

**Approved MINUTES OF A
HAMILTON COUNTY SOLID WASTE
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
In person & Zoom**

DATE: March 15, 2023

TIME: 3:00 p.m.

PLACE: Hamilton County Environmental Services
250 William Howard Taft Road, 1st Floor
Cincinnati, Ohio 45219

[Virtual meeting recording can be viewed here.](#)

PRESENT: **Policy Committee Members**

Tony DiPuccio, Generator Representative
Denise Driehaus, County Commissioner, Chair
Greg Kesterman, Hamilton County Public Health Commissioner
Sue Magness, Largest Municipality Representative
Domonique Peebles, General Interest Member
Matt Wahlert, Township Representative

Staff

Christin Badinghaus, Business Specialist, R3Source
Michelle Balz, Solid Waste Manager, R3Source
Gage Bradford, Community Specialist, R3Source
Mary Copenbaker, Assistant Solid Waste Manager
Ashley Dove, Financial Analyst, Department of Environmental Services
Brad Johnson, Director, Department of Environmental Services
Cher Mohring, Community Outreach Coordinator, R3Source
Elise Roalef, Outreach Specialist, R3Source
Tony Staubach, Food Waste Diversion Coordinator, R3Source

Others in Attendance

Jill Claire
513-484-1246
Debbie Kastens, Ditch the Dump
Nee Fong Chin, Prosecutor's Office
Becca Costello, WVXU
Sally Dannemiller, Sierra Club – Miami Group
Craig Davidson, Hamilton County Public Health
Chuck DeJonckheere, Hamilton County Public Health
Dean Ferrier, Rumpke
Bob Gedert
Matt Hittle, Ohio EPA
Marie Kocoshis, League of Women Voters
Oliver Kroner, Office of Environment and Sustainability, Cincinnati
Tim Mara, Oxbow
Deputy Bryan Peak, Hamilton County Sheriff's Office

Matt Tietsort
Kevin Tighe, Hamilton County
Declan Tom, Cincinnati CM Jeffreys
Celeste Treece, Common Strategies
Lisa Wynn
Molly Yeager, Rumpke

Policy Committee Member Absent:

Colleen McSwiggin, Public Member

1. INTRODUCTION

Ms. Driehaus called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

2. PROCLAMATION FOR BOB GEDERT

Ms. Driehaus read a Proclamation recognizing Mr. Gedert for his years of service. Mr. Gedert thanked everyone and wished them the best.

3. CLERK'S REPORT

Ms. Driehaus entertained a motion to approve the January 18, 2023 minutes. Mr. Wahlert moved to approve the minutes; Ms. Magness seconded. Everyone in favor and the minutes were approved.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Four public comments were given.

5. R3SOURCE REVENUE UPDATES/ANALYSIS

Ms. Balz gave a summary of the revenue report.

6. POLICY ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

a. Vice Chair for Policy Committee

Ms. Balz explained the role of the Vice Chair for Policy Committee is to run the meetings in the absence of the Chair. Commissioner Kesterman moved to nominate and vote Matt Wahlert as Vice Chair of the Policy Committee; Mr. DiPuccio seconded. Everyone in favor; Mr. Wahlert agreed to serve and abstained from the vote. Nomination and vote was approved.

b. Hamilton County Solid Waste Plan Update

i. Plan Update Timeline

Ms. Balz reviewed past, current, and future timelines based on two ratification date scenarios (March vs May). After a ninety-day ratification period, the Plan is then submitted to Ohio EPA for final approval. All Committee Member questions were answered.

Ms. Driehaus would like to hold off voting on the ratification date until all Plan updates have been presented today.

ii. Plan Update Changes – Attachment C

Ms. Balz reviewed all the Plan changes from public input and Ohio EPA feedback that were received. Full details are in the meeting packet. Ms. Balz answered all Committee Member questions.

Committee gave feedback to add multi-family and residential to make the language clearer.

Committee gave feedback to add “organics, **including post-consumer**,...” to Chapter 5, Page 29 and to change midterm review from 2026 to 2025 for the organic piece to help accelerate that process.

It was decided to strike “compost” in favor of the broader “organics processing” from the feasibility study to expand options.

Multifamily units that offer recycling are published on the website to inform consumers and to motivate other landlords to offer recycling. Still looking for a 20 unit or larger multifamily landlord to pilot a recycling program. Cost is just one of the barriers.

There will still be awards, but there will not be an awards program.

On the financial analysis, the budget for household hazardous waste was increased from \$50K to \$200K. Plans are to leverage partners in the community and costs were adjusted accordingly.

Ms. Driehaus pointed out that fee increases are not part of this financial analysis. And having smaller events around the community makes access more equitable to all residents.

To help increase community participation, Ms. Magness would like to get to having a free drop off location year around (and keep doing special collection events too). Ms. Balz explained there is not a current vendor to do year-round collection and the curbside collection proposals have been very expensive.

The five community sites this year will be a pilot project. Also looking to fire houses to be a lithium battery collection site; those are the biggest fire starter.

Mr. Wahlert explained consumer habits over the last five years have changed.

Ms. Balz explained the county has never owned a composting facility, but the Siting Strategy includes options to buy the land and establishes a process. Mr. DiPuccio requested to change “**food waste** processing facility” to “**organics**.”

Ms. Balz will incorporate all the changes.

iii. Plan Update Ratification

Committee Members discussed the ratification date timing. Ms. Balz stated that all public comments have been addressed. Ms. Driehaus asked Ms. Balz to share all public input with Committee Members.

After discussion, it was decided to poll for a meeting date in early May to vote to initiate the ratification period to keep the Plan on schedule. Ms. Balz will conduct the meeting date poll.

7. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

a. Waste Reduction Innovation Grant Update – Attachment D

Two grant proposals were selected for funding: The City of Wyoming and Civic Garden Center. Full details are in the meeting packet.

8. UPCOMING DISTRICT MEETINGS

The next Policy Committee meeting will be May 1, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. at Hamilton County Environmental Services, 250 William Howard Taft Road, 1st Floor, Cincinnati, Ohio 45219.

9. ADJOURNMENT (Target Time – 4:30 p.m.)

Ms. Driehaus entertained a motion to adjourn. Mr. Wahlert moved. Ms. Magness seconded. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 4:21 p.m.