

SUSSEX COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL

MINUTES

6/12/12

The meeting was opened at 7:35 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
Gary Larson, Frankford Township
Jason Doyle, Franklin Borough
Dennis Haff, Fredon Township
Allan Esenlohr, Green Township
Karen Hansen, Hampton Township
Robert Schultz, Hardyston Township
Howard Baker, Hopatcong Borough
Robert Sturges, Montague Township
Ken Jaekel, Town of Newton
Jo-Ann Williamson, Sandyston Township
Eric Powell, Sparta Township
Don Drake, Stanhope Borough
Richard Fenimore, At-Large
Eleanor Mensonides, At-Large, Vice Chair

EXCUSED MEMBERS: Christopher Kelly, Hamburg Borough
John Armeno, At-Large

STAFF MEMBERS: Freeholder Liaison Richard Vohden
Dennis McConnell, Esq., County Counsel
Eric Snyder, Planning Director
Neal Leitner, Program Manager

Antoinette Wasiewicz, Recording Secretary
Adam Boltz, Health Department
Reenee Casapulla, Recycling Coordinator
Tom Varro, SCMUA

ALSO PRESENT: Wayne DeFeo, Consultant for RER Center
Drew Flockhart, RER Center
Ward Janssens, Orgaworld

MINUTES CORRECTION/APPROVAL:

A motion was made by Jason Doyle to approve the Minutes of April 10, 2012. The motion was seconded by Don Drake. All were in favor, with abstentions from Gary Larson, Dennis Haff, Robert Schultz, Robert Sturges, Ken Jaekel, Jo-Ann Williamson and Richard Fenimore. Motion carried.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS:

Chairman Landrith acknowledged the anniversary of the death of Ron Keller, who was the original Chairman of SWAC. Mr. Keller established the integrity of SWAC. He included all sides of the issues and excluded all partisanship. Mr. Keller left a legacy that is well worth preserving. Mr. Landrith called for a moment of silence in his memory.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. **CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARING FOR RER CENTER:**

Mr. DeFeo was sworn by Dennis McConnell, Esq. Mr. DeFeo of DeFeo Associates is the Consultant for RER Center. Mr. DeFeo said there were computer technical difficulties during his last presentation to SWAC which have since been resolved. He did a Power Power Presentation to explain in detail the RER Center site, an existing exempt Class C and an existing exempt Class B facility. He said the only difference between an exempt facility and a general facility is the volume of material. They are seeking a general approval so that they may take in more material during the course of the year.

There was a question regarding how the material is measured. Because DEP requires material to be recorded as tons per day, Mr. DeFeo converted the volume to tons. He selected the conversion factor which is recognized by DEP. He described the site as being one that can take in Class B material. There is a detention pond and a series of windrows. They plan to add more windrows and increase the size of windrows in height and width. The new windrow turner will allow them to build larger windrows and to compost the materials faster. This facility will be limited, in terms of its windrows, to leaves and grass. The grass has to be incorporated into the windrows every day it arrives.

This facility will be required to monitor temperature, moisture and oxygen. The temperature will always be somewhere less than 150°. Trucks will enter and exit the site from Route 23 and will not impact the traffic flow. Mr. DeFeo said that DEP does not have any odor or neighbor complaints against this facility. The facility is inspected a minimum of twice per year by the State. Over the course of 12 years, there was one Notice of Violation for windrow height, and that was corrected within the allowed 30 days.

Mr. DeFeo said the Class B facility will take in clean wood. This is wood that is chemically untreated. Under the new plan, the operation will be limited by the Air Permit that exists on the tub grinder. The Class C operation is for the windrows. The new windrow turner can make this facility run faster and more efficiently. No additives are used in the processing of the materials into compost.

When asked about runoff, Mr. DeFeo said the contours are designed so that all the runoff will divert to the detention pond. This detention pond will also serve to provide water to the windrows and becomes part of the fire control system. There will be no runoff off the property.

Regarding noise, Mr. DeFeo said the tub grinder will be below the grade of the neighboring homes, so the natural contour of the property acts as a sound barrier. They are also required to comply with the NJ DEP noise restrictions.

There was a period of questions and answers where it was recommended that the Wantage Fire Department approve RER's fire safety provisions. RER was asked to provide MSDS information for all the chemicals used on site. It was also recommended that the materials to be processed be limited to 79,567 cubic yards per year for leaves and grass and approximately 294,000 cubic yards per year for unprocessed Class B material. The facility will accept a daily maximum of 810 tons of unprocessed material per day. Class C Facility shall accept a maximum of 500 tons of leaves daily and a daily maximum of 555 tons of grass. In no case shall a volume of materials exceed the above quantities. Hours of operation would be 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday and 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. RESOLUTION – RER CENTER TO CONVERT AN EXEMPT CLASS B/C PROCESSING OPERATION TO A GENERAL APPROVAL IN WANTAGE, NJ, BLOCK 3, LOT 2.01:

A motion was made by Gary Larson to direct staff to prepare a Resolution to approve RER Center's request to convert an Exempt Class B/C processing operation to a General Approval. The motion was seconded by Jason. A roll-call vote was taken. All were in favor.

B. PRESENTATION BY DELTA THERMO ENERGY, INC. (RON VAN NAARDEN, CEO):

The representative for Delta Thermo Energy, Inc. was not present this evening. Therefore, a motion was made by Eleanor Mensonides to amend the Agenda to hear a presentation by Orgaworld. The motion was seconded by Robert Schultz and carried unanimously.

C. PRESENTATION BY ORGAWORLD:

Ward Janssens said he represents Orgaworld, a company based in the Netherlands. The Netherlands is a very small country with a population of 17 million. Mr. Janssens said they dispose of less than 3% of waste into landfills.

Orgaworld belongs to Shanks, a UK based company which owns more than 100 facilities in the UK, the Netherlands, Belgium and Canada. Shanks has sold off all of their landfills. The company's main focus is on recycling. Within that company, Orgaworld specializes in organic waste treatment.

Mr. Janssens described Orgaworld's processes as waste sorting, dry mesophylic batch tunnel anaerobic digestion, wet mesophylic anaerobic digestion, composting, bio-stabilization, and production of bio-fuels. He said their philosophy is to design, build, own and operate all of their facilities. They use different technologies to serve their customer base; keep their systems as simple as possible and focus on lowest costs. All sites are modular and can be expanded.

Mr. Janssens' presentation showed examples of various types of facilities in use and the processes used for these facilities. They process any waste which contains organics. Their systems allow for collections in plastic bags and bins. They also process MSW, either source separated or as mixed waste. In total, Orgaworld is processing 1.5 million of tons of waste and that number is growing rapidly.

When asked what was the smallest plant they could build effectively on a tons per day basis, Mr. Janssens said a 40-50 thousand tons per year facility is possible. However, he said that waste processing is a volumes business. Processing more volume will decrease the cost tremendously. The cost was estimated to be about \$100 million. Howard Baker said probably one of the only ways to effectively utilize this system would be regionalization. Mr. Landrith said Sussex County does not produce enough waste to feed their smallest piece of equipment; but in partnership with other counties, this looks very promising.

SWAC members were provided with a CD copy of the presentation prior to this evening's meeting.

REPORTS:

A. SCMUA UPDATE:

Tom Varro said SCMUA received a letter from Jason Cofrancesco, President of Grinnell Recycling, Inc. SWAC was copied on that correspondence and it will be discussed later in the Agenda. The MUA replied by letter to acknowledge receipt of Mr. Cofrancesco's offer. Mr. Cofrancesco suggested that their material recovery facility transfer station be considered for a future County solid waste disposal option, whether by lease or purchase. The MUA is not the County Planning Agency, therefore does not have direct jurisdiction over making that type of decision. The MUA advised Grinnell Recycling to refer that to the County Freeholders, SWAC and County Planning and said they would assist as needed if this option was pursued.

Mr. Varro said the tonnage news has been positive throughout the early part of the year and then last month the numbers declined. He provided a chart which showed a period from December 1 – February 18 as compared to prior years. At the time, 2012 was up 8.8% overall from the prior year. Page 2 showed December 1 – May 12 (the most current records) and that showed a 4% overall decline in tonnage from the prior year. Page 3 compared Fiscal Years for all waste types. Page 4 showed ID 13 and 13C Waste which had an increase of 58.6% for the first 12 week period and -5% at the end of the second 12 week period. Year to date, between the first 12 week period and the second 12 week period, was 17.1%; however Mr. Varro said that they are trending low. Page 5 showed ID 10 Waste was -0.2% for the first 12 weeks and was down 10.1% at the second 12 week period. Page 6 shows that the major losses are occurring in Andover, Hardyston, Newton, Sparta and Wantage. On Page 7, Andover Township showed a -16% drop from Page 6. Their major carrier, Blue Diamond is up. Gary Gray is not in Andover Township and Waste Management is down by half.

Discussion followed. It was suggested, but not by Tom Varro, that people are throwing away less garbage because the economy is down and people are not buying as much. It was also suggested, but not by Tom Varro, that people are recycling more. Renee Casapulla said this trend has also been happening in other counties; southern counties more drastically. There seems to be a trend where commercial collection is being taken to areas where they are able to process it as industrial waste. Instead of taking waste for disposal, they are taking it to privately run facilities where they are sorting out the recycling material.

Howard Baker said for SCMUA, lots of tonnage and high tipping fees are success because it solves their financial problem. To people that are not SCMUA, lower tonnages, more recycling and the diversion of the waste that Ms. Casapulla spoke about, sounds like a good idea. Allan Esenlohr said in Green Township, about 7% of the houses are empty, therefore not generating garbage. He added that Blue Diamond takes co-mingled recycling and that more people are more likely to recycle in that manner. Ms. Casapulla said if that is the case, it will take some time before the State reports show those recycling statistics.

Eric Snyder said he attended a Waste Task Force meeting yesterday and one of the things they are talking about is real time tracking of hauler vehicles. This will show where waste was picked up and where it went.

It was also suggested that there could be changes in how collections are being recorded by the drivers. Another member said pressure to the haulers about keeping better records will most likely result in an increase in cost.

Dennis McConnell noted on the chart on Page 3 that for the first 12 weeks of this year, the tonnage was 20,725. The second 12 weeks the tonnage was 21,974 tons, a 1,000 ton increase. In 2011, the first 12 weeks, the tonnage was 19,000 and then there was an increase of over 4,000 tons. The tonnage still increased this year. It didn't go down dramatically, it just didn't go up as much as in prior years. Eric Snyder said there are some changes within the towns but from a Countywide perspective, it is less than 4% change.

Mr. Varro said it was his responsibility to bring SCMUA's concerns to SWAC. They've already talked to the County Health Department and they can hone in on certain types of haulers and municipalities if they choose. A member asked Ms. Casapulla if DEP has been contacted regarding this issue. Ms. Casapulla said County Recycling Coordinators are working on drafting a letter to DEP to ask them to look into this.

B. RECYCLING COORDINATOR:

Renee Casapulla said she feels a meeting such as this should count as recertification credits and she will contact DEP to find out if that can be done.

Since the last SWAC meeting, there was the second E-Waste Collection Event at SCMUA. Ms. Casapulla said there were 650 vehicles at that event and they collected 23 tons of e-waste. An estimated year to date total for electronics collection is about 175 tons. Andover Township, Newton, Hopatcong, Stillwater and Vernon have their own e-waste collections. A member said that Montague had an e-waste collection day and another said that Stanhope started collecting e-waste as of the first of the year.

On June 2 there was a Household Hazardous Waste collection and that event also had at least 650 vehicles come through the facility. Again, the Sussex County Hazardous Material unit was involved. They helped screen the cars and were on site for possible emergencies.

Ms. Casapulla said when she sends out the E-Bulletins, she has some difficulties because the e-mails are not assigned to names. She asked for a list of representatives with the towns they represent and their e-mail addresses. Antoinette Wasiewicz, Recording Secretary from the County Planning Division, said she has such a list and would provide it to her.

C. STATE LIAISON:

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

D. SWAGER REPORT:

Eleanor Mensonides said she did not have anything new to report but she did ask that SWAGER members notify Neal Leitner if they are unable to attend the SWAGER meeting.

Allan Esenlohr said the County has been looking to take care of its solid waste problem on its own when it should be looking to branch out. It should be looking at some type of shared services with other counties throughout the State. Perhaps one county can dispose of plastics, while another takes care of methane, etc. Eric Snyder said he has been in contact with neighboring counties and none of them were interested in sharing services.

DIRECTOR'S REPORTS:

A. ERIC SNYDER:

Eric Snyder said that the reason Orgaworld was here this evening was because, among its other activities, the County has been working with the Department of State. He received this presentation from the Office of International Development and Protocol out of the Lieutenant Governor's Office. They put together a task force to talk about means by which the whole solid waste effort in the State of New Jersey can be rationalized. It is difficult because it is fragmented. It is a combination of mandates to each county. The State does understand that something needs to get done. There is an attempt at the State level to get businesses into the process, to get government out of the process, to increase efficiency to the whole operation and to reduce landfills.

B. HEALTH DEPARTMENT:

Adam Boltz said the Health Department is looking into the problem with wasteflow. They are currently examining numbers and making phone calls directing to haulers and to some of the facilities around the County. He said they inspected about 10 containers which is twice what the State requires, so they will have the time to look into the wasteflow issue. He asked that anyone who has any ideas or sees something suspicious to contact him.

Mr. Boltz said there have been substantial cancellations of waste removal services in Newton alone for non-payment. He also said there was an illegal dumping of a truckload of waste onto private property. Private mail has been recovered from the waste and the police are looking into it. Ms. Mensonides asked if there has been an increase to the tonnage at the MUA's convenience center. Tom Varro said that aspect has to be looked at.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- A. ORGAWORLD PRESENTATION CD:
- B. DELTA THERMO-ENERGY, INC. "WASTE TO ENERGY OPERATIONAL WORKFLOW":
- C. RESOLUTION RE: RER CENTER:
- D. NOTIFICATION OF EXEMPT RECYCLING ACTIVITIES, ALL POOL DEMOLITION AT 35 WARREN ROAD, SPARTA:
- E. GRINNELL TRANSFER STATION LETTER:

Eric Snyder said he will respond to the letter from Jason Cofrancesco. He will advise Mr. Cofrancesco that the long term interest of County would be to refurbish the MUA building for a transfer station.

Dennis McConnell said SWAC can give the Freeholders advice, but it is their decision whether or not they will accept Mr. Cofrancesco's offer. Mr. Snyder said he will forward the letter to the Freeholders for their consideration.

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 10:10 p.m.