

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE HAMILTON COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
July 14, 2005**

DATE: July 14, 2005

TIME: 2:00 pm

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

PRESENT: Policy Committee Members

Dr. Carl Evert, General Interest Member
Bernie Fiedeldej, Township Representative
Deborah Holston, Representative of Largest Municipality/ Tiffany Hardy, City of Cincinnati
Todd Portune, County Commissioner, Chair
Larry Riddle, Ex-Officio Member
Glenn Welling, Public Member

DOES Staff

Jeff Aluotto, Solid Waste Program Manager
Cory Chadwick, Director
Holly Christmann, Assistant Program Manager
Sarah Dowers, Public Affairs Coordinator
Ken Edgell, Environmental Administrative Coordinator
Trevor Griffith, Public Affairs
Ali Khodadad, Operations Coordinator
Susan Schumacher, Administrative Secretary, Clerk

Others In Attendance

Chuck DeJonckheere, Hamilton County General Health District
Kerry Crossen, Keep Cincinnati Beautiful
Gayla Epure, Resident
Pamela Green, Work Resource Center/Building Value
Alice Kennedy, Resident
Bob Orr, CSI
Tom Turchiano, Rumpke

ABSENT: Policy Committee Members

Tony DiPuccio, Generator Representative
Tim Ingram, Hamilton County General Health District Representative

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Portune called the meeting to order at 2:07 pm.

II. CLERK'S REPORT

A. Additions/Changes to the Agenda

-There were no additions to the agenda.

B. Approval of Minutes – May 12, 2005

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

III. DISTRICT REVENUE UPDATE

Mr. Aluotto stated that revenues were down approximately \$50,000 compared to last year which is not a trend but is something to keep an eye on. The issue has been discussed with Rumpke and some of the special waste

jobs which typically start earlier in the year may have been late starting. A brief discussion involving trends/special waste ensued.

Mr. Portune entertained a motion to approve the revenue report. Mr. Fiedeldey moved; Mr. Welling seconded. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

IV. Presentation – Work Resource Center

Mr. Aluotto introduced Pam Green from the Work Resource Center and discussed the history of grant funding allocations to the Work Resource Center over the past few years.

Ms. Green stated that the Work Resource Center – Building Value was a building materials re-use center on Gilbert Avenue. Ms. Green discussed the history of Building Value and what they do. Ms. Green stated that with the \$25,000 grant awarded from the District, they were able to buy television advertising and their sales have increased by 40% from April-May and from May-June increased another 18%.

Ms. Green discussed some of Building Value’s goals for the upcoming year such as whole building deconstruction. Dr. Evert gave Ms. Green information relating to some area schools that were to be demolished. Ms. Green stated that she would follow-up on it.

Mr. Portune thanked Ms. Green for the report and suggested that Staff work with the Work Resource Center and write a white paper that identifies general proposals that the Policy Committee may consider for adoption or recommendations to other governmental bodies. Ms. Holston stated that she would like to assist Staff with the white paper.

Mr. Fiedeldey and Ms. Holston gave Ms. Green contact information regarding other planned projects for her to follow-up on.

IV. POLICY ITEMS

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

Mr. Aluotto stated that the District had allocated \$25,000 to Keep Cincinnati Beautiful in order to fund tire collection events in the Fall of 2004 and the Spring of 2005. The total number of tires collected was 13,270 and approximately 15 Hamilton County communities participated (outside of the City of Cincinnati).

Mr. Aluotto stated that the Plan does state that funding for the tire collection be available annually. Keep Cincinnati Beautiful’s Executive Director approached the District to ask if the District would be inclined to allow them to spend up to 10% of the \$25,000 grant for administration relating to staff in planning the event.

Mr. Aluotto stated from a Staff perspective, he is inclined to recommend that Keep Cincinnati Beautiful be allowed to use up to 10% of the \$25,000 for administration. Mr. Aluotto stated that from the District doing similar events, if the District would bring this program back in-house, it would cost the District more than the original \$25,000 on advertising, staff time, etc.

The Policy Committee discussed the issue and it was the consensus of the committee not to fund KCB the requested \$2,500 but to continue to fund KCB the \$25,000 for the tire collection program. The Policy Committee agreed that the \$2,500 being requested was arbitrary and KCB staff would be getting paid anyway even without working on the tire clean-up program. Mr. Portune entertained a motion to approve a grant award to Keep Cincinnati Beautiful for \$25,000 for the purpose of tire collection activities in Hamilton County for 2005-2006. Ms. Holston moved; Mr. Fiedeldey seconded. All were in

favor and the motion was approved. It was agreed that the issue would be revisited at the September meeting after further conversation with Keep Cincinnati Beautiful.

B. Recycling Cart Pilot Program

Mr. Aluotto stated that initially, the cart program was going to be tested because the City of Cincinnati was going to change the frequency of collection for recyclables. The City had forwarded a grant request to the District to purchase additional bins and a pilot project to do cart based recycling in the City. The City has since reinstated weekly curbside collection.

Mr. Aluotto stated that he feels that the future of recycling will be cart-based throughout the country due to an efficiency standpoint, quantity standpoint, litter prevention standpoint, ergonomic standpoint, etc. Currently, there is no community in Hamilton County experiencing with cart-based recycling.

Mr. Aluotto stated that the Staff Recommendation was to move forward with the pilot program in one of two ways. 1) Continue with the City of Cincinnati using three pilot routes 2) Proceed with the City with one or two pilot routes but also test cart-based recycling out into Hamilton County. Mr. Aluotto elaborated on each point.

Mr. Aluotto explained how the cart program would work in different communities and discussed the program variables that would be tested. The Policy Committee discussed specifics regarding the cart program.

Ms. Holston stated that the grant from the District to the City was \$60,000 and it looked like all of the funding would not be used and asked what would happen to the remaining funds. Mr. Aluotto stated that it would be up to the Policy Committee. Either the difference would just not be used or the pilot could be expanded to the degree that all of the \$60,000 be used. Mr. Portune stated that he would prefer to see all of the \$60,000 used in order to obtain the maximum number of variables from as many different communities in Hamilton County so the Policy Committee and Staff can make informed decisions in the future. A brief question and answer session ensued regarding the program and making the program consistent.

Mr. Portune entertained a motion to continue the recycling cart pilot program at the \$60,000 level including one route in the City of Cincinnati and as many other routes throughout Hamilton County as can be negotiated and done within that budgeted amount. The nature of the pilot program to be developed by Staff, but to be consistent in every route that is a participant in the pilot and to maximize on the number of variables. Mr. Fiedelvey moved; Dr. Evert seconded. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

C. OEPA Comments on District Plan Submission

Mr. Aluotto stated that Ms. Christmann, Ms. Luken, and himself met with OEPA planners yesterday. The District received approximately 20 pages of comments, which is very minimal for OEPA's plan review section. Mr. Aluotto stated most of the comments are technical in nature and Staff is in the process of revising the Plan to agree with what OEPA had requested.

Mr. Aluotto stated that there was one comment that Staff will be working with for some time. The comment deals with OEPA's discomfort with some of the yardwaste numbers that the District had surveyed and reported to OEPA. OEPA is concerned with one Hamilton County entity's composting tonnages which are above the norm for what is typically reported in a county the size of Hamilton.

OEPA is comfortable in terms of the District making every intent to verify the reported numbers. In the meeting with OEPA, the District suggested that OEPA verify the yardwaste numbers and OEPA has

agreed. Mr. Portune asked for clarification. Mr. Aluotto stated that Evans Landscaping had reported roughly 300,000 tons of yardwaste being recycled at their facility and from a statewide and national perspective, OEPA's thoughts are that this amount far exceeds the amount that is being reported from any other composting operation throughout the state from a per capita basis and from any other region of the country or the state. The District has met with Evans Landscaping several times and they have stood by those numbers each time so OEPA has agreed to meet with Evans.

Mr. Aluotto stated that if the Evans Landscaping numbers are discounted by OEPA, then OEPA would be strongly encouraging the District to go to another mechanism for meeting the state goal which is referred to as the access goal. Mr. Aluotto briefly explained what the access goal was compared to the percentage goal which is what the District currently uses for meeting the state goal. Mr. Aluotto stated that there was a supplement to the Policy Packet in front of the Policy Committee explaining the access goal.

Mr. Fiedeldej asked if the District was still not receiving credit for backyard composting. Mr. Aluotto stated that backyard composting credit was discussed with OEPA and they are willing to work with the District on some sort of formula that would take into account the amount, an industry standard for backyard bin, together with a survey of residents in terms of who is using and who is not. Mr. Aluotto also stated that in OEPA's view, the District is already receiving credit for backyard composting in that it is not counted in the District's generation numbers. Mr. Aluotto explained OEPA's formula for figuring Hamilton County's recycling rate.

Mr. Aluotto stated that although no action was required today, he did want to keep the committee apprised of the situation and stated that Staff wanted to have the Plan out for ratification in early 2006. Depending what happens with the Evans numbers, it may call for supplemental meetings to deal with that issue from a policy issue.

D. District Budget Priorities

Mr. Aluotto stated that District Staff is currently putting the budget together for 2006 and Staff will be requesting from Policy Members' input (priorities, items to consider, etc.).

IV. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Mr. Portune suggested to accept the informational items as outlined in the Manager's Memo unless Staff wanted to give any sort of updates. Mr. Aluotto gave an update regarding the computer recycling collection program, HHW update and the yardwaste drop-off site in Anderson Township.

Dr. Evert stated that last night, a public hearing was held where residents had an opportunity to try and guide the city in the selection of the new health commissioner. A great deal of conversation centered around hiring a health commissioner who understood public health issues as it relates to the pharmaceutical attachment from the policy packet. Dr. Evert believes it is a growing issue and needs to be monitored.

Mr. Welling stated that the Policy Committee received a draft agenda and a Bio for Don Lacy (facilitator) for the retreat on July 20, 2005. Mr. Welling reiterated his original thoughts in holding the retreat and briefly discussed the proposed agenda. Mr. Portune thanked Mr. Welling for all his work in putting together the retreat on behalf of the Policy Committee.

V. TENTATIVE FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no tentative 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, September 1, 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 3:28 pm .