

SUSSEX COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL

MINUTES

JANUARY 10, 2012

The meeting was opened at 7:30 p.m. by Eric Snyder, Planning Director. The meeting was held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-1 of 1975, as amended, and notice has been forwarded to the newspapers and posted on the bulletin board maintained at the Sussex County Administrative Center for public announcement.

ROLL CALL:

MEMBERS PRESENT: James Landrith, Andover Borough, Chairman
William Koellhoffer, Byram Township
Jason Doyle, Franklin Borough
Allan Esenlohr, Green Township
Christopher Kelly – Hamburg Borough
Howard Baker, Hopatcong Borough
Ken Jaekel, Town of Newton
Jo-Ann Williamson, Sandyston Township
Don Drake, Stanhope Borough
Eleanor Mensonides, At-Large, Vice Chair

EXCUSED MEMBERS: Dennis Haff, Fredon Township
Eric Powell, Sparta Township
John Armeno, At-Large

STAFF MEMBERS: Eric Snyder, Planning Director
Neal Leitner, Program Manager
Antoinette Wasiewicz, Recording Secretary
Marcia Chirico, Health Department
Reenee Casapulla, Recycling Coordinator
Tom Varro, SCMUA

ALSO PRESENT: Stephanie Pizzulo, Lafayette Township

REORGANIZATION:

Eric Snyder called for a nomination for the Chairman of SWAC. Jason Doyle nominated Jim Landrith as Chairman of SWAC. No other nominations were made. A motion was made by Howard Baker to close the nominations. The motion was seconded by Jason Doyle and carried unanimously.

Mr. Snyder turned the meeting over to Chairman Landrith.

Chairman Landrith called for a nomination for Vice Chairman of SWAC. Jason Doyle nominated Eleanor Mensonides as Vice Chairwoman of SWAC. No other nominations were made. A motion was made by Howard Baker to close the nominations. The motion was seconded by Don Drake and carried unanimously.

MINUTES CORRECTION/APPROVAL:

Minutes were not available.

Reenee Casapulla asked for a status of the Minutes. Eric Snyder explained that the Recording Secretary is the Administrative person for the entire Planning Division.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

A. SWAC 2012 MEETING DATES:

Chairman Landrith noted that there are two holidays included as a SWAC meeting Date. One is February 14, Valentine's Day and the other is September 11, Patriot's Day. He asked if anyone saw a reason why these holidays should be observed. No one objected to keeping the SWAC 2012 Meeting Dates Schedule as presented.

A motion was made by William Koellhoffer to accept the SWAC 2012 Meeting Dates as presented. The motion was seconded by Eleanor Mensonides.

Allan Esenlohr asked who constitutes "any person" as written in Item 4. (This section talks about the payment of \$1.00 per page for copies of a regular meeting schedule or revision and any advance written notice of any regular, special or rescheduled meeting.) Mr. Snyder said anyone would be "any person." Mr. Esenlohr asked if he was "any person." Mr. Snyder said he was. Mr. Esenlohr asked if he would have to pay \$1.00. Mr. Snyder said to avoid spending money, the County was e-mailing everything to everybody. Mr. Esenlohr said if it done in a timely manner, it is acceptable. Mr. Snyder said the e-mails are sent out the week prior and regular mail would naturally take longer to be received.

A vote was taken on the above mentioned motion to accept the SWAC 2012 Meeting Dates and carried unanimously.

REPORTS:

A. SCMUA UPDATE:

Mr. Varro said the tonnage year-to-date from December 1, 2011 through January 7, 2012 (Fiscal Year 2012) was 10,543 which is a 6.1% increase over the prior year same time period. The average tip fee is up slightly to \$98.62.

B. RECYCLING COORDINATOR:

Reenee Casapulla reported that DEP sent out a letter to the Municipal Mayors in New Jersey regarding the upcoming Recycling Tonnage Reports that are to be submitted for 2011. They require an electronic signature by a certified recycling professional. At this time there are seven certified recycling professionals in Sussex County including herself. Also, there was a backlog on the certification process for the State, so it will be impossible for any current recycling coordinators to become certified at this time. They are looking to explore shared services among the municipalities, between the County and the municipalities. She worked with a group throughout the State to draft a shared services agreement that is available on the recycling coordinator's website for the State. She is also working with a number of towns who have expressed an interest in having her as their certified recycling person. Each town would prepare their own reports and she would sign off on it and submit the report to the State.

C. STATE LIAISON:

The State Liaison did not attend this meeting nor did he submit a report.

D. SWAGER REPORT;

Ms. Menonides said she cancelled the SWAGER meeting this evening. She does not have the additional information she hoped for. At the last meeting it was discussed that they should be supporting the MUA. Tom Varro prepared a report giving SWAC some details on the transfer station. Ms. Menonides said they are running out of time, the landfill is closing. They will continue to look at alternative methods for disposal but they need to prepare for the future. It takes time to ready reports, go to bid and get approvals from DEP. She said they need to prepare a document to forward to the Freeholders.

Allan Esenlohr said there was an impromptu SWAGER meeting outside this evening. The idea of regionalization came up. He suggested getting together with another county or two other counties. Ms. Menonides said that will come as they do a transfer station, they will have to contract with someone to accept the County's waste. Mr. Esenlohr said it takes forever to get these things done and it doesn't hurt to look at it now. Ms. Menonides said they started to look at that already when they went to Warren County and Morris County. Mr. Esenlohr said now is the time to get serious

about it. Ms. Mensonides said now is the time to start doing that. They've made the decision that they need to move forward with the transfer instead of gasification, plasma and the rest of them that we do not have good information for. SWAC is moving towards a transfer station. Now the question is where does it go? There are also questions involving trucking, where will the waste go and what type of contract it will be. The MUA will need to work with this also because they will be the contracting agency. Mr. Esenlohr suggested they start now, not wait until the door is almost closed. Mr. Varro asked if there was any county that he would want to work with. Mr. Esenlohr said Morris County or Warren County. Mr. Varro said Warren County has their own landfill and incinerator and doesn't think they will want to partner with us, but you never know. Mr. Esenlohr said the least SWAC can do is send a letter offering the opportunity to anybody that will accept the letter, even if it's in Pennsylvania or New York State. If we wait we run into the same situation as with the methane gas--- by the time you get the permits, you've lost thousands and thousands of dollars.

Mr. Snyder said we can reach out to the other counties and see what they're interested in doing because it doesn't hurt to look at that as one of a number of options.

Chairman Landrith asked if he needs a Resolution for that. Mr. Snyder said if that's what the Council wants him to do, he can draft a letter. Ms. Mensonides said a letter should be drafted saying SWAC would like to move forward with renovating the transfer station to current DEP regulations and also to look toward facilities to accept the County's waste. Mr. Snyder said that would go to the Freeholders. He is talking about reaching out to other counties. Ms. Mensonides asked if SWAC needs permission to do that. Mr. Snyder said SWAC's charter is to evaluate options for solid waste disposal and make recommendations to the Freeholders. He feels they have complete carte blanche to go out and see everything there is to be seen so that they can give the Freeholders the best advice possible. Mr. Snyder said staff will prepare both of those documents.

Chairman Landrith asked if Freeholder Liaison Crabb wanted to comment.

Freeholder Crabb said he felt SWAC was on the right avenue. He said he talked to the MUA and said no matter what decision is made we are up against a wall regarding DEP permitting, overheads, etc. SWAC needs to come up with a deliverable date to come up with a recommendation.

Chairman Landrith said the recommendation of a transfer station does not exclude any of the possibilities that SWAC has already looked at and that it will be needed in any case. Tom Varro said that he and Eric Snyder will be meeting with the Assistant Commissioner tomorrow to discuss future plans.

Freeholder Crabb said it was important for the Freeholders to be kept informed as to what the milestones were to ensure the County is prepared for closure of the landfill. Eric Snyder said he hoped after tomorrow's meeting they would have more information that would tie in to what Freeholder Crabb is looking for because they should be able to advise him what their timelines are for approvals.

Eric Snyder said he will get a letter out to the Freeholders with a general recommendation that SWAC is going to pursue the transfer station and at the same time see how things play out. He also said at next month's meeting there will be a presentation by another group talking about alternative technologies to deal with waste. Don Drake has been active in that, so he and others will attend the meeting.

Neal Leitner said the RER Center on Route 23 in Wantage is already in the Solid Waste Master Plan but they are doing an Administrative Action to increase the amount of waste. It is still going to be the same yard waste and clean wood. They fall under both of the Administrative Codes to have those submitted here. The request just came in so it could not be sent out with the original SWAC mailing. It will be on next month's agenda. When asked how much of an increase they are requesting, Neal said it was significant. The old approval was for 10,000 cubic yards and the request is for 79,000 cubic yards.

Freeholder Crabb advised SWAC that Freeholder Vohden will be the SWAC Liaison going forward.

DIRECTOR'S REPORTS:

A. ERIC SNYDER:

Eric Snyder said his report is included in the above discussion.

B. HEALTH DEPARTMENT:

Marcia Cirico, County Health Department said she is giving the report provided to her from Adam Boltz. There were 31 container inspections which resulted in ten Notices of Violations being issues, one with a penalty assessment and three are pending. There were 52 truck checks, two of those resulted in Notices of Violations, 2 resulted in recycling audits and investigations. There were two NJDEP Solid Waste referrals were done and three CEHA (County Environmental Health Act) Solid Waste Investigations. There were 16 Class A, B and C Facilities inspected and there were 17 citizen complaints for October and November. She was unable to get figures for December. Adam also did three small hauler interviews. These numbers were a total for the fourth quarter of 2011.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Neal Leitner said the only correspondence was for the RER Center in Wantage.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Eleanor Mensonides said SWAC needs to start putting together a Plan Amendment and suggested keeping track of what needs to be included.

ADJOURNMENT:

All business having been completed, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Eleanor Mensonides. The motion was seconded by Howard Baker and carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.