

SUSSEX COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL

MINUTES

JULY 13, 2010

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chairman Jim Landrith. The meeting is held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, NJSA 10:4-1 of 1975, as amended. Present were:

MEMBERS PRESENT:

James Landrith, Chairman, Andover Borough
Eleanor Mensonides, Vice Chairman, Vernon
Bob Smith, Andover Township
William Koellhoffer, Byram Township
Jason Doyle, Franklin Borough
Allan Esenlohr, Green Township
Chris Kelly, Hamburg Borough
Howard Baker, Hopatcong Borough
Jo-Ann Williamson, Sandyston Township
John Armeno, At-Large

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Edith McGrath, Lafayette Township

STAFF PRESENT:

Eric Snyder, Planning Director
Jim McDonald, Health Department
Reenee Casapulla, Recycling Coordinator
Tom Varro, SCMUA
Neal Leitner, Program Manager

MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Armeno to approve the minutes of May 11, 2010. It was seconded by Mr. Doyle. After an abstention from Mr. Smith, motion carried.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Chairman Landrith congratulated the SWAGER committee for the excellent work they are doing. Although she was not in attendance, he especially wanted to thank Ms. McGrath who organized the Covanta trip.

REPORTS

A. SCMUA Update - Mr. Varro reported on the solid waste tonnage and tip fee report; YTD December 1 to July 10, a total of 53,863 tons were received at the facility. That is a decrease of 1.2% from the prior year for the same period, however, that is the smallest cumulative to date decrease that has been recently seen. The average tip fee is up 10.4%. As of June 1, the tip fee at the SCMUA facility was increased to \$109 per ton. Looking at a chart that compares solid waste tonnages for the five week period of June 1 to July 10, Mr. Varro said we're looking at an increase of 9.6% over the same period last year. Regarding Grinnell inbound tonnage, Mr. Varro said we're now up to 3% of the Grinnell facility per their own report that shows where the various waste into their facility is coming from. On the back of that pie chart Mr. Varro just spoke about is a representation over time for the period from January of last year through June of this year, and you will notice a rise in the line; Mr. Varro said we presumably owe that to flow control. He stated that Grinnell's reporting shows an increase in Sussex County tonnage.

The other topic Mr. Varro reported on is the landfill gas to energy project. He said a ground breaking ceremony was held last month; we're getting permits in place; and we expect that facility to be under serious construction within a month. A January completion and operation date is projected. Mr. Varro also wanted to report to SWAC that the MUA has been selling carbon credits. There are two different sources that have been buying the credits that were generated from 2000 to present, and the MUA is currently in the process of verifying additional carbon credits. Mr. Varro stated that this looks to be a good source of revenue for the MUA.

B. Recycling Coordinator - Ms. Casapulla reported on the June 5th Household Hazardous Waste Day, which was attended by over 800 participants, including seven schools and one County agency. Over 21 tons of material was collected. She said this event has been held twice a year since 1987 and the large attendance shows that it's being well utilized and necessary within the County. The cost of this event is approximately \$19,000, which is partially offset by a DEP grant. Ms. Casapulla said the Health Department also

attended and worked well with the MUA; it makes a big difference having them as part of the team.

Ms. Casapulla then reported on the new County recycling rates (2008) that were issued by the DEP. Sussex County went up slightly, .1% to 31.9% (municipal solid waste). The goal of the state is for counties to have a 50% municipal solid waste recycling rate. Ms. Casapulla will take these DEP solid waste figures and individual municipality recycling tonnage figures and develop individual recycling rates for each municipality. She said one of the things that has now become clear is that there are certain municipalities that seem to be stuck in rates that are under 20%, some in the single digits. Therefore, she thinks there is some need to look at their individual programs.

Ms. Casapulla said a new Sussex County recycling logo will be unveiled this Saturday, July 17, at the Skyhawks game; it is Go Green Night at the stadium. As part of the DEP grant, the MUA is providing one recycling container with the new logo to each municipality's town hall. This new logo and other information is on the MUA website and ties into the Solid Waste Management Plan.

C. State Liaison - not present - no report

At this time, Ms. Mensonides mentioned that this committee will be viewing the Covanta presentation - the same presentation that the SWAGER committee saw when they visited the site. The recent discussions of the committee have been about cost factors and time factors of this facility. They have also discussed entering into a temporary contract with Covanta. Ms. Mensonides did not attend the last tour, therefore, she asked Mr. Leitner to give an update.

Mr. Leitner reported that the SWAGER committee toured the transfer station in Mine Hill. He learned of a few important enforcement ideas that he wanted to share with SWAC. One was a simple tagging procedure that seemed to work well. Mr. Leitner gave the example of an inspector driving around Lowes, Home Depot or a large apartment building. He said if the location doesn't have a recycling bin, he tags their trash bin with the DEP decal on it, rips off the top part, goes back to the office and sends that location a letter to follow up. Eventually the location will call and is asked to show their recycling bin; if they don't have it, they get fined. The inspector (municipality) gets an average of \$75,000 a year and this also increases recycling rates. On the operational side of the transfer station, Mr. Leitner gave another example. He said the first truck that came in dumped all cardboard. A group of employees take photos at this station which go to the hauler but are traced back to where it generated from. The hauler gets fined, but that gives incentive to hauler to tell whoever he picks up from to comply. Mr. Leitner also stated that the entire transfer station had two County employees; all the rest were waste management employees under contract. Mr. Leitner was asked if the inspectors (those who issued tags) were MUA employees. He said yes.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS

A. Eric Snyder - Mr. Snyder reported on receiving the SCMUA landfill topographical survey and report from Cerenzio. If anyone would like to view this document, it is available in the Planning office.

Mr. Snyder also said we are still working with the DEP to get Back Thru the Future operating again. At this point, Back Thru the Future seems to have found a way to function even though the DEP is having a difficult time going through the process for a change of address.

B. Herb Yardley - Mr. McDonald reported that the Health Department has completed the spring inspection of 15 facilities (exempt Class C and municipal convenience centers). With regard to recycling, approximately 100 facility audits and follow ups have been done, leaving about 200 still to complete. Last week, Mr. McDonald visited with Mike Flora of the Morris County MUA. Mr. Flora said he has issued penalties for recycling only, not waste flow. Mr. McDonald is not sure where he is getting the authority to do so. Mr. Flora said there has been some discussion and he may be transferred to the County (Morris) health department. Mr. McDonald wanted to see Morris County's tagging process for our waste flow enforcement. As of now, Mr. McDonald said inspectors are going out and taking pictures of the containers (content). Once those inspections are complete, the information will be entered into the spread sheet and that report sent to the MUA. The MUA will check to see whether that container/contents has crossed the scale or not. If not, there will be a course of action.

Mr. Koellhoffer, Byram Township, reported that Byram's June 26 Electronic Waste Day was very successful and it will continue to be held. A total of 8.275 tons were collected, which is an increase from the previous one held. He reminded the committee that it is open to any resident, not just Byram.

CORRESPONDENCE

- A. Letter from DEP regarding an Approval of Extension Request for paving at Grinnell
- B. SCMUA's Monthly Solid Waste and Appropriation Report for April
- C. SCMUA's Monthly Solid Waste and Appropriation Report for May
- D. SCMUA Revenue report from County of Sussex
- E. May Grinnell Recycling Report
- F. June Grinnell Recycling Report
- G. Administrative Order from DEP to Grinnell Recycling to cease operations
- H. Article from Sussex County Herald entitled "Recycler Can't Take More Material"
- I. PowerPoint presentation from Covanta Energy

Mr. Leitner said the list of this month's correspondence is long only because last month's meeting was cancelled. He reviewed each item on the list, and Mr. Varro made a comment on the Grinnell facility and the DEP action. He said the reports received show that inbound tonnage equals outbound tonnage; how do you end up with a vast stockpile of this nature if those reports are accurate.

Regarding Sussex County waste once going to Grinnell, Mr. Varro said SCMUA is seeing a slight increase in their total; it's about 10% and it's across the board; it's not just ID10; we're getting the bulky and the construction demolition debris also. Mr. Varro said per Grinnell's reporting, only 3% of their material comes from Sussex County.

Mr. Leitner then set up Covanta's PowerPoint presentation for the committee to view. It was the same presentation that the SWAGER committee saw when they visited the site.

Ms. Mensonides stated when Covanta's incinerator began operation, they had a landfill for bulky waste and a monofill for the ash. Anything that was not going through the system was going out to their landfill. That was one of our questions - how much life is there in that? She said whatever we take to them, we have to take back as ash. So can we use that as cover? And how much would we extend our facility if we can't send the bulky waste?

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Mensonides made a motion to cancel the August meeting. It was seconded by Ms. Williamson. All were in favor.

OPEN TO PUBLIC

None present

ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business to be discussed at this time and a motion was made by Ms. Mensonides to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Doyle and carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.