

SUSSEX COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL

MINUTES

APRIL 8, 2014

The meeting was opened at 7:05 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  
William Koellhoffer, Byram Township  
Gary Larson, Frankford Township  
Jason Doyle, Franklin Borough  
Howard Baker, Hopatcong Borough  
Ken Jaekel, Town of Newton  
Jo-Ann Williamson, Sandyston Township  
Eric Powell, Sparta Township  
Don Drake, Stanhope Borough  
Annette Stendor, Sussex Borough  
Richard Fenimore, At-Large  
Eleanor Mensonides, At-Large, Vice Chair  
Donald Ploetner, At-Large  
Richard Vohden, Freeholder Liaison

EXCUSED MEMBERS: Allan Esenlohr, Green Township

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: Lee Doremus, Branchville Borough

**MINUTES CORRECTION/APPROVAL:**

Minutes were not available.

**CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS:**

Chairman Landrith said the Obama Administration asked that the standards for methane emissions be changed. This is going to have an impact on landfills and livestock. The EPA has been directed to come out with new regulations for landfills by this summer.

The methane that is being produced by cows and manure has also been targeted. It has been suggested that they are going to encourage people to use digesters and production of methane to produce electricity instead of letting manure ferment. This will probably affect people like AG Choice.

Tom Varro said SCMUA participated in an EPA monitoring program. Currently the EPA does not regulate methane, DEP does. Howard Baker said Sussex County already has methane capturing but there are landfills elsewhere which do not. If everyone is required to reduce their methane emissions by 80% and you are already taking it down to close to zero, an additional reduction becomes impractical. It would make sense to look for reductions in places where a reduction is possible. Mr. Varro said EPA has a guideline to have a collection and control system with 75% collection efficiency. He said he believes SCMUA is well above that. Mr. Landrith said SWAC needs to be on top of this issue.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

A. ROOFING SHINGLES – RECYCLING POTENTIAL?:

Mr. Landrith asked Mr. Varro if SCMUA landfills roofing shingles. Mr. Varro said if roofing shingles come to the facility, they are landfilled. Mr. Landrith said there are only seven facilities in New Jersey that recycle roofing shingles and there are none in Sussex County. He said that if shingles were recycled, the shingles from an average roof could pave 200' of a two lane highway. He added that the average roof has between three and four tons of roofing material on it.

There was some question as to whether Grinnell was recycling roofing materials. Renee Casapulla suggested that Mr. Landrith check Grinnell's Recycling Reports. Mr. Landrith said according to the Asphalt Shingle Manufacturing Association, shingles are very inexpensive to recycle. In many cases, if they are source separated, recycling can cost nothing. He asked Eric Snyder to contact roofing companies in Sussex County to see if they are recycling roofing shingles.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

None

**REPORTS:**

A. SCMUA UPDATE:

Tom Varro provided SWAC with a Tonnage Report for the period of December 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014. So far in 2014 there were 27,404 tons collected. This is a decrease of 7.8% for the same time prior in the prior year. The prior year was also down by 3.8% for the same period as compared to FY 2012. Overall, this is about a 10% drop off in two years. The largest percent changes are with ID13 waste. This was -27.5% for ID13 Bulky at the Landfill; -27.9% for ID13 C&D; and -12.4% for ID13 CC Bulky at the RCC (Residents Convenience Center.) It is hoped this is due to the severe winter. Mr. Varro said a couple of thousand tons came in over the last week and that they haven't seen those numbers in quite a while. ID10 Household Waste is down 2.9%. This is a financial concern because of the change over prior years.

The Revenue Report reflects the decrease in tonnage. Also ID13 carries a higher tip fee. This also shows a drop off over prior years. They hope to see this rebound. Revenue is about \$2.9 million for this time period.

Alice Brees reported that she just received population estimates from the Census Bureau for 2013 that show a recent decrease in population for Sussex County, which could explain some of the tonnage decrease. In 2010, the population was 149,000, and recently down to 145,000 for 2013. Eric Snyder said the 2% loss in population is consistent with Warren, Hunterdon, Pike and Monroe Counties. All of the suburban fringe counties are starting to lose population.

Howard Baker asked if there was an explanation for the large decreases for Industrial Asbestos and Animal Waste from 2010 to 2011. Mr. Varro said some of the Animal Waste is probably going to AG Choice. He did not know why asbestos tonnage is down. Eric Powell said perhaps in the mid/late 2000's there was a run on industrial building renovations. There may have been federal monies available to clean up asbestos tiles, ceiling tiles, shingles and siding. SCMUA may see spikes when money is available for clean-up and then it sees a lull when money is not available. Mr. Baker said perhaps most of the asbestos has been cleaned up by now.

Mr. Varro also gave an update on the landfill life extension project. He said SCMUA made a presentation to DEP in January and submitted the application package. The proposal seemed to be well-received and SCMUA has since received a Notice of Administrative Completeness from DEP.

B. RECYCLING COORDINATOR:

Renee Casapulla reported that Pope John High School has been doing a plastic bag recycling program. She said that TREX (the plastic lumber company) makes plastic lumber from plastic bags from grocery stores and sawdust through their own manufacturing process. They sponsor a contest for schools to collect the plastic bags. The contest generally runs from November 15 to the following April 22 (Earth Day.)

Schools that collect the most plastic bags per capita will receive a bench. Pope John High School wanted to participate in the contest and TREX was willing to let them join the program halfway through. (Pope John High School is trying to replace nine benches in their Prayer Garden.) The school attempted to start the program in January, but because of the harsh weather, they did not get it going until March. The students have been very proactive in collecting plastic bags and MUA employees have been collecting their own bags and dropping them off once a week. Stores that are participating in plastic bag collection are A&P and Stop & Shop. Ms. Casapulla reported that there are only two other schools in New Jersey participating in this contest; one in Middlesex County and the other in Ridgewood.

Sussex County is in its 7<sup>th</sup> year of collecting boat shrink wrap. This program is done mostly through local marinas. The program runs from March 31 through July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend. More information can be found on SCMUA's website.

April 17 is Earth Energy Day. Anyone who is a certified recycling professional can get continuing education credits if they attend. This is a full-day event with interactive, educational activities. About 500 students are already signed up.

The next Electronics Recycling Day is scheduled for May 3. Ms. Casapulla said at the last Electronics Recycling Day, 31 tons of electronics were collected. This combined with the 44 tons collected throughout the year, brought the SCMUA to a total of 75 tons of electronics collected. She also said a number of municipalities have individually contracted with the vendor that the MUA uses to have e-waste collection at their recycling drop off centers.

There was a Recycling Tonnage Workshop on March 12. There were 16 municipalities represented at the workshop. A lot of groundwork was laid for their recycling tonnage reports and this will be reflected in the County's numbers when they are submitted at the end of April.

C. STATE LIAISON:

Tom Varro reported that Ross Hull has been transferred to the Landfill Section. He does not know if anyone has been assigned to the County and suggested that Staff contact DEP about this. He said it is beneficial to have a DEP representative at the SWAC meetings, at least occasionally, to answer State Government questions.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORTS:**

A. ERIC SNYDER:

Mr. Snyder said he received approval of the Administrative Actions for the truck routes and for AG Choice. He said SWAC needs to work on the report which is due July 1 regarding what the County is doing to enhance its recycling efforts.

B. HEALTH DEPARTMENT:

Adam Boltz said he has been busy doing restaurant inspections. They added 14 more containers to their roster. The State requires 50, so the Health Department will taper back on the number of containers they are inspecting and will focus on some rogue companies.

Mr. Boltz said to date 73 solid waste containers were inspected (up from 59.) There were a total of 21 garbage truck routes inspected---all are closed. To date there were five Notices of Violation, one since the last meeting. These were all container-related violations. Since January 1, 2014 there were three penalty assessments, no new assessments since the last meeting.

Since the last meeting, there were five NJDEP Referred Investigations. There were seven DEHA SW Complaints/Referrals to date, 3 from last month. Four Facility Inspections have been completed. There were 13 Recycling Audits (up from seven,) with six Notices of Violations issued (up from three.) There were 62 recycling inspections at the SCMUA landfill (up from 44.)

Mr. Boltz said there was an article in the newspaper about problems with PSE&G's towers along the transmission line. When the towers were built in the 1930s, they coated the foundation with asbestos containing material. They had to remove this material before they could take the rest of the concrete out. PSE&G had a company come in to break off the coating, bag it, double bag it, label it and throw it into a container. This authorized activity is what prompted the complaint to DEP. The newspaper article came out the next day.

Renee Casapulla asked about the cardboard in construction debris issue which was discussed last month. Mr. Boltz also said the Health Department is working on a flyer relating to the need to remove cardboard from construction debris.

Ms. Mensonides asked Mr. Boltz about whether there are fewer trucks coming into the landfill on the days when he is doing on-site inspections. Mr. Boltz said there is a rush of trucks coming into the landfill for a two-hour period around 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Other than that, it is fairly quiet. Eric Powell said there are probably more trucks coming into the facility on garbage collection days.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

- A. RECEIPT OF ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION REQUEST FOR AG CHOICE, NJDEP, 3/10/14:
- B. SOLID WASTE TRANSPORTER MONTHLY DISPOSAL REPORT FOR JANUARY 2014, EQ NORTHWEST, INC., 3/14/14:
- C. SOLID WASTE MONTHLY DISPOSAL AND MATERIALS RECOVERY REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2014, GRINNELL RECYCLING, INC., 3/12/14:
- D. FINAL DETERMINATION TO ISSUE GENERAL APPROVAL RENEWAL AND MODIFICATION FOR GRINNELL RECYCLING, INC., NJDEP, 3/17/14:
- E. HAULER ROUTE AMENDMENT, E. SNYDER, 3/24/14:

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None

**ADJOURNMENT:**

All business having been completed, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Jason Doyle. The motion was seconded by Eleanor Mensonides and carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.