Bend has very low participation while participation from Terrace Park is well above average.

The District will be receiving a final report from JAS Consulting relating to its options for HHW programming. However, it is likely that some of those recommendations may include:

- Reducing the number of operating days in order to drive higher volumes of participants to fewer days of operation.
- Establishing an option for evening collection.
- Modifying the voucher aspect of the program.

The Policy Committee will have the opportunity to review the HHW programming during November Policy Work Session associated with the District's Plan Update.

B. Computer Collection Event

The District held a Computer Collection event over three days on August 26, 27 and 28. The District does not have final statistics at this point, however, over 200 businesses and over 300 residents participated in the event. The event filled 22 semi-trucks with e-waste which will transported to RET 3 in Cuyahoga County where the material will be de-manufactured and recycled or refurbished for use in Ohio schools.

C. District Survey

Each year, the District contracts with the University of Cincinnati's Institute for Policy Research to survey community attitudes toward recycling. The following are some points of interest from the District's latest survey:

	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>
Percentage of Residents Recycling in Hamilton County	54%	63%
Percentage of Residents Not Recycling Because recycling is not available in their Community or unable to receive a bin	26%	15%
Percentage of residents not recycling that Indicated their reason as feeling that Recycling is not important	5%	12%
Percentage of Residents familiar with The Solid Waste District	42%	47%

VI. Tentative Future Agenda Items

VII. Policy Committee Members' Comments

VIII. Public Comments

IX. Upcoming District Meetings

Thursday October 7, 2004 – Plan Work Session – 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

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

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