

SUSSEX COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL

MINUTES

JANUARY 13, 2015

The meeting was opened at 7:05 p.m. by Program Manager, Alice Brees. 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  
Gary Larson, Frankford Township  
Jason Doyle, Franklin Borough  
Dennis Haff, Fredon Township  
Allan Esenlohr, Green Township  
John Burd, Hamburg Borough  
Karen Hansen, Hampton Township  
Stephanie Pizzulo, Lafayette Township  
Jo-Ann Williamson, Sandyston Township  
Eric Powell, Sparta Township  
Don Drake, Stanhope Borough  
Christopher Fitzpatrick, At-Large  
Donald Ploetner, At-Large  
Richard Vohden, Freeholder Liaison

EXCUSED MEMBERS: William Koellhoffer, Byram Township  
Howard Baker, Hopatcong Borough  
Ken Jaekel, Town of Newton  
Eleanor Mensonides, At-Large, Vice Chair

STAFF MEMBERS: Alice Brees, Program Manager  
Antoinette Wasiewicz, Recording Secretary  
Adam Boltz, Health Department  
Reenee Casapulla, Recycling Coordinator  
Tom Varro, SCMUA

ALSO PRESENT: None

**REORGANIZATION:**

Alice Brees said since SWAC did not meet in November and December, a Nominating Committee was not appointed. She asked for a nomination for the position of Chairman. Jason Doyle nominated Jim Landrith as Chairman. The nomination was seconded by Donald Ploetner. No other nominations were made. A vote was taken. All were in favor of Jim Landrith remaining the Chairman.

Chairman Landrith advised SWAC that Eleanor Mensonides suffered a stroke. He wished her a rapid and full recovery. Alice Brees reported that as of two weeks ago, Eleanor was in Kessler Institute. Gary Larson nominated Eleanor Mensonides for the position of Vice Chair. The nomination was seconded by Donald Ploetner. A vote was taken. All were in favor of Eleanor Mensonides remaining the Vice Chairperson.

A discussion ensued about the need for a Chairman should Jim Landrith be on vacation, sick, etc. It was agreed there should be a Vice Chairman pro tem. A motion was made by Gary Larson that Donald Ploetner should serve as Vice Chairman pro tem. The motion was seconded by Jason Doyle and carried unanimously. Mr. Ploetner will serve as Vice Chairman pro tem until such time as Ms. Mensonides returns.

**MINUTES CORRECTION/APPROVAL:**

A motion was made by Donald Ploetner to approve the Minutes of September 9, 2014. The motion was seconded by Jason Doyle. All were in favor, with abstentions from Gary Larson, John Burd, Stephanie Pizzulo, Don Drake and Christopher Fitzpatrick. Motion carried.

**CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS:**

None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

A. APPROVAL OF MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2015:

Today, the Planning Office was made aware that the Freeholder Meeting room will not be available for the November 10 SWAC meeting. Therefore, the meeting date for November has been changed to the third Tuesday, November 17.

A motion was made by Donald Ploetner to approve the SWAC Meeting Schedule for 2015 with the above-noted change. The motion was seconded by Jason Doyle and carried unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

None

**REPORTS:**

A. SCMUA UPDATE:

Tom Varro provided SWAC with the end of year SCMUA Tonnage Comparisons from FY 2010 – FY 2014. (The Fiscal Year runs from December 1 through November 30.) Total tonnage for FY 2014 was 99,259 tons. This is a 3.1% decrease from the prior year. ID-10 Household waste was 68,957 tons, a 2.7% decrease; ID-102 Bagged Waste at the Residents Convenience Center (RCC) was 1,098 tons, a 1.1% decrease; ID-13 Bulky Waste at the landfill was 7,911 tons, an 8.6% decrease from 2013; ID-13 C&D was 10,672 tons, a 6.5% decrease from the prior year; ID-13 Convenience Center Bulky Waste was 1,016 tons, an 11% increase; Animal Waste was 201 tons, a 4.7% increase; and ID-27 Industrial/Asbestos, etc. was 404 tons, an increase of 26%. Some of the categories did increase but the bulk of the waste saw a decrease.

Mr. Varro said the Division of Planning received a DEP Survey Questionnaire which was referred to SCMUA because it was specific to that facility. DEP asked about tip rates, expenses, revenues, debt payment and how it is attributed to the Rate Schedule and also positioning with regard to Host Community Benefits and Flow Control. This Questionnaire was included in the meeting mailing as Correspondence-F. SCMUA's answers to the DEP's questions are included on the Questionnaire.

Allan Esenlohr asked about Question 15 on Page 4, "What is your County's perspective on the requirement that every NJ County must have a disposal facility for all its waste originating within the County?" Mr. Varro said Sussex County has a long-standing policy of solid waste self-sufficiency. Pursuant to the Sussex County Solid Waste Management Plan, the SCMUA Landfill was sized to accommodate residential and commercial solid waste from all County sources. Mr. Esenlohr also asked about Question 16, "What is your County's perspective on whether regional disposal capacity is a workable alternative?" Mr. Varro said Sussex County and the Sussex County Management Plan continues to provide comprehensive solid waste management planning for the future. A major modification to the SCMUA Solid Waste Facilities Permit is currently under review by NJDEP with proposed future staged capacity expansion through 2062 for Sussex County solid waste disposal. Therefore, consideration of their regional solid waste management plan alternatives is not applicable. Mr. Esenlohr said recently there was an approval to extend the landfill and then the State asked about the County's perspective on regional disposal capacity. Mr. Varro said he was not sure if the question was tied into the extension. SCMUA reinforced its policy of long-standing self-sufficiency. Question No. 2 also asked about receiving out-of-county waste, "Do you charge different rates based upon origin, whether in-County or out-of-County?" SCMUA's response was, "In accordance with the approved Solid Waste Management Plan, the SCMUA accepts solid waste from in-County sources only. The rates for acceptance of out-of-County waste, which may be mandated by the State of New Jersey under an emergency direction order, are two times the posted rates." This gives the DEP the idea that we don't really want or need out-of-County waste.

B. RECYCLING COORDINATOR:

Renee Casapulla reported that in November the State released the recycling rates for all municipalities. She provided SWAC with the 2012 Recycling Tonnage amounts for Sussex County's municipalities. The Chart included Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Recycling Rates by town. Sussex County's average recycling rate was 38%. She also provided a chart with the recycling rate for all of the Counties in New Jersey. On that chart, Sussex County's recycling rate is 40%. Ms. Casapulla also provided a chart on the County's recycling rate from 1998 to 2012. In 1998 the recycling rate was 25.1%. She said the higher recycling rates reflect higher recycling grant funding for the towns. Funds for 2012 were released on December 17, 2014.

Ms. Casapulla provided SWAC with a flyer listing the SCMUA's Recycling Schedule for 2015. The first free event is for Electronics Recycling which is scheduled for March 21. SCMUA also offers paper shredding which is held on the third Friday of the month.

SWAC was also provided with a flyer regarding the Trex Recycling Challenge. Ms. Casapulla said Trex is a plastic lumber product which is made from plastic film and sawdust. Their business model is to get the plastic film from grocery store bags. To promote their product, they have an annual recycling challenge through local schools. The schools collect plastic bags by count or by weight which are then calculated per capita, per student, per school. First place winners will receive a Trex bench; however all participating schools will receive an item made from Trex. The program runs from November 15, 2014 to April 22, 2015 (Earth Day.) There are seven schools in New Jersey participating this year; five of which are in Sussex County. The Sussex County schools are Pope John XXIII, Frankford Township School, Helen Morgan School, Ogdensburg School and Halsted Middle School.

C. STATE LIAISON:

The State Liaison did not attend this evening's meeting, nor did she provide a report.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORTS:**

A. ERIC SNYDER:

Ms. Brees reported that there may be a Solid Waste Plan Amendment on the SWAC Agenda next month. An application came in with a request for a Plan Amendment to allow the Grinnell Recycling Facility to receive Type 13 Bulky Waste. This would not involve an increase to their permitted capacity.

There is a request to amend the County Wastewater Plan by SCMUA for a landfill leachate pipe connection to the wastewater treatment plant in Hardyston. Currently, there are 35,000 gallons per day of landfill leachate that is taken to the plant by truck. Tom Varro said this change will keep trucks off the road and is much more efficient. Now that they have a long-term facility, they are planning for the future. When asked about bonding, Mr. Varro said if the Amendment gets approved by PAC, they will put out a bond for the pipe when they go out to bond for the first stage of the expansion.

He said the current debt service will expire in December 2016 and when they go out for the new project, including the expansion of the landfill, they will not have any overlapping debt. This will be new debt that can be paid by the user charges. It will not impact the tip fee.

**B. HEALTH DEPARTMENT:**

Adam Boltz said since SWAC did not meet in November and December, he would provide the Department of Environmental and Public Health end-of-year totals for 2014. There were a total of 226 solid waste containers inspected in 2014, so far, 169 have been closed. There were 51 garbage truck routes inspected. No violations were found. With regard to containers, there were 15 Notices of Violation issued which resulted in eight penalties.

In 2014 there were 19 NJDEP Referred Investigations for solid waste, 20 CEHA SW Complaints/Referrals investigated, and 171 Recycling Inspections at the SCMUA landfill. There were also 62 Facility Inspections and they did 18 Recycling Audits which resulted in 13 Notices of Violation. (The Recycling Audits are triggered by reports from the Food Inspectors on establishments that are not recycling.) Mr. Boltz said at a staff meeting this morning, the Food Inspectors were issued a new solid waste checklist which tracks the solid waste hauler, pickup days, approximate time of pickup and whether or not they have adequate recycling containers.

Eric Powell asked if the Health Department inspects housing complexes for recycling. Mr. Boltz said the Health Department does not inspect housing complexes of more than three units. Those are handled by the Department of Community Affairs (DCA.)

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

**A. SENATE BILL NO. 2494, 10/14/14:**

Ms. Casapulla said there is an Association of New Jersey Recyclers that is comprised of Municipal, County and State officials as well as private companies. The Board which meets on a regular basis and a Food Waste Committee wrote a 'white paper' about food waste composting in New Jersey. The committee met with Senator Lesniak, who submitted Senate Bill 2494, in mid-October and they provided suggestions for changes to the Bill, which was subsequently revamped. The copy of the Bill which was sent to SWAC does not reflect the changes. Ms. Casapulla hopes to have more information on this Bill for the February SWAC meeting.

Adam Boltz asked Jim Landrith if Andover Borough has received odor complaints for the new Ag. Choice location. Mr. Landrith said they received some complaints a couple of years ago but it wasn't for a foul smell, it was for the chemicals they were using to abate foul smells. He added that Ag. Choice corrected the odor issue. Mr. Boltz said he has received some anonymous complaints and that they can't enforce anonymous odor complaints.

Mr. Boltz also reported that this spring, the RER facility in Wantage plans to install a new spraying system. They will spray an enzyme onto freshly ground mulch piles, grass in particular, to abate any odors before they escape into the air.

- B. SOLID WASTE FACILITY MONTHLY DISPOSAL AND MATERIALS RECOVERY REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 2014, GRINNELL, 10/15/14:
- C. GENERAL APPROVAL MODIFICATION FOR BACK THRU THE FUTURE, NJDEP, 10/30/14:
- D. SOLID WASTE FACILITY MONTHLY DISPOSAL AND MATERIALS RECOVERY REPORT FOR 10/1/14-10/15/14, GRINNELL RECYCLING, 11/13/14:
- E. SOLID WASTE FACILITY MONTHLY DISPOSAL AND MATERIALS RECOVERY REPORT FOR 10/16/14-10/31/14, C.E.C.S., INC./KEYSTONE LANDFILL, 11/13/14:
- F. SURVEY RE: COMPREHENSIVE COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM, NJDEP, 11/17/14:
- G. ADOPTED FY 2015 RATE SCHEDULE, SCMUA, 12/5/14:
- H. MODIFIED CLOSURE/POST-CLOSURE PLAN APPROVAL-POST CLOSURE EXTENSION FOR H.S.L., INC. LANDFILL, NJDEP, 12/11/14:
- I. SOLID WASTE FACILITY MONTHLY DISPOSAL AND MATERIALS RECOVERY REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2014, C.E.C.S., INC./KEYSTONE LANDFILL, 12/12/14:
- J. NJDEP QUESTIONNAIRE 2014 E-SURVEY AND SW TIP FEES 2015, SCMUA, 12/16/14:

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Freeholder Liaison Rich Vohden announced that he has been reappointed as the liaison to SWAC. He said one of the most important things he does as a Freeholder is to make appointments to Committees, Boards, etc. There are about 290 appointments in the County and it is those people who, with County Staff, make decisions that come to the Freeholder Board as recommendations. He said the Freeholder Board cannot possibly follow all the issues and he stressed the importance of what the Committee/Board members do. On behalf of the Freeholder Board, he thanked them for the time they spend at meetings.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

All business having been completed, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Jason Doyle. The motion was seconded by Don Drake and carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.