

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

**DATE:** July 5, 2005  
**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 July 14, 2005. 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](http://www.hcdoes.org).*

**II. Clerk's Report/Additions to the Agenda**

**A. Approval of Minutes – Minutes from the May 12, 2005 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](mailto:susan.schumacher@hamilton-co.org) if you have items to add to the agenda.

**III. District Revenue Updates/Analysis**

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

**IV. Presentations**

Over the past two years, the District has allocated approximately \$58,000 in grant funds to the Work Resource Center's Building Value project which is a building materials re-use center located in Cincinnati. Grant funds were used to help launch the program in 2004 and for promotion in 2005. A representative will be on hand from Building Value to provide an update on the program.

**IV. Policy Items**

**A. Tire Collection 2004-2005 Results and 2005-2006 Funding**

In 2004, the District allocated \$25,000 to Keep Cincinnati Beautiful in order to fund tire collection events in the Fall of 2004 and Spring of 2005. Results of this grant are as follows:

<u>Event</u>	<u>District Grant Dollars Spent</u>	<u>Approx. Tires Collected</u>
2004-2005 Tire Collections	\$19,070.50	10,002*

\* Based on 100.02 tons collected and an average of 20 lbs. per tire.

With last year's grant allocation, the District had asked KCB to continue efforts to expand this program to communities outside of the City of Cincinnati. KCB appears to have been very successful in doing so. In past years, it was typical for 5 or 6 other Hamilton County jurisdictions (outside of Cincinnati) to participate in these collection events. In 2005-2006, however, 14 communities outside of Cincinnati participated. These communities included:

**Great American Clean-up and Make-A-Difference Day**  
**Participant Communities**

Addyston	Loveland
Anderson Township	Norwood
Colerain Township	Silverton
Crosby Township	Springfield Township
Harrison Township	Sycamore Township
Lincoln Heights	Whitewater Township
Lockland	Woodlawn

Approximately 43% of the 10,002 tires collected came from the City of Cincinnati. Other jurisdictions which collected large numbers of tires were Whitewater Township (18%), Harrison Township (10%) and Sycamore Township (9%). It should be remembered that this program is designed, primarily, to collect tires which have been illegally dumped. It is not necessarily designed to be used as a tire amnesty collection event for residents and communities (e.g. where residents could bring tires from their garages, etc.) – although that sort of use undoubtedly occurs.

Providing KCB with grant funding to operate the District's tire collection events has truly been a win/win situation for both organizations. KCB has been able to receive funding to cover program expenses while the District has been able to take advantage of an organization which specializes in leveraging volunteer assistance – something which has never been a District strength.

KCB has submitted a grant request for tire collection activities for 2005-2006 in the amount of \$25,000 (equal to last year's grant). Staff reviewed KCB's financial records for the 2005-2006 grant year and have found that all of the District's funds were used on legitimate tire collection activities. This year, KCB has submitted a request that the District allow 10% of the grant award to be used for administration. Staff is inclined to recommend that this request be granted due to the fact that there are in fact administrative costs associated with

this program which are in excess of the costs associated with the remainder of the Great American Clean-up and Make a Difference Day. In addition, bringing the tire collections in-house would almost certainly cost more, from an administrative perspective, than the amount the District is being asked to commit to KCB.

***Staff Recommendation:** Staff recommends that the Policy Committee award a grant to Keep Cincinnati Beautiful in the amount of \$25,000 for the implementation of tire collection activities in Hamilton County during 2005-2006. Staff also recommends that not more than \$2,500 of this amount be permitted to be spent on administrative costs directly related to the implementation of the tire collection events.*

## **B. Recycling Cart Pilot Program**

The District solicited sealed bids for wheeled recycling carts. The bids were opened on July 6. The purpose of accepting these bids was to initiate a pilot project with the City of Cincinnati in order to test the ability of wheeled carts to improve the results of recycling programs using every-other-week collection. With the City of Cincinnati's switch back to weekly collection, however, the District must re-evaluate the need for and logistics of the pilot project.

District staff feels there would still be tremendous benefit to conducting this pilot program – even in an environment with weekly collection. Not only do carts generally decrease litter and improve customer satisfaction – but experience shows that carts also improve program performance and participation rates. With that said, however, the District has several options as it relates to the pilot program:

- A. Abandon the pilot program.
- B. Continue the pilot program within the City of Cincinnati to examine the potential for carts to improve program performance in an every week collection environment.
- C. Expand the pilot program by limiting the number of pilot routes in the City of Cincinnati and looking for other community partners throughout Hamilton County which may allow the District to test other program variables.

***Staff Recommendation:** Staff recommends that the District continue with this pilot program, at some level, within the City of Cincinnati. Staff would recommend, however, that other communities be consulted to determine whether other programmatic variables could be tested by shifting some of the pilot routes to another political subdivision within Hamilton County. If staff is unable to locate other willing communities with different programmatic variables, then staff would recommend that the entire pilot be conducted within the City of Cincinnati.*

## **C. OEPA Comments on District Plan Submission (Attachment C)**

The District received comments from OEPA relating to the submission of its Solid Waste Management Plan Update. The most significant comment stems from OEPA's uncertainty regarding the amount of yard waste collected by a specific entity within the District. Staff is

working with both the entity involved and with OEPA to determine whether it will be possible to provide enough information to satisfy OEPA's concerns.

If, in fact, the District is unable to provide this information, it may be possible that OEPA would require the District to pursue the "Access" goal. The Access goal requires that the District demonstrate that 90% of Hamilton County's population has the opportunity to recycle. This is proven through the application of a formula where each individual piece of recycling infrastructure within the County provides the District with a certain amount of credit towards "Access". For example, each full-time recycling drop-off provides the District with access credit for 5,000 people. Non-subscription curbside programs, within a city, provide credit for everyone living within that particular community, etc. One of the main benefits of the access program is that it relieves the District of the burden of attempting to show compliance with the percentage goal. District funds are spent providing infrastructure, and recycling opportunities, as opposed to "number-chasing". At the same time, however, the access credit formula may be impractical in some cases and thus may cause an inefficient allocation of resources. For example, the District may be required to place several recycling drop-offs in areas where it does not make sense to do so.

Staff is currently in the process of evaluating the options available to the District as it relates to this issue. If, in fact, the District is unable to come to an agreement with OEPA on the District's yard waste numbers, it may still be possible to achieve Access in a manner which conforms with most of the priorities and initiatives identified by the Policy Committee.

#### **D. District Budget Priorities**

Staff is beginning the process of putting together the District's 2006 Budget. At this point in the meeting, Policy Committee members will have the opportunity to express any thoughts on budget priorities for 2006.

### **V. Information/Discussion Items**

#### **A. Computer Collection Event Results – Future Strategy**

The District's 2005 Computer Collection event occurred on June 4 – June 11 at Technology Recycling Group in Reading. Once again, the District held a successful event with approximately 200 tons of materials being recycled.

At the last Policy Committee meeting, District staff discussed the idea of revising the strategy of this program in light of the changing infrastructure in Hamilton County for managing this material. Staff has since organized a meeting of computer reuse/recycling firms to occur on July 27<sup>th</sup> to discuss this issue. The goal of this meeting, or roundtable, will be to obtain input on how the District can best position its program to be of most use in the community without damaging the ability of other reuse/recycling outlets to operate within the County.

#### **B. HHW Drop-off / Yardwaste Drop-off Results**

During the month of May, the District had 837 attendees at its two HHW drop-off points

and collected approximately 80,000 lbs. of material. This compares to approximately 150 customers in May of 2004 and less than 20,000 lbs of material collected.

Also through May the District has collected approximately 494 tons of yard waste from just over 6,000 cars at the District's drop-off sites. Recently, Anderson Township's Board of Zoning Appeals approved a variance which will allow one of the District's contractors to move their site to Turpin Farms off of Route 32. This will certainly provide more convenient access for Hamilton County residents wishing to use the site.

### **C. District Budget**

Staff is in the process of putting together the District's 2006 Budget. The Budget will be presented at the September Policy Committee meeting.

### **D. Pharmaceuticals**

Dr. Evert requested that the article included as Attachment D be included as a topic on the agenda. The article deals with the fate of prescription drugs on the nation's water supply and is directly related to District HHW programming.

### **E. State Budget**

The State budget recently passed the General Assembly with a \$1.50 increase to the solid waste fee (which will be applied to transfer stations as well as landfills) and a \$1.00 increase in fees on construction and demolition debris facilities. ODNR will receive \$.75 of this \$1.00 which will provide them with approximately \$6 million in annual revenues. Currently, ODNR receives approximately \$11-\$12 million in annual revenues.

### **F. Policy Committee Retreat**

A Policy Committee retreat is set for the date of July 20<sup>th</sup>. Tentative time for the retreat is 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. The purpose of the retreat is to discuss how the Policy Committee works within itself and with staff to effectively fulfill its purpose as a Board. This will not be a typical Policy Committee meeting – nor will specific issues relating to District business be discussed. Staff will provide an update on the scheduling options for that event.

## **VI. Tentative Future Agenda Items**

## **VII. Policy Committee Members' Comments**

## **VIII. Public Comments**

## **IX. Upcoming District Meetings**

The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for September 8, 2005 at 2 pm. The meeting will be held at Environmental Services, 250 William Howard Taft Road.

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