

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

DATE: July 20, 2022

TIME: 1:30 p.m.

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

The July 20 Zoom meeting can be [viewed here](#).

PRESENT: **Policy Committee Members**

Pierce Bruner, Student Representative
Craig Davidson, **Hamilton County Public Health Representative representing Greg Kesterman**
Tony DiPuccio, Generator Representative
Bob Gedert, Public Member, Vice-Chair
Karen Hurley, General Interest Member
Sue Magness, Largest Municipality Representative
Matt Wahlert, Township Representative

Staff

Michelle Balz, Solid Waste Manager
Gage Bradford, Community Specialist
Mary Copenbaker, Assistant Manager
Ashley Dove, Fiscal Analyst
Elise Erhart, Outreach Specialist
Brad Johnson, Director
Ali Khodadad, Operations Coordinator
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
D. Crawford
Carrie Davis, Child Advocacy for Jobs & Equity
Dean Ferrier, Rumpke
Kurt Grossman
Matt Hittle, Ohio EPA
Marie Kocoshis, League of Women Voters
Karen Luken EESI
Tim Mara, Oxbow
Gordon Perry, Blue Ash
Deputy Roy
Bradley Taft
Kevin Tighe, Hamilton County
Molly Yeager, Rumpke
Lisa Wynn

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ABSENT: Policy Committee Members

Denise Driehaus, County Commissioner, Chair
Greg Kesterman, Hamilton County Public Health Representative

1. INTRODUCTION/OPENING COMMENTS

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

2. CLERK'S REPORT

Mr. Gedert entertained a motion to approve the June 15, 2022 minutes. Mr. Wahlert moved to approve the minutes; Ms. Hurley seconded. Mr. Davidson abstained. Everyone else in favor and the minutes were approved.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Five public comments were given.

4. REVENUE UPDATES/ANALYSIS

Ms. Balz stated that there has been a six percent increase over 2021 in revenue. Out-of-state tonnage has increased by 7,000 tons which is about an 18 percent increase. Out-of-District has increased about nine percent with 41,000 tons, and the in-district has decreased by about one percent or 4,800 tons.

Mr. Gedert stated that he would like to discuss out-of-district and in-district waste increases into the Plan review conversation.

5. POLICY COMMITTEE ITEMS

a. Hamilton County Solid Waste Plan Update

Ms. Balz stated the draft plan is due to Ohio EPA on August 7, 2022. OEPA will take 45 days to review and they will give us comments back. Staff will have a good period of time to implement their comments and other additional items from the Policy Committee. Once it is decided that the Plan is ready, the Policy Committee will vote on the Plan again and it will go out for official ratification. Staff has ninety days from that point to get the Plan ratified.

Ms. Balz stated that this means the Plan has to be approved by the Board of County Commissioners, Hamilton County communities representing sixty-percent of the population of Hamilton County. The Plan must also be approved by the City of Cincinnati being the largest municipality within the district. The last Plan Update received 100 percent of the communities.

The Policy Committee discussed changes they want made to the Plan after Ohio EPA review as follows:

- Restoring HHW to \$400 thousand per year in year two through five with a pilot program
- Finding a County composing site
- Moving subscription communities to contract
- Recycling infrastructure for multi-family communities

A discussion ensued regarding the budget after these changes are included.

Ms. Hurley moved to approve the Plan Update and include the following language before submittal to Ohio EPA: "R3Source will work toward reinstating a more accessible HHW drop off program." Ms. Balz noted that the HHW reduction language will be replaced with the above. Mr. Davidson seconded. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

Each Committee member present then signed the resolution certification statement approving the draft plan.

b. 2023 Budget

Ms. Balz stated Attachment C provides an overview and would answer any questions. Mr. Wahlert moved to adopt the 2023 budget as seen in Attachment C. Mr. Davidson seconded. All in favor and the motion was approved.

c. General Interest Member Position

Ms. Balz stated that Mr. Wahlert and Mr. Kesterman were on the interview committee for the General Interest member. Mr. Wahlert stated four people were interviewed and all were fantastic. Mr. Wahlert stated that the interview committee's recommendation is Mr. Domonique Peebles and briefly discussed his background. Mr. Davidson read Mr. Kesterman's recommendation which was also Mr. Peebles and his reasons why.

Mr. Wahlert moved approval of Mr. Domonique Peebles as the General Interest member to a term of two years. Mr. Davidson seconded. As only the statutory members could vote, Ms. Magness approved as well.

Mr. Gedert thanked Ms. Hurley for her service. The Committee thanked Ms. Hurley for her service.

d. \$100,000 Impact Grant Program

Ms. Balz thanked Ms. Mohring for putting this together. A lot of research was done as well as reaching out to Robert Bell and integrating the Committee's input. There are some questions at the end of the attachment that staff is requesting Committee input.

- Do we want to allow grant funds to be used as matching funds for another grant? The Committee was in favor of this.
 - If so: do we provide the funds up-front or only after we know if they receive the other grant? The Committee was in favor of this as long as organization received the other grant.
 - Do we still require a 25% match from the organization? The Committee was in favor of this.
- Do we want to allow both public and private organizations to apply for the grant? The Committee was in favor of this.
- Do we want to consider funding both capital and operational projects? Yes, but no more than fifty percent can be used for new incremental operational expenses.

Ms. Magness asked if her examples would be eligible. Ms. Balz stated yes. Ms. Magness stated that she would like to see plastic recycling from Plastic Pak (which is over 200 governmental and non-governmental organizations manufacturers, etc.) ineligible due to the phasing out of them. Ms. Balz clarified that Ms.

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Magness was referring to the recycling and not waste reduction of these plastics. Ms. Magness agreed and gave an example. Ms. Balz stated that this item could be included in the evaluation.

Mr. DiPuccio stated he would like to see a higher percentage of projects showing plans for sustainable funding in the future. The Committee concurred.

Ms. Magness motioned to approve the \$100,000 Impact Grant Program with the changes noted; Ms. Hurley seconded. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

6. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

The Committee accepted these items as written.

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. Magness stated that she would like a lawsuit update.

Ms. Hurley stated that she would like to see subcommittees for the other items mentioned during the Plan Update discussion (fee increase, siting strategy, designation, rules, etc.).

8. POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

There were no comments at this time.

9. UPCOMING DISTRICT MEETINGS

The next Policy Committee meeting will be Wednesday, August 17, 2022 at 3:00 p.m. at Hamilton County Environmental Services, 250 William Howard Taft Road, 1st Floor, Cincinnati, Ohio 45219.

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

Ms. Magness moved adjournment. Mr. Wahlert seconded. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 3:53 p.m.