

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE HAMILTON COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
(Rescheduled from September 8, 2005)
September 1, 2005**

DATE: September 1, 2005

TIME: 2:00 pm

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

PRESENT: Policy Committee Members

Tony DiPuccio, Generator Representative
Dr. Carl Evert, General Interest Member
Deborah Holston, Representative of Largest Municipality/ Tiffany Hardy, City of Cincinnati
Tim Ingram, Hamilton County General Health District Representative
Todd Portune, County Commissioner, Chair
Larry Riddle, Ex-Officio Member

DOES Staff

Jeff Aluotto, Solid Waste Program Manager
Michelle Balz, Program Specialist
Holly Christmann, Assistant Program Manager
Craig Deno, Administrative Intern
Sarah Dowers, Public Affairs Coordinator
Ken Edgell, Environmental Administrative Coordinator
Helen Gaynor, Systems Administrator
Trevor Griffith, Public Affairs
Ali Khodadad, Operations Coordinator
Kim Lahman, Clean Cities Coordinator
Susan Schumacher, Administrative Secretary, Clerk

Others In Attendance

Karen Ball, Aide to Commissioner Portune
Nee Fong Chin, Hamilton County Prosecutor
Paula Christy, CSI Waste
Chuck DeJonckheere, Hamilton County General Health District
Brian DePeel, Environmental Enterprises, Inc.
Linda Holterhoff, Keep Cincinnati Beautiful
Bob Orr, CSI Waste
John Silverman, Midland Atlantic
Tom Weidman, Sycamore Township Resident
WKRC-Channel 12

ABSENT: Policy Committee Members

Bernie Fiedeldey, Township Representative
Glenn Welling, Public Member

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Portune called the meeting to order at 2:06 pm.

II. CLERK'S REPORT

A. Additions/Changes to the Agenda

-Under Policy Items, add Blue Ash/Sycamore Township Resolution

B. Approval of Minutes – July 14, 2005

Mr. Portune entertained a motion to approve the minutes. Dr. Evert moved; Ms. Holston seconded. Mr. DiPuccio abstained. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

III. POLICY ITEMS

A. Use of Vegetable Oil as an Alternative Fuel

Mr. Portune stated that included as Attachment E of the Policy Packet was a report from Staff that considered the possibility of Hamilton County and the City of Cincinnati using vegetable oil waste as a fuel source for City and County vehicles. Mr. Portune discussed the benefits of using vegetable oil as an alternative fuel source.

Ms. Holston stated that she was very interested in hearing any additional research conducted by Staff. Mr. Aluotto thanked Ms. Balz for her research efforts and discussed the highlights (amount of grease generated, collection management methods, costs to generators, disposal practices, potential conversions, engine warranties, bio-diesel, benefits, pros/cons, etc.) from the Staff report.

After discussion and a question/answer session, Mr. Portune entertained a motion that would accept and approve the report that the Policy Committee has received from Staff that would encourage potential partners at the City of Cincinnati, Hamilton County, SORTA to work cooperatively and collaboratively with county Staff in the evaluation of this technology for use on a broad scale and further, to ask Staff to move ahead toward developing the scope and parameters of a pilot project for use of this technology with public vehicles that would allow us then to have a full, fair, thorough and objective assessment of whether this is something that Hamilton County, the City of Cincinnati, and SORTA would then be prevailed upon to move forward with towards more broad scale fleet implementation. Further, the research is first and if it doesn't make sense to go forward then the Policy Committee would expect Staff to make that recommendation and it would not go further.

Mr. Portune stated that the Policy Committee expected periodic reports and if it becomes apparent during those reports that there are problems, impractical, etc. the Committee could step in at that point.

Mr. DiPuccio stated that the role of the District may be just to convert a few vehicles over and start to create a market, to educate those who are presently disposing of the grease and not recycling it. Mr. DiPuccio stated that a concern he has was how much grease is actually going into the landfill and how much grease that is going to the landfill will be able to be converted.

Mr. Ingram asked Mr. Portune if the motion was to authorize Staff time to develop a pilot project or Staff time to conduct further research. Mr. Portune stated that the motion was for Staff to do an evaluation study and collaboration with City, County and SORTA leading to developing what the scope and parameters of a pilot project would be.

Ms. Holston moved; Dr. Evert seconded. All in favor and the motion was approved.

B. District Vision Statement

Mr. Portune suggested tabling this issue until all Policy Committee Members were present. The Policy Committee concurred with Mr. Portune's suggestion.

C. Keep Cincinnati Beautiful Tire Funding Grant

Due to two Policy Committee Members being absent, Mr. Ingram leaving early, Ms. Holston abstaining from the vote, this item was tabled due to a quorum not being present.

D. District Budget

Mr. Aluotto stated that the Policy Committee had been provided a budget package in early August, 2005 and stated that it was very similar to the 2004 budget. Mr. Aluotto discussed minor changes as follows: Reducing \$50,000 from the Health District for groundwater monitoring, an additional \$17,500 for the implementation of a truckload compost bin sale, \$2,400 to assist communities with no recycling infrastructure with recycling drop-offs, and \$5,000 for a commercial business recycling program.

A brief question and answer session ensued. Mr. DiPuccio suggested to consider placing a nominal fee for the HHW and Yardwaste programs, in the 2007 budget.

Mr. Portune entertained a motion to accept the budget report. Mr. DiPuccio moved, Ms. Holston seconded. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

E. Blue Ash Yardwaste Site

Mr. Portune stated that there was a property in the City of Blue Ash, adjacent to Sycamore Township that is owed by Hamilton County currently being used as a yardwaste drop-off site. Mr. Portune asked that a resolution be drafted that if acted upon by the District, would give guidance with respect to how the property that is the subject of a potential development, could be treated.

Mr. Portune stated that there has been interest regarding the discussion and stated that there were two individuals that were present, Mr. Weidman and Mr. Silverman. Mr. Portune stated that Mr. Weidman was a resident of Sycamore Township representing 2,000 residents who have signed a petition preventing any development from interfering with the yardwaste site and Mr. Silverman was representing Midland Atlantic, who was the developer.

Mr. Portune presented a letter to the Policy Committee that the City of Blue Ash sent to the County Commissioners. Mr. Portune stated that the letter asked the Policy Committee not take any official action until the City of Blue Ash has had an opportunity to consider the issue formally.

Mr. Portune invited Mr. Weidman and Mr. Silverman to each make brief presentations. Mr. Portune stated that the primary focus of the Policy Committee relates to public policy issues of recycling, environmental issues, yardwaste, etc. and there are other issues at play with respect to this issue that the Board of County Commissioners will consider from the standpoint of economic development to quality of life, etc. Mr. Portune further stated that he was not going to ask the Policy Committee to vote on the resolution today and since the next Policy Committee is not until November 10, 2005, there may be a situation that a special meeting be scheduled in order to take action on the resolution.

Mr. Weidman stated that he was representing the residents of Sycamore Township regarding the parcel of land which is located in the City of Blue Ash that is used by Sycamore Township and Blue Ash as a composting and recycling site since the mid 1980's. Mr. Weidman gave a very detailed description of where the property was located.

Mr. Weidman stated the residents have collected 2,093 signatures in opposition to a commercial development of this property and he had submitted it to Commissioner Portune last week. In addition, a meeting was held at Deer Park High School which was attended by Commissioner Heimlich in which 800 people attended in opposition to the proposed development. Mr. Weidman discussed the reasons for opposition and stated that Blue Ash and Sycamore Township needed the support of the County. Mr. Weidman thanked the Policy Committee for their time. A brief question and answer session ensued.

Mr. Silverman stated that the site was large enough to house both the yardwaste site and the Target project and there is some misconception that their plan was to close the yardwaste site entirely and this is not true. Midland Atlantic's plan was to move the site 1,500 feet west on the end of the property. Mr.

Molloy, who was the Sycamore Township assistant administrator and Mr. Silverman have had conversations regarding the useful life of the leaf dump. In 2 years, it will need to be emptied out again to start over which means a cost to the township. Mr. Silverman stated that the timing on this project was pretty good given that the site will need to be emptied in 2 years.

Mr. Silverman stated that Sycamore Township received notice from OEPA that "leaf juice" is leaching and going into a stream bed and if Sycamore Township wants to continue to use the site, they will have to create an earthen dam to contain the leaf juice. This project could correct this issue as well.

Mr. Silverman stated that this project would generate more than \$2 million of annual income for Hamilton County that it does not have today.

A brief question and answer session ensued.

Mr. Portune thanked Mr. Weidman and Mr. Silverman for their presentations and encouraged both of them to contact the Policy Committee with additional information. Mr. Portune requested Staff to monitor the developments pertaining to this issue and requested that Mr. Weidman and Mr. Silverman keep Staff informed as well.

Mr. Portune stated that the County Commissioners have the final decision on whether the land is sold or not. Mr. Portune further stated that he thought it was important that the Policy Committee had the opportunity to weigh in and communicate its position regarding the public policy interests that the committee has in advance of the County Commissioners taking any action.

Mr. Portune stated that if the committee is going to weigh in on this issue, the committee may need to meet prior to November 10, 2005.

IV. INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Mr. Portune suggested accepting the informational items as outlined in the Manager's Memo unless Mr. Aluotto wanted to point out anything. Mr. Aluotto discussed the District's Awards Program scheduled for November 15, 2005.

V. TENTATIVE FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no future agenda items at this time.

VI. POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERS' COMMENTS

There were no Policy Committee comments at this time.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments at this time.

VIII. UPCOMING DISTRICT MEETINGS

Regular Policy Committee Meeting - Thursday, November 10, 2005 at the Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services, 250 William Howard Taft Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45219 at 2:00 pm.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 3:59 pm.