

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF  
THE HAMILTON COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
POLICY COMMITTEE  
January 13, 2005**

**DATE:** January 13, 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  
Tim Ingram, Hamilton County General Health District Representative  
Todd Portune, County Commissioner, Chair  
Larry Riddle, Ex-Officio Member  
Glenn Welling, Public Member

DOES Staff

Jeffrey W. Aluotto, Solid Waste Manager  
Cory Chadwick, Director  
Holly Christmann, Community Outreach Coordinator  
Sarah Dowers, Public Affairs Coordinator  
Ken Edgell, Environmental Administrative Coordinator  
Helen Gaynor, Systems Administrator  
Trevor Griffith, Public Affairs Specialist/Graphic Design  
Christy Kellner, Business Specialist  
Ali Khodadad, Operations Coordinator  
Susan Schumacher, Administrative Secretary, Clerk

Others In Attendance

Nee Fong Chin, Hamilton County Prosecutor's Office  
Brian DePeel, Environmental Enterprises, Inc.  
Karl Graham, Resident  
Tiffaney Hardy, City of Cincinnati  
Alice Kennedy, Resident  
Tom McCabe, Environmental Enterprises, Inc.  
Dave Nutini, Hamilton County General Health District  
Bob Orr, CSI Waste

**ABSENT:** Policy Committee Members

Bernie Fiedeldey, Township Representative

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Portune called the meeting to order at 2:10 pm. Mr. Portune stated that he was thankful to his two colleagues on the County Commission who saw fit to entrust him to a leadership role with the Policy Committee for another term.

Mr. Portune welcomed Ms. Holston as the new member of the Policy Committee.

**II. CLERK'S REPORT**

**A. Approval of Minutes - November 10, 2004**

Mr. Welling stated that he was not present at the November 10, 2004 meeting. After this correction was made Dr. Evert moved to approve the minutes; Mr. DiPuccio seconded. All were in favor and the minutes were approved.

**B. Additions/Changes to the Agenda**

-Under Informational Items - Rumpke Expansion Permit Update

-Table "Community Host Fees" since Mr. Fiedeldej was called away and was not available for the meeting.

**III. DISTRICT REVENUE UPDATE**

Mr. Aluotto stated that Attachment B reflected revenue through the end of November and revenue is very comparable to 2003; approximately a \$25,000 increase compared to 2004. The main difference being, there was a small increase in out-of-district waste and out-of-state waste.

Mr. Portune asked if there was a way to tell what accounted for these sort of fluctuations. Mr. Aluotto stated that the District tries to do this at the end of the year with the landfill's annual report that is submitted to OEPA. Mr. Riddle stated that if the Committee wanted specific information, a query could be done and that information could be pulled.

Mr. Ingram asked why there was not information for December. Mr. Aluotto stated that traditionally, year-to-date was shown; not year to month but it would be changed to reflect December. Mr. Khodadad stated that December's revenue was approximately \$208,000 which is very similar to 2003. After a brief discussion, Mr. DiPuccio requested a presentation detailing this at the next meeting.

Mr. Portune entertained a motion to accept the financial report as presented. Ms. Holston moved; Mr. Welling seconded. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

**IV. POLICY ITEMS**

**A. Residential Reduction Assistance Grants**

Mr. Aluotto discussed background information relating to these grants and turned the discussion over to Ms. Christmann.

Ms. Christmann stated that the District received over \$182,000 in requested funding with only \$100,000 being available. Nine applications were received and the District is recommending funding for 6 of these based on the following criteria: 1) Amount of waste diverted, 2) Cost effectiveness of the project, and 3) If the project was in line with District goals. Attachment C of the Policy Packet outlined the potential grantees. Ms. Christmann briefly discussed each project and stated the reasons why they were recommended for funding or not recommended for funding. Ms. Christmann stated that Forest Park, Springfield Township were partially cut, and Whitewater Township was not recommended for funding because of the tire clean-up aspects in their grant application. Ms. Christmann stated that currently in the District's budget, there was already tire clean-up funding and these funds could be used for these communities to conduct tire clean-ups on their own.

Mr. Portune asked for clarification regarding the tire clean-up funding aspect of the District's budget. Ms. Christmann stated that the District funds Keep Cincinnati Beautiful \$25,000 to initiate the tire collection portion of the District's Plan. The District and Keep Cincinnati Beautiful will work together to place tire dumpsters in communities that have a high number of old tires like Whitewater Township.

Mr. Portune stated that Whitewater Township is trying to make an effort to clean-up its tires and asked if there was a way to consider being helpful to the township. Mr. Aluotto stated that regardless of the township receiving grant funding or a dumpster from Keep Cincinnati Beautiful, it will have the same

end result as it relates to tires. They will not, however, receive funding for metals and white goods as they have had in years past.

Mr. Ingram asked if there was any unused funding from 2004. Ms. Christmann stated that the District was currently processing the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter reports to see if any grantees owed the District funding back.

Mr. DiPuccio asked if the Work Resource Center contract could include language that states Nu-Blend be advertised as well.

Mr. Welling stated that according to his math, there was approximately \$7,000 left over from the original \$100,000. The Committee asked if this money could be used to fund Whitewater Township for the metals/white goods portion of their grant. Mr. Aluotto concurred.

Dr. Evert suggested that any residual funding be used for the HHW program.

Mr. Portune stated that he would entertain a motion to amend the Staff recommendation to include an appropriation for Whitewater Township for a Residential Reduction Assistance Grant in an amount equal to the cost of their white goods/metals program which is believed to be less than \$9,062. Mr. Ingram motioned to approve; Mr. DiPuccio seconded. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

Mr. Portune stated that as Dr. Evert proposed, that if there are any dollars remaining and unallocated 2005 District residential reduction assistance grant program, those dollars be made available to the HHW program. Dr. Evert so moved; Mr. DiPuccio seconded. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

Mr. Portune stated that he would entertain a motion to approve the recommendations for the 2005 District Grant as amended. Mr. Welling moved; Ms. Holston seconded. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

**B. Solid Waste District Grant Review Committee**

Mr. Aluotto stated that in years past, District Staff have been primarily responsible for the review of grants submitted through the Residential Reduction Assistance Grant Program. Staff feels that a more preferable option to this approach would be to establish a District grant review committee that would be composed of District staff and other communities/organizations throughout the County. Mr. Aluotto discussed the program in more detail and stated that the Staff recommendation would be *that the Policy Committee approve the formation of a Hamilton County Grant Review Subcommittee and that 12 individuals be solicited for appointment to said committee. During any given grant year, 5 individuals, including one member of District Staff, evaluate residential and non-profit grants for recommendation to the Policy Committee and Board of County Commissioners.*

Mr. Portune asked Mr. Aluotto if there have been complaints. Mr. Aluotto stated no, but Staff does work so closely with individual staff people from communities who submit these grants and by nature, Staff works closer with some communities than others.

Mr. Welling suggested forming a subcommittee from the Policy Committee and Dr. Evert suggested using the Environmental Action Commission, which is an environmental advisory council or a citizens review.

After discussion, Mr. Portune asked Mr. Aluotto to present a detailed analysis of why the District needs this committee so the Policy Committee could discuss in more detail. Mr. Aluotto agreed.

**C. Household Hazardous Waste - Pilot Program Continuation**

Mr. Aluotto introduced Mr. DePeel and Mr. McCabe with Environmental Enterprises and provided background information relating to the District's Pilot 2004 HHW Program. Mr. Aluotto stated that the program was budgeted to continue in 2005 with a few modifications. Mr. Aluotto discussed the overall success of the program and following are modifications to the program as included in the Staff recommendation:

1. Number of Sites: Allow participants to utilize EEI's northern site on Cincinnati-Dayton Road
2. Days of Operation: Operate sites on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. One weekday would be open during evenings.
3. Elderly/Disabled Pick-Up: Implement a fully subsidized pick-up for the elderly or disabled.
4. Acceptable Materials: Until District Staff obtains a usable estimate on the number of smoke detectors which might be brought to the sites, it is recommended that smoke detectors not be accepted.
5. Vouchers: District Staff recommends that the voucher requirement be eliminated for the 2005 pilot program. The voucher element was a necessary cost savings and information gathering tool in 2004. However, the demands placed upon Staff were excessive in relation to the benefits received. It will still be possible to gather appropriate information in other ways.

Mr. Aluotto discussed each recommendation and identified reasons why each recommendation was made. Recommendations #1 and #5 have the potential to increase participation at the sites. In 2004, the District spent \$61,000 of its \$100,000 on the program. Therefore, these recommendations are contingent upon the Policy Committee's willingness to utilize carry-over funds to supplement the pilot program if necessary.

A question and answer session/discussion ensued by the Policy Committee. Mr. Aluotto addressed the Policy Committee's questions and discussed specifics regarding the program. Mr. DiPuccio asked Staff to look into smoke detectors more because if this program is to continue, it may expand on the items accepted.

Mr. Aluotto stated that Staff and EEI have begun discussing the potential of opening up the program to conditionally exempt small quantity generators (businesses, organizations, etc. that have HHW that are exempt from RCRA requirements but who still need to manage the material. Mr. Aluotto briefly discussed general conditions for this program.

After discussion, Mr. Portune entertained a motion to approve the Staff Recommendations. Dr. Evert moved, Mr. Welling and Mr. DiPuccio seconded. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

Mr. Portune thanked EEI for their work involved in the Pilot Program

**D. County Administration Building Recycling Program**

Mr. Aluotto stated that Staff have been assisting the Probation Department and County Facilities with the operation of the recycling program in the County Administration Building. In the past, Probation has performed all of the collection activities for this program. Recently, the Probation Department has had to reduce the time they are able to commit to collecting materials. As such, Facilities has asked its cleaning vendor for a quote to include recycling in with normal waste collection during its house-keeping operations. This will cost \$8,513.88 for the entire year.

Mr. Aluotto stated that Staff was recommending that the District commit to funding the recycling program in the County Administration Building for one year and re-evaluate the program at that time.

After discussion, Mr. Portune asked Mr. Aluotto to provide additional information to the Policy Committee and that this item be tabled until the March 10, 2005 meeting.

V. **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

A. **Environmental Preferable Purchasing (EPP) Program**

Mr. Aluotto stated that the District recently received a request to utilize the District's inter-departmental EPP grant fund to replace carpeting in the Board of Commissioners/County Administrator's meeting room. District Staff will be working with County Facilities to ensure that the existing carpet is recycled as opposed to landfilled and that the new carpeting is recycled-content. Mr. Aluotto reminded the Committee that \$25,000 of the budget is allocated for pilot projects relating to EPP. Approximately \$5,000 will be used for this project and a plaque will be displayed describing materials, etc.

B. **HB 432 - Construction & Demolition Debris Landfills**

Mr. Aluotto stated that HB 432 will provide a funding mechanism for Health Departments to inspect and monitor the groundwater of construction and demolition debris landfills and has passed the House and Senate. The bill is now awaiting the Governor's signature and will take effect 90 days after signature.

A brief discussion ensued.

C. **Re-TRAC**

Mr. Aluotto stated that Staff is beginning the process of developing a web-based recycling database called Re-TRAC, to compile and post recycling data/information from each Hamilton County community. When complete, recycling program information from each community will be publicly available on the District's website. The database will allow programs to be compared on the basis of multiple variables and will eventually allow on-line reporting of recycling information. The program will allow for easy, one-step, analysis of program information which currently requires hours of staff time to research and calculate. This database subscription will cost approximately \$3,000/year. The District will be one of the first communities in the nation to maintain a database of this kind. Mr. Aluotto stated that Staff would keep the Policy Committee updated on this item.

A brief question/answer session ensued.

D. **Waste Assessments**

Mr. Aluotto stated in the past, Staff would conduct waste assessments for businesses/industry. Mr. Aluotto reminded the Policy Committee that this was the first year that the Policy Committee has allocated \$10,000 for waste assessments. District Staff will be developing a Request for Qualifications and Proposals for a firm to conduct the assessments. The RFP will be written so as to encourage innovative proposals; especially those that base compensation on program results. Mr. Aluotto stated that he would keep the Policy Committee informed regarding what types of proposals are received.

E. **Rumpke Expansion Permit Update**

Mr. Aluotto stated that Rumpke has received their solid waste permit for the southern expansion on December 29, 2004. This permit will provide Rumpke with 15 - 17 years of additional capacity.

Mr. Riddle stated that what has been in press releases is 10 years capacity which would mean Rumpke accepting 10,000 tons per day for the life of the site. Realistically, established trends indicate that Rumpke has approximately 13 - 15 years depending on waste diversion and accepted tons per day.

A brief question/answer session occurred.

**VII. TENTATIVE FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Grant Review Committee, Community Host Fees, County Administration Recycling Program.

**VIII. POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERS' COMMENTS**

Mr. Welling stated that given that there are three new members on the Board in the past year, wondered if would be beneficial to the board, to meet and discuss how the Board can best function in order to most effectively meet the mission of the District. Mr. Portune stated that he appreciated the suggestion and that this could be helpful to any organization. The Policy Committee concurred on Mr. Welling's suggestion. Mr. Welling stated that he would have a proposal in advance of the next meeting.

Dr. Evert asked about the "Recycling News & Trends" binder that was given to each Policy Committee member. Mr. Aluotto stated that as District Staff reads articles of interest as it relates to the solid waste industry, hole punched, tabbed copies will be available for each member to update the binder.

Mr. Aluotto brought up the draft Policy Committee Manual that was distributed to members at the November meeting and explained what the manual was. Mr. Aluotto asked members to submit comments to him on the manual.

**IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments at this time.

**X. UPCOMING DISTRICT MEETINGS**

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

Work Session (Brainstorming; policy suggestions, routes the District can go to dramatically increase or enhance recycling rates, etc. and HHW)- Thursday, February 24, 2005 at the Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services, 250 William Howard Taft Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45219 from Noon - 4 pm.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 3:56 pm .