

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

DATE: June 15, 2022

TIME: 1:30 p.m.

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

PRESENT: **Policy Committee Members**

Tony DiPuccio, Generator Representative
Denise Driehaus, County Commissioner, Chair
Bob Gedert, Public Member, Vice-Chair
Karen Hurley, General Interest Member
Greg Kesterman, Hamilton County Public Health Representative
Sue Magness, Largest Municipality Representative
Matt Wahlert, Township Representative

Staff

Michelle Balz, Solid Waste Manager
Gage Bradford, Community Specialist
Mary Copenbaker, Business Outreach Coordinator
Elise Erhart, Outreach Specialist
Brad Johnson, Director
Ali Khodadad, Operations Coordinator
Mike Kramer, Assistant Director
Joy Landry, Communications Specialist
Cher Mohring, Outreach Specialist
Susan Schumacher, Assistant Solid Waste Specialist, Clerk
Tony Staubach, Food Waste Diversion Coordinator

Others in Attendance

Nee Fong Chin, Prosecutor's Office
Carrie Davis, Child Advocacy for Jobs & Equity
Dean Ferrier, Rumpke
Matt Hittle, Ohio EPA
Marie Kocoshis
Tim Mara, Oxbow
Gordon Perry, Blue Ash
Kevin Tighe, Hamilton County
Molly Yeager, Rumpke

ABSENT: **Policy Committee Members**

Pierce Bruner, Student Representative

1. INTRODUCTION/OPENING COMMENTS

Ms. Driehaus called the meeting to order at 1:33 pm and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

2. CLERK'S REPORT

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Ms. Driehaus entertained a motion to approve the May 18, 2022 minutes.

Mr. Gedert moved to approve the minutes as corrected; Ms. Hurley seconded. All in favor and the minutes were approved.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

One public comment was given.

4. POLICY COMMITTEE ITEMS

- a. Hamilton County Solid Waste Plan Update
 - i. Appendix I: Conclusions, Actions, and Priorities

Ms. Balz pulled the document up on the screen and summarized. The Committee discussed the document, asked for clarification, and stated that overall, there were good suggestions and good items to include in the workplan for the future. Specifically, the Committee stated the following:

- More emphasis on the Ohio Materials Marketplace
- Use one consultant to create cookie-cutter language for contracts between communities and waste haulers. Mr. Gedert gave examples of where the R3Source could also get the language.
- Ms. Hurley stated that under Table I-1, under Waste Composition, number three, she didn't understand "Work with businesses to minimize the impact of food recovery on core services." Mr. DiPuccio explained what this meant.
- A brief discussion ensued regarding ReTrac and Mr. DiPuccio stated that the overall theme was that we need better data and gave examples.
- Ms. Hurley suggested adding a Master Recycler class to the Multi-Family table to educate one or two residents from a multi-family so they can teach others in the complex about recycling and reuse.

- ii. Financial Analysis

Ms. Balz pulled up the financial analysis on the screen and stated that she thought the main issue was the long-term spending is higher than our long-term projected revenue which causes a spend down in our carry-over balance. Spending levels need to be adjusted over the years to leave at least 8 months carry-over balance.

Ms. Balz stated a way to adjust this would be the Household Hazardous Waste program and discussed ways it could be reduced.

Mr. Gedert stated that the revenue projections should be increased since the revenue is flatlined in the table since USEPA is projecting an increase in per capita waste flows. Mr. DiPuccio asked what population base Mr. Gedert wanted to use. Mr. Gedert stated Hamilton County.

Mr. DiPuccio stated that this would be a basis for increasing District fees that would be coming from in-district waste and not from out-of-district waste and asked how one would project any increases or decreases for out-of-district waste when we don't know the number of people creating out of district waste.

A brief discussion ensued regarding fee structures.

Ms. Driehaus asked how the revenue projections got to where they are now. Mr. Khodadad stated that the last three years were taken and briefly discussed the actual numbers. Mr. Khodadad stated that he likes to project conservatively and the reasons why.

Mr. Gedert suggested ways projections could be done versus flatlining.

The Committee discussed revenues and asked staff to look at the revenues again. Ms. Hurley suggested to include in the Plan that the HHW program is going to be redesigned and meanwhile, do a better job of promoting the permanent outlets.

Ms. Balz stated that she was open on ways to reduce our long-term expenses and if the Committee wants, we can just look at the next five years knowing that in three years we will be doing this process all over again. But she does feel it is pertinent to consider reducing long-term expenses in order to make revenue and expenses align more closely.

Mr. Gedert stated he agrees in stopping the collection and moving to prevention for the HHW program and as a recommendation, involving real estate agents into the prevention and recycling information by including this information in welcome packets for new residents.

Mr. Kesterman asked if we take this recommendation, asked if it solved the budget issue? Ms. Balz stated yes, and that the idea was to take the \$300,000 out and allocate a \$50,000 budget for HHW reduction. Right now, the R3Source spends \$5,000 on HHW reduction so this would be a huge increase.

Ms. Balz stated that in the current Plan, we have a contingency budget which says, if we go over our projected revenue by a predetermined amount. Right now, it says we are going to spend \$100,000 in RRI and if we go over by a predetermined amount, we are going to spend it on an HHW program.

Ms. Balz stated that if we go over by "this much" then we will set aside \$100,000 for HHW but we will need more than \$100,000; at least \$300,000 to do a program. But if we go over by \$300,000, we could do a HHW program.

A brief discussion ensued regarding HHW and reduction.

Ms. Driehaus asked if Ms. Balz needed formal action on this. Ms. Balz stated no.

Ms. Balz stated that there is \$800,000 budgeted for the RRI but we included that contingency budget which says that if we had \$100,000 more than our revenue, we would increase the RRI to \$900,000 and since 2018, we have had \$900,000 for the RRI.

Ms. Balz asked the Committee if they wanted to keep the above. Mr. Gedert concurred. Mr. DiPuccio stated that , the RRI program was intended to provide seed money to get recycling programs started and now it is turning in to providing the individual government entities operating capitol which was never the intent of the program at the same time, it would be difficult to eliminate that because it has become so popular.

Mr. DiPuccio stated that he would like to see the RRI program expand to slash out the residential part and spend more money for commercial and industrial incentives and feels we will get a better bang for our buck and gave an example.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the expansion of the RRI program and the Committee concurred to include in the Plan.

Ms. Magness mentioned that regarding contingencies asked if revenue was lower than anticipated and stated that the Environmental Enforcement Program would be eliminated but she is torn between the value of that program versus advertising. Ms. Magness briefly discussed the efficiency of the enforcement program and advertising.

Mr. DiPuccio stated that he thought the enforcement program was becoming more popular and was beneficial and would like to see an increase in funding. Mr. Gedert agreed and stated that prevention and enforcement worked hand in hand.

iii. Other Solid Waste Plan Update Discussion

Ms. Balz stated to contact her for questions and inclusions.

Mr. Gedert passed out a flyer from U.S. Plastic Pact that showed how they are working on eliminating certain plastics that will be eliminated from production around the world by 2025 so we should not be investing in the promotion of recycling certain plastics that will be eliminated and gave an example.

A brief discussion ensued about plastic film.

Mr. DiPuccio asked Mr. Khodadad to go over the expenditures and briefly talked about inflation after Mr. Khodadad was finished and asked if the figures might be too low. Mr. Khodadad stated in the last recession, we went down in revenue but we also went down in expenditures and he thought inflation was factored into the indirect cost.

Mr. Wahlert agreed and stated three percent was not going to get it with inflation at nine and ten percent. A brief discussion ensued regarding salaries.

b. General Interest Member Position

Ms. Driehaus stated that Ms. Hurley's term is expiring next month. Ms. Hurley is helping to recruit people. Ms. Balz talked about the promotion of the position and also stated that the ORC states that the General Interest member cannot have a conflict with a waste company or a waste generator.

Mr. DiPuccio asked Ms. Balz to look at past applicants.

Ms. Driehaus and Mr. Kesterman will be the interview panel. Mr. Wahlert volunteered to replace Ms. Driehaus. Ms. Driehaus thanked Mr. Wahlert.

10. UPCOMING DISTRICT MEETINGS

The next Policy Committee meetings will be Wednesday, July 20, 2022 at 1:30 p.m. and August 17, 2022 at 3 p.m. at Hamilton County Environmental Services, 250 William Howard Taft Road, 1st Floor, Cincinnati, Ohio 45219.

Ms. Hurley asked about a report regarding progress in coming up with the statement from the grant that was talked about at the last meeting. Ms. Balz stated that because the grant is so large, special financial documentation will be required so this will be on the July meeting's agenda.

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Ms. Driehaus stated she would be at a conference in Denver and would not be at the next meeting.

The June 15 Zoom meeting had some technical difficulties; [only audio is available](#).

11. ADJOURNMENT (Target Time – 3:00 p.m.)

Ms. Driehaus entertained a motion to adjourn. Mr. Hurley moved; Ms. Gedert seconded. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.