

SUSSEX COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL

MINUTES

JANUARY 12, 2010

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chairman Jim Landrith. The meeting is held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, NJSA 10:4-1 of 1975, as amended. Present were:

MEMBERS PRESENT: James Landrith, Chairman, Andover Borough
Eleanor Mensonides, Vice Chairman, Vernon
William Koellhoffer, Byram Township
Jason Doyle, Franklin Borough
Allan Esenlohr, Green Township
Chris Kelly, Hamburg Borough
William Sanford, Hampton Township
Howard Baker, Hopatcong Borough
Jo-Ann Williamson, Sandyston Township
Katherine Little, Sussex Borough
John Armeno, At-Large

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Edith McGrath, Lafayette Township
Eric Powell, Sparta Township
James Wright, At-Large

STAFF PRESENT: Eric Snyder, Planning Director
Reenee Casapulla, Recycling Coordinator
Tom Varro, SCMUA
Neal Leitner, Program Manager

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Mr. Snyder opened the meeting by asking the nominating committee for their report. Mr. Armeno said the committee was pleased to put forth the name of Mr. Landrith as Chairman. It was seconded by Mr. Esenlohr. All were in favor; motion carried. Mr.

Armeno said the committee was pleased to put forth the name of Ms. Mensonides as Vice Chairman. It was seconded by Mr. Kelly. All were in favor; motion carried.

MINUTES

A motion made by Mr. Armeno to approve the minutes of October 13, 2009. It was seconded by Mr. Doyle. After an abstention from Ms. Little, motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Armeno to approve the December 8, 2009 minutes *with* comments made by Mr. Varro that included some corrections and wording. Some members of the committee do not have email and did not receive those comments. Therefore, a motion was made by Mr. Doyle to table those minutes until Mr. Varro was present to discuss them. It was seconded by Ms. Mensonides.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

None

REPORTS

A. SCMUA Update - Mr. Varro was not present at this time.

B. Recycling Coordinator - Ms. Casapulla gave a follow up report on the household battery program. She said since our last meeting, the draft pamphlet has been revised and emailed and faxed to every municipality. Ms. Casapulla said the program is established at the MUA and she encourages everyone to take a look - containers have been set up and are well identified. The MUA is working on educating customers who arrive at the site and that educational information is also on their website. Also, some press information will be out soon. To make sure this is fully handled, Ms. Casapulla and Mr. Snyder reviewed the Solid Waste Management Plan, and there are a few changes that need to be made to incorporate the battery management program. Ms. Casapulla will draft up those changes for the next meeting, and will also be asking the advice of DEP for proper wording and placement of definitions etc. into that Plan.

One of the things noted was that these materials are mercury containing devices. The MUA is using the Middlesex County Plan as a guide because they have already included the wording into their Plan. They highlight mercury containing devices and they include items such as fluorescent lamps and consumer electronics, which at this time, is not mentioned in complete terms in the Sussex County Solid Waste Management Plan. With the anticipation of the landfill ban for electronics being January 2011, it is something that should be discussed through SWAC as to how that will be incorporated in the Plan.

At this time, Mr. Esenlohr mentioned having dinner with a Sussex County businesswoman. He said she has been taking batteries to the landfill for many years, and last week she got turned away. He is very concerned that there has been nothing in the press and no way for her to know of this policy. Ms. Casapulla said to Mr. Esenlohr that she knows the woman he is talking about; she owns a hardware store and the batteries that she has in her boxes were collected by her grandson who started a battery collection program at her hardware store and did not complete the project, so she was stuck with the boxes. Ms. Casapulla said when you are a generator, a self generator or take the material from others, you assume responsibility of that. It is a DOT regulation; DOT has required us to do this. The businesswoman said she was going to have her grandson complete the project. The MUA has been manning the battery area to explain this requirement to people as they come in.

C. State Liaison – not present – no report

DIRECTORS' REPORTS

A. Eric Snyder – Mr. Snyder reported that he and Mr. Yardley are still working on enforcement issues. When that is ready, it will be presented to SWAC. With regard to Ms. Casapulla's discussion on consumer electronics, that is also something that is being worked and will be finalized when we have a more comprehensive inspection program in place.

Mr. Baker wants to know if there are any provisions for mercury-containing items such as thermometers and thermostats. Ms. Casapulla said yes, they are included in our hazardous waste collection days. Federal and State guidelines are contained in the box.

Mr. Sanford stated that he has a collection of 280 thermometers; the earliest one he has is from 1813 and none collected after 1920. He doesn't think we should spend any time or money on taking thermometers with mercury out of business because they're all gone. Mr. Casapulla said they are still being disposed of at the facility.

Ms. Little raised a question on battery disposal. She wants to know if most of them are being disposed of in plastic bags, and then what is done with the plastic bags. Ms. Casapulla said that's a good question. The bags used are produce-type bags and for something like a hearing aid battery, it seems like a waste. She said she doesn't know the answer to that right now, but she will have a response by the next meeting. Ms. Casapulla said the company who is collecting these batteries (Rechargeable Battery Corporation) has given a grant to the County Hazardous Coordinators of NJ (\$15,000) to help get New Jersey in compliance and to get this project started. There will be a meeting on Thursday and that is one of the questions Ms. Casapulla will be asking.

Finally, Mr. Snyder said Mr. Plog has asked to be relieved of his SWAC duties. Mr. Snyder suggested that a note be sent to Mr. Plog to thank him for all his years of work.

Chairman Landrith then brought up the disposal of CFLs (Compact Fluorescent Lights). He said they contain mercury; and in two to five years when they start failing, they will have to be recycled in a responsible manner. Ms. Casapulla said to bring them to Home Depot; they already have a set up. They can also be brought to the MUA on Hazardous Waste Day. Ms. Mensonides asked how to package them. Ms. Casapulla said it is preferable to have them boxed individually, but they've taken them in every form possible.

As Mr. Varro was now present, Chairman Landrith returned to the minutes of December 8, 2009 and gave Mr. Varro the opportunity to explain his corrections. Mr. Armeno reminded the committee that he made a motion to accept the minutes with Mr. Varro's corrections. He said we were holding that motion until Mr. Varro was here to make his comments. Mr. Varro then took the microphone and said his suggested changes are just a matter of what he thinks is miscommunication. The way the minutes currently read makes it look like the reported final tonnage number of 90,103 tons represents 7.6% decrease from 2006 and 10.8% decrease from 2007. Mr. Varro said that's not correct. Those numbers were just annual decrease numbers based upon the tonnage received those years compared to the prior year's amounts. The second suggestion he made was in reference to the way the paragraph is worded. He said the word *we* is used to represent SCMUA and SWAC in different sentences, so his suggestion is to make the changes to clarify which activities and statements apply to SCMUA and which ones apply to SWAC. Mr. Armeno said his motion stands as amended. It was seconded by Mr. Doyle. All were in favor.

At this time, Mr. Varro presented his monthly report. He said for the first month of fiscal year 2010 a total of 7,262 tons were received at the SCMUA facility for disposal, which compares with 8,071 for the prior December (FY2009), a difference of 839 tons or a little over 10%. Mr. Varro said, however in looking more closely at the numbers, the tonnage from Hopatcong for December of 2008 is 638 tons; tonnage from Hopatcong December 2009 is 0 tons. Therefore, essentially we're at the same level as last year; the decrease this month illustrates Hopatcong not coming to our facility. Mr. Varro again said this is why we have proceeded to endorse Flow Control. Regarding the tip fee numbers, there is a slight decrease in tip fee from 84.09 to 83.94. Mr. Varro said this is expected because our residence convenience center, which is one of the more profitable aspects of our disposal business, is typically lower in the winter months; we expect the tip fee to increase throughout the year.

Mr. Kelly had a few questions for Mr. Varro. He said the year over year comparisons are good, but he noticed last year that the actual is always far less than the projections. What criteria are used for the projections? And seeing as they were so much less last year (the actuals vs. the projections), have those projections been changed this year?

How does the MUA accurately budget, based on these projections, when they're so far off?

Mr. Varro said we try, but no one can accurately predict. The budget is put together in September/October and final numbers from the prior year are not available yet. What is done is a balancing act of tonnage anticipated, along with state revenue, as well as number of other items involving income generating activities. It all gets thrown into the mix, and adjustments are made each year. This year Mr. Varro thinks the MUA has a good handle on it; with Flow Control they have projected 99,000. The MUA's part is done; they are just waiting on Trenton's action. Once the MUA gets approval by DEP, it will take a few months to implement. Unless there is a dramatic turnaround and optimal efforts are made under the flow control scenario, Mr. Varro thinks there could be another shortfall.

Just to emphasize what Mr. Varro said, Mr. Snyder stated that our Flow Control Amendment is still at DEP. It is still being reviewed by the Attorney General's office with regard to the Grinnell contract between us, them and the MUA. DEP has 150 days to act; that time runs out in mid-March. If nothing is done by that time, it's approved.

B. Herb Yardley - not present - no report

CORRESPONDENCE

A. Grinnell Recycling December Monthly Disposal and Materials Recovery Report - no questions or comments

B. SCMUA Monthly Solid Waste Revenue & Appropriation Report - no questions or comments

C. County Summary of SCMUA Solid Waste Tonnages and Revenues - Year End Comparisons - Mr. Leitner cleared up the confusion regarding the originator of this report. He said this report is just a County summary of SCMUA data and will be noted in future agendas as such.

Two other pieces of correspondence have been received. One is from the Borough of Hopatcong reappointing Howard Baker to the Solid Waste Advisory Committee. The other piece is from Newton reappointing Kenneth Jaekel to the committee.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Esenlohr asked when the next landfill meeting will be. Ms. Casapulla said the next meeting of this committee, entitled 'Beyond 2017' is scheduled for January 26 at 1:00.

NEW BUSINESSA. Implementing Recycling Compliance in the County

Mr. Yardley was not present to give this report.

OPEN TO PUBLIC

None

ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business to be discussed at this time and a motion was made by Mr. Armeno to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Snyder and carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.