

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

DATE: May 1, 2023

TIME: 3:00 pm

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
Sue Magness, Largest Municipality Representative
Colleen McSwiggen, Public Member
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
Ashley Dove, Financial Analyst, Department of Environmental Services
Mike Kramer, Assistant Director, Department of Environmental Services
Brad Johnson, Director, Department of Environmental Services
Elise Roalef, Outreach Specialist, R3Source

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Nee Fong Chin, Hamilton County Prosecutor
Becca Costello, WVXU
Sally Dannemiller, Sierra Club, Miami Group
Dean Ferrier, Rumpke
Tim Mara, Oxbow
Kevin Tighe, Hamilton County
Marie Kokoshis

VIRTUAL:

Sam Dunlap
Matt Tietsort
Molly Yeager

Craig Davidson
Oliver Kroner
Carrie Davis
Matt Hittle
Tom Declan
John Seymour
Holly Christmann
M. Ackenhausen

1. INTRODUCTION

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

2. MINUTES

Approval of the minutes from March 15, 2023. Ms. Driehaus entertained a motion to approve the March 15, 2023 minutes. On motion of Ms. Magness, seconded by Ms. McSwiggen the minutes were approved unanimously.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS: Four public comments were given.

4. R3SOURCE REVENUE UPDATES/ANALYSIS

Ms. Balz provided an overview of Attachment B.

5. POLICY ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

a. USDA Composting and Food Waste Reduction Cooperative Agreement

Ms. Balz provided the update. They are working with Cheryl Floyd, Hamilton County Grants Coordinator, to assist in writing the grant. The grant is available for up to \$400,000.00 with a 25% match. Ms. Balz would like to partner with Adams/Clermont Solid Waste District because they applied for this grant last year and were unsuccessful. They are working with three sites- Miami Twp, Lincoln Heights, and Milford. Next step is to go to those communities' elected bodies to get their support before applying. Today, Ms. Balz is requesting support from the Committee to apply for up to the maximum. All Committee Members' questions were answered.

Ms. Driehaus entertained a motion to approve R3Source staff applying for up to a \$400,000 request with a \$100,000 match. On motion of Mr. Wahlert, seconded by Mr. DiPuccio, the agreement was approved unanimously.

b. Cincinnati Parks and Great Parks Biochar Pilot Project

Ms. Balz provided update. The parks project received a grant from the Bloomberg Foundation to create biochar. Mr. Sam Dunlap provided some background on the biochar project. The project will take woody waste from the parks department and turn it into biochar and then utilize it for various city projects – tree planting in particular per the 2020 Urban Tree Canopy Assessment.

They just closed on the RFP for the technology portion of the project. The selection for the vendor is tomorrow. Ms. Driehaus would like to have additional discussion at the next meeting regarding the funding/match of the project and if the committee has a role in this. Mr. DiPuccio asked for breakdown of costs to also be included in the next meeting discussion.

c. Hamilton County Solid Waste Plan Update

i. Plan Update Timeline

There will be a 90-day period for communities to ratify the plan. R3Source will need the Board of County Commissioners' and the City of Cincinnati's approval. They will then send it to EPA for their approval and January 2024 the new plan will start. All of the committee members' questions were answered.

ii. Changes to the Plan Update

Att. C– Ms. Balz reviewed the plan changes. Full details are in the meeting packet. All committee members' questions were answered.

iii. Trustee Wahlert Proposal

Att. D- Trustee Wahlert proposed an amendment to the Draft Solid Waste Plan that 1) proposed to increase the out-of-district fees by \$0.75 from \$2.00 to \$2.75 and 2) proposes distributing those funds to Hamilton County communities based on population to spend on waste reduction activities. After discussion, Ms. Driehaus would like to revisit the language at a later date. Ms. Driehaus entertained a motion to approve the proposal. On motion of Mr. Wahlert, seconded by Mr. Peebles, the proposal failed due to majority opposition. Ms. Magness abstained. FOR: 2, AGAINST: 4, ABSTAIN: 1

iv. Plan Update Ratification

The current timeline includes the Policy Committee initiating ratification on May 1, 2023 to stay on schedule. Ms. Driehaus entertained a motion to approve the Plan Update Ratification. On motion of Mr. Wahlert, seconded by Mr. Kesterman, the Plan Update Ratification was approved unanimously.

6. Informational Items

a. 2020 Innovation Grant Final Report Wrap Up - Att. E

Overview of the projects funded in 2020 with results from their final wrap up report. Fourteen projects were funded and despite challenges from the pandemic in 2020, most were successful.

b. Waste Reduction Innovation Grant Selection Summary – Att. F

City of Reading Outdoor/ Public Space Recycling – Grant and matching funds will be used to purchase outdoor recycling bins and garbage cans for public spaces. Matching funds will also be used for recycling hauling.

7. UPCOMING MEETING

The next scheduled Policy Committee Meeting will be on Wednesday, July 19, 2023, at 1:30 p.m. at Hamilton County Environmental Services, 250 William Howard Taft, 1st Floor, Cincinnati, Ohio 45219.

Zoom will be available for people other than the Policy Committee, who would like to attend virtually.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Driehaus entertained a motion to adjourn. On motion of Mr. Kesterman, seconded by Ms. Magness the meeting was adjourned at 4:26 p.m.