

SUSSEX COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL

MINUTES

APRIL 10, 2012

The meeting was opened at 7:30 p.m. by Chairman Landrith. 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
Bob Smith, Andover Township
William Koellhoffer, Byram Township
Jason Doyle, Franklin Borough
Virgil Rome, Fredon Township
Allan Esenlohr, Green Township
Christopher Kelly, Hamburg Borough
Karen Hansen, Hampton Township
Howard Baker, Hopatcong Borough
Stephanie Pizzulo, Lafayette Township
Eric Powell, Sparta Township
Don Drake, Stanhope Borough
John Armeno, At-Large
Eleanor Mensonides, At-Large, Vice Chair
Richard Vohden, Freeholder Liaison

EXCUSED MEMBERS: Troy Orr, Branchville Borough
Gary Larson, Frankford Township
Robert Schultz, Hardyston Township
Robert Sturges, Montague Township
Ken Jaekel, Town of Newton
Jo-Ann Williamson, Sandyston Township
Richard Fenimore, At-Large

STAFF MEMBERS: Eric Snyder, Planning Director
Antoinette Wasiewicz, Recording Secretary
Anita DeMatteo, Health Department
Reenee Casapulla, Recycling Coordinator
Tom Varro, SCMUA

ALSO PRESENT: Jay and Jill Fischer, Ag. Choice, LLC

MINUTES CORRECTION/APPROVAL:

A motion was made by Jason Doyle to approve the Minutes of February 14, 2012. The motion was seconded by John Armeno. All were in favor, with abstentions from William Koellhoffer, Virgil Rome, Karen Hansen and Howard Baker. Motion carried.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS:

Chairman Landrith did not have remarks this evening.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. DRANCO TECHNOLOGY REVIEW:
- B. PLASCO – CHANGING THE WAY COMMUNITIES DEAL WITH WASTE:

Mr. Landrith said SWAC was provided with information regarding two high tech methods for the disposal of solid waste by DRANCO Technology and PLASCO. He asked for comments from SWAC members.

William Koellhoffer said it looks like it takes up a lot of real estate and also asked if there was odor associated with this process. Chairman Landrith said the DRACO process is basically a miniature landfill and he also had questions regarding odor. He also said that according to Ross Hull, this system would be closest to being approved by DEP. It appears that it will require a lot of screening of municipal waste and that it would only reduce waste by 40-50%. The PLASCO system promises more effectiveness. They said it should get rid of about 95% of municipal waste and have an output that is usable for construction. PLACSCO has a plant operating in Ottawa and they are starting to build one in California.

A member said the last presentation that was made (W2e Systems) seemed to be the most viable. Mr. Landrith agreed and said it was modular and would avoid a lot of trucking of the waste. Mr. Snyder said the representative from W2e was told that once they were further along in the permitting process to come back. Mr. Landrith said if the W2e is as modular as they claim, we would not need to rely so much on the transfer station. However, we will still need to rely heavily on recycling and therefore we will need a facility to augment the recycling effort and to separate the materials to go to the W2e System.

Mr. Esenlohr said his town just changed the recycling day and they can now put cardboard, bottles and cans out at the same time. He asked if Blue Diamond was taking the recycling to SCMUA. Ms. Casapulla said Blue Diamond can take the recycling wherever he chooses because it is a free market for recycling. She said he is not taking it to the MUA. A member asked if towns can force haulers to take recycling to SCMUA. Mr. Snyder said Morris County tried and was not permitted to do that.

Chairman Landrith asked Mr. Snyder to get more information on PLASCO.

REPORTS:

A. SCMUA UPDATE:

Tom Varro reported that the solid waste tonnages received at the facility from December 1, 2011 through March 31, 2012 were 31,285 tons. This is a 4.1% increase over the same period for fiscal year 2011. The tip fee was \$101.67. This is an increase of 5.4% over the same period for fiscal year 2011. This is a blended rate for all waste received at the facility.

Today they opened bids on Contract 443B, the landfill gas system, Phase 3A improvements. He said they are moving into the next phase of the landfill. They plan to install nine new wells there and four replacement wells in the currently uncapped section of the landfill, 2B. The cost is currently under review and they could range anywhere from \$643,000 to \$900,000. They do anticipate awarding the bid in the near future. They continue to invest in gas management at the landfill which has a twofold benefit. It helps them control odors and puts gas to the energy facility.

B. RECYCLING COORDINATOR:

Renee Casapulla said last month the MUA had their first Electronics Waste Recycling Event for 2012. It was very successful with approximately 760 cars coming into the facility. They collected just under 40 tons of material. A number of schools and municipalities participated the day prior.

The MUA Earth Energy Day is scheduled for Thursday, April 19. She provided SWAC with flyers for this event. Ms. Casapulla said this is the 7th year of the Earth Day program. They are now calling it Earth Energy Day because they now include alternative energies as part of the event. It is an educational, interactive event. They have invited and are expecting approximately 500 students to attend. They will be learning about propane powered vehicles; they will plant trees using food waste compost; and they will learn about recycling jeans to be used in quilting for a program called, "Operation Quiet Comfort." They will also learn about transforming the landfill gas to electricity. Ms. Casapulla said Recycling Coordinators can earn continuing education credits for helping at this event.

The new Pamphlets for the MUA have been printed and are available for the municipalities. Ms. Casapulla brought in a sample of a corrugated plastic road sign and said that these signs are now recyclable at the MUA for a small charge.

C. STATE LIAISON:

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

D. SWAGER REPORT:

Eleanor said SWAGER discussed much of what was covered earlier in the meeting.

DIRECTOR'S REPORTS:

A. ERIC SNYDER:

Eric Snyder said that the model Recycling Ordinance is out of date. He and Renee Casapulla will be meeting to discuss updating the ordinance.

Tom Varro asked if there was a DEP Workshop regarding the Recycling Ordinance. Mr. Snyder said there was not but there is a task force that he reported on at the last meeting. There was another meeting last week that he could not attend. He added that did bring up the idea of a Warren and Morris County regional solid waste operation. They are not interested.

SWAC was provided with a copy of the memo Mr. Snyder prepared regarding the recommendation to the Freeholder Board to proceed with general permitting process for a transfer station. Mr. Snyder said the memo outlined what has been done to date. If this meets with County Counsel's approval, it will be forwarded to the Freeholders tomorrow.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Eleanor Mensonides to approve and forward the memo. The motion was seconded by Howard Baker and carried unanimously.

B. HEALTH DEPARTMENT:

Anita DeMatteo reported that the Health Department has been doing container inspections. Twelve inspections resulted in Notices of Violations being issued. To date there have been 94 inspections in 2012. They received a solid waste complaint in Hopatcong regarding concrete being used as fill. She said it is permissible to use concrete as fill; however they were not sure about small the concrete has to be. They are waiting for a response from DEP. They also received a referral complaint from DEP in Hampton Township regarding solid waste entering into the stream behind the Toyota dealership and Chase Bank. It was determined that the waste was blown in from the wind and has since been cleaned up. The Health Department did four A901 Exempt Small Hauler interviews and they are actively tracing a Type 10 Waste Flow investigation.

A member asked what kind of Violations are being issued. Ms. DeMatteo said the violations deal mostly with the lettering or other information that is supposed to be on the containers.

CORRESPONDENCE:

A. EQ NORTHEAST MONTHLY DISPOSAL REPORT:

The Solid Waste Transporter Monthly Disposal Report from EQ Northeast Inc. was received and a copy was sent to SWAC.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jay Fischer, Ag. Choice said DEP granted him an expansion of his permit to take in all kinds of food waste. The farm he is operating from now has been put into Farmland Preservation and the Farmland Preservation Act does not recognize composting as a form of agriculture. He is grandfathered on the footprint he is on now; however he cannot expand his operation. He purchased a turner that doubled his capacity and he is seeking a new facility. There is a property he is interested in next door from where he is now. He asked what he needed to present to SWAC to continue to operate.

Eric Snyder said wherever Mr. Fischer moves to he will need to apply for an amendment to the plan. He will need to provide the same information he did when he started his business. Mr. Snyder said he will also need to file a site plan with the town and go before the Planning Board for waivers for the access.

Mr. Fischer said he has been working with DEP, Rutgers University and the Department of Agriculture to get the permitting rules changed for composting facilities. The composting guidelines in New Jersey were designed in the 1970's and are outdated. He is trying to get the State to recognize that food waste can be dealt with an environmentally responsible way when it is on a smaller scale.

Mr. Fischer also asked what percentage of food waste is going into the landfill. Eleanor Mensonides said that is part of the waste characterization study. He talked about the expense involved in transferring waste out of state and said he would like to see discussions about keeping food waste out of the waste stream. Mr. Baker said at this point they've determined that due to the timeframe forced by the closure of the landfill, they're next step has to be a transfer station.

Renee Casapulla asked about the status of the RER Center. Eric Snyder said we are still waiting for more information from them.

There was some discussion regarding the permitting process for the transfer station. Freeholder Liaison Vohden said he plans to call Steve Oroho to ask if he would meet with SWAC to discuss the permitting process. Mr. Landrith talked about the need for a characterization of the waste flow and that it will be needed for almost any direction they take.

When asked about the design of the transfer station, Mr. Varro said they have a design for the transfer station scheduled around 2015. It is on page 14 of 17 from the Post Closure Care Report that was circulated last October. This date will allow the Transfer Station to be up and running by the end of 2018. He said the design is only a six month process. Mr. Snyder said if they leave it at 2015, perhaps a couple of the alternate waste disposal options that were presented to SWAC will become more viable. Mr. Varro said they also have to amend their solid waste facility permit and get air permits. They were looking at that as a year long process, from 2013 to 2014. Eleanor Mensonides asked Mr. Varro to provide SWAC with a timeline of the estimated dates. Mr. Varro said they are on page 14 of 17 of the Post Closure Care Report. Mr. Landrith asked what was the impact of using the tarp system. Mr. Varro said they estimated it gave them nine more months of landfill life.

ADJOURNMENT:

All business having been completed, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Jason Doyle. The motion was seconded by John Armeno and carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.