

SUSSEX COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL

MINUTES

MARCH 11, 2014

The meeting was opened at 7:05 p.m. by Vice Chairperson Mensonides. 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, 7:07 p.m.  
William Koellhoffer, Byram Township  
Gary Larson, Frankford Township  
Jason Doyle, Franklin Borough  
Dennis Haff, Fredon Township  
Karen Hansen, Hampton Township  
Howard Baker, Hopatcong Borough  
Stephanie Pizzulo, Lafayette Township  
Ken Jaekel, Town of Newton  
Don Drake, Stanhope Borough  
Richard Fenimore, At-Large  
Christopher Fitzpatrick, At-Large  
Eleanor Mensonides, At-Large, Vice Chair  
Richard Vohden, Freeholder Liaison

EXCUSED MEMBERS: Allan Esenlohr, Green Township  
Jo-Ann Williamson, Sandyston Township  
Eric Powell, Sparta Township  
Annette Stendor, Sussex Borough  
Donald Ploetner, At-Large

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

ALSO PRESENT: Ross Hull, NJDEP

**MINUTES CORRECTION/APPROVAL:**

A motion was made by Christopher Fitzpatrick to approve the Minutes of January 14, 2014. The motion was seconded by Jason Doyle. All were in favor, with abstentions from Karen Hansen, Ken Jaekel and Richard Fenimore. Motion carried.

**CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS:**

The meeting was turned over to Chairman Jim Landrith. He did not offer his Chairman's remarks and continued to New Business.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

A. COUNTY SOLID WASTE PROFILE UPDATE:

Alice Brees said a survey was done of the municipalities for the methods of solid waste collection. This information is now in the profile regarding solid waste collection, whether by a municipal contract with private company, municipally-owned vehicles or by residents.

B. DESIGNATED HAULER TRAVEL ROUTES TO LANDFILL:

The designated hauler travel routes will be in the Appendix of the Solid Waste Plan. This is in response to the certification for the landfill expansion. Designated routes were needed as opposed to recommended routes. Some deletions were made where route numbers changed. The additions are underlined.

Eric Snyder said this will be an amendment to the County Solid Waste Management Plan. He said if SWAC approves, they need to make a motion to recommend that the Freeholders approve this document.

Howard Baker asked if circumstances dictate, would haulers be allowed to use an alternate route. Mr. Snyder said all county roads are open to trucks. Local streets are available because they do collections. He said it is good to have designated routes and that UPS condones it. Ross Hull said designated routes are not preferential policy; it is regulation that has been on the books for 30 years. When asked about waivers, Mr. Hull said as far as he is aware, no county has waivers from their truck routes.

**MOTION:**

A motion was made by Christopher Fitzpatrick that Eric Snyder prepares a Resolution to memorialize the Designated Hauler Travel Routes. This will be sent to DEP as an Administrative Action. The motion was seconded by Karen Hansen and carried unanimously.

C. RECYCLING IN CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION DEBRIS:

Eric Snyder said there have been some questions regarding recycling materials in with construction and demolition debris. There is nothing more specific than the definition of construction and demolition debris in the County Plan or Municipal ordinances. However, it is the County's objective to recycle as much material as possible.

Adam Boltz said traditionally, when they go to job sites and there is a lot of cardboard in the construction debris, they ask them to remove the cardboard. He said Renee Casapulla brought it to his attention that Type 13 is exempt for cardboard. Mr. Boltz said there is a fairly substantial amount of cardboard on almost every jobsite. Ms. Casapulla said when the Health Department came to the MUA to do landfill inspections; the MUA provided them with the definition of what 13C was, according to New Jersey regulations. In the Regulations, the definition includes various materials, including cardboard. It doesn't make it exempt; it is part of the definition of what can be considered under 13C Construction and Demolition.

Mr. Snyder asked if there was anything besides cardboard that they should be focusing on and is there any impediment to amending the County plan. Mr. Hull said there are municipal ordinances on the books which mandate recycling of these materials. He said the County Plan designates cardboard as a source separated recyclable material and that the Plan does not say it only stands for Type 10; it should be across the board. He said his interpretation and DEP's interpretation of that provision would be that cardboard has to be source separated, unless it goes to a municipal recycling facility that pulls it out. It is a State regulation that the generator of material has to follow Municipal Ordinances and the County Plan.

Mr. Hull said the biggest problem for landfills is wallboard. Since it is so large, it is easy to see in the container. Pulling it out of the landfill not only increases the recycling rate, it minimizes some environmental damage. There are agricultural markets for wallboard.

Howard Baker suggested putting a letter together outlining the recycling requirements and sending it to the towns' Building Departments. Ms. Casapulla said a number of other counties in New Jersey already do this. She suggested that this topic be kept on the Agenda under "Old Business."

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Eleanor Menonides said in the Minutes there was a motion to authorize staff to write a letter to DEP regarding Grinnell's reports and recycling. She asked if that ever happened. Alice Brees said it was covered "Correspondence F." Eric Snyder said comments were not submitted by the County, as there wasn't time to put it on Freeholder Board agenda. SCMUA and Sparta Township did submit comments. Mr. Hull said there is no requirement for comments from the County and that SCMUA holds as much weight as the County does.

**REPORTS:**

A. SCMUA UPDATE:

Tom Varro provided SWAC with graphs of tonnage for the First Quarter of Fiscal Year 2014 (December 2013, January and February 2014) in comparison to prior years. Through February 28, there was a total of 20,381 tons collected. Overall, this is 7.7% less than the prior year. In looking at the breakdown, ID10 is pretty close to remaining the same, with only a -2.8% change. Bagged garbage from the Resident's Convenience Center (RCC) remained the same. There were large decreases in ID13 Bulky Waste, ID13 C&D Waste and ID13 Bulky at the RCC. They were down 21.3%, 31.7% and 15.6% respectively. They believe this is due to the harsh winter where home improvement and construction projects were not started. They've seen over the past year that there were increases in these categories. Animal waste is up 41%, again probably due to the harsh winter.

Mr. Varro said, as Eric Snyder pointed out, the County was unable to comment on the Grinnell Solid Waste Facility Permit Renewal. The MUA and Sparta Township co-authored the letter that was sent down to DEP. The letter was based on discussions by SWAC back in January and was signed by Mr. Varro, Eric Powell, the Township Engineer in Sparta and Grant Rome, the Finance Director and Acting Manager of Sparta Township. One of the things that was added, which was not discussed, was the fact that Grinnell owes about \$27,000 to Sparta Township for Host Community Benefit Fees. Mr. Varro said he has been in contact with DEP and they are looking into the issues. He hopes to hear back from them at some point either directly or through the proposed renewal.

Gary Larson asked why the County did not comment on the permit renewal. Mr. Snyder said there was a timing issue. It was not able to be brought to a Freeholder meeting in time because there was a short response date, even with the extension.

Mr. Varro said Grinnell is supposed to report to SCMUA and SWAC on the results of inspections under the Freeholder Approval Resolution. Grinnell has not complied with this requirement. They asked that this requirement be added as a permit condition. Ms. Mensonides said she has concerns about the request for another activity on that site when they are not taking care of existing conditions. Mr. Varro said they did put the issue of Grinnell's food composting proposal in their letter because it would take up 40-45% of the floor space. This should result in a reduction in capacity for the processing of C&D. There was another proposal on the site to take wastewater and/or water residuals. Mr. Hull said Grinnell wanted to go out for bid to be awarded the wastewater residuals from a publically-owned treatment works. The Chief of the Bureau of Transfer Stations and Recycling Facilities will speak to Water Quality about this because it might be something that they regulate. As of this time, they do not have DEP approval to do so.

Mr. Varro said at this time we do not have a draft permit. Once a draft permit is issued, there will be opportunity to comment on it and DEP will have to respond to the

comments. He also believes they would have the right to ask for a hearing, which may or may not be granted.

Mr. Baker asked if SWAC could avoid another timing issue by providing comments to the Freeholder Board ahead of time. Mr. Snyder said that was a possibility.

B. RECYCLING COORDINATOR:

Renee Casapulla said the Recycling Coordinators Tonnage Workshop meeting which was scheduled in February was cancelled due to the weather. This meeting will be held tomorrow. She will report on the Workshop at the next SWAC meeting.

The MUA will be contacting 13 of the 24 municipalities to submit their recycling tonnage reports for them. The MUA encourages the towns to either have their coordinator become certified or to contract with another municipal coordinator.

The first E-Waste Collection Event for 2014 will be held this Saturday, March 15. As always, municipalities and schools are permitted to come in the day before the event.

When asked about security in disposing computer processors. Ms. Casapulla said the MUA contracts with a vendor that wipes the hard drives clean. She added that the MUA includes on their flyers that the residents and businesses are responsible for prior removal of data from hard drives and other storage media.

There was a discussion about scrap metal processing facilities being exempt from the Solid Waste Management Act.

C. STATE LIAISON:

Ross Hull said the proposed landfill expansion was certified as approved last month. He said they liked the idea that the expansion was on a cell by cell basis to allow for a more environmentally friendly process when it becomes available.

Mr. Hull said when he receives the Draft Permit for the Solid Waste Facility Permit for Grinnell he will contact the County to ask for Truck Routes for that facility. He said a request for an Administrative Action is sufficient.

DEP is going through another re-organization. He does not know whether he will remain with Solid Waste and will keep SWAC posted.

Mr. Hull said more solid waste was disposed of as a result of Hurricane Sandy, thus the State Treasury collected more money from the Recycling Enhancement Act Tax. This amounted to an extra \$2.5 million. That tax money was from municipalities that delivered the materials themselves or through a contract, so those municipalities, by definition in the law, have to get those monies back. Therefore, there is potentially less money available to the municipalities that were not as impacted by Sandy. He said he should know how much money will be available shortly and that he will keep SWAC

up to date. He added that he does not expect the amount to be much less than what it was last year, but that it will not be more.

Ms. Casapulla asked if there was the possibility of bonus grants available related to food waste research on a municipal level as opposed to colleges. Mr. Hull said he will look into it. She also asked how the waste composition study is progressing. Mr. Hull said there will be a meeting on April 7 and, at that time, they will hear from the statistician about the project and the suggested timeline. As soon as he finds something out, he will let her know.

Tom Varro said in the recent approval for the Solid Waste Management Plan Amendment, the Department put in a number of recommended activities regarding recycling. Mr. Hull advised that the Assistant Commissioner said that 50% recycling is the target and no one is recycling at 50% except Cumberland County and sometimes Gloucester County. DEP gave the counties some ideas to get closer to 50% and they want a report by July 1, 2014 (the 2013 date was a typo.) The report should show what recycling efforts have been done since their plan originally came out and what they propose to do going forward.

Mr. Baker asked if the rate for the County was calculated on the tonnage reported or on the average of the municipal averages. Mr. Hull said the rate is based on the tons that are reported by the municipalities.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORTS:**

A. ERIC SNYDER:

Eric Snyder reported that the Administrative Action for AG Choice was approved by DEP.

B. ADAM BOLTZ:

Adam Boltz said despite the cold, the Health Department was busy. To date in 2014, 59 solid waste containers were inspected with 18 waste flow closures. There were 20 garbage truck routes inspected and all but four closed. Four Notices of Violation were issued and there were three penalty assessments. So far, there have been no NJDEP referred investigations. There were four county solid waste complaints/referrals and three facility inspections have been completed. With regard to recycling, there were seven audits, 3 Notices of Violation issued and two more Notices of Violation will be issued. They have also inspected 44 trucks at the landfill. There was some discussion on the possibility of trucks avoiding the landfill when inspections are being conducted. Mr. Boltz said there will be a meeting with the haulers to discuss their responsibility to ensure that their customers are recycling.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

- A. SOLID WASTE FACILITY MONTHLY DISPOSAL AND MATERIAL RECOVERY REPORT, GRINNELL FOR DECEMBER 2013 AND JANUARY 2014:
- B. CERTIFICATE TO OPERATE A RD&D PROJECT – AG CHOICE, NJDEP, 1/13/14:
- C. CERTIFICATION OF THE 9/11/13 AMENDMENT TO THE SC DISTRICT SWMP, NJDEP, 1/15/14:
- D. NOTIFICATION OF EXEMPT RECYCLING ACTIVITIES FOR SPARTA, ROSS HULL, 1/16/14:
- E. CERTIFICATION OF THE SWMP AMENDMENT FOR THE EXPANSION OF THE LANDFILL, NJDEP, 1/21/14:
- F. APPLICATION FOR SOLID WASTE FACILITY PERMIT RENEWAL FOR GRINNELL, NJDEP, 2/11/14:
- G. NOTIFICATION OF NJ UNIVERSAL WASTE HANDLER ACTIVITIES FOR DISPOSAL KINGS, NJDEP, 2/25/14:

Alice Brees summarized the Correspondence listed above. She asked Ross Hull to talk about Correspondence “D,” the notification of exempt recycling activities for Sparta. Mr. Hull said there are 24 different recycling exemptions. These activities are so environmentally benign that DEP exempts them from having to go through the normal permitting requirements. Sparta sent DEP a notification for the storage, processing and transfer of brush.

Regarding Correspondence “G,” Ross Hull said one of the activities is for a small quantity handler of universal waste (thermostats, batteries, consumer electronics, etc.) A small quantity generator never has more than 5,000 kilograms at any one time on the site. These generators are not required to submit the typical notification form, but there is another form they can submit which puts something on record to show they will service a customer and that they’ve done the minimum that they should do.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None

**ADJOURNMENT:**

All business having been completed, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Howard Baker. The motion was seconded by Eleanor Mensonides and carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.