

SUSSEX COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL

MINUTES

JULY 8, 2014

The meeting was opened at 7:00 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  
Jason Doyle, Franklin Borough  
Karen Hansen, Hampton Township  
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  
Christopher Fitzpatrick, At-Large  
Eleanor Mensonides, At-Large, Vice Chair  
Donald Ploetner, At-Large

EXCUSED MEMBERS: Gary Larson, Frankford Township  
Dennis Haff, Fredon Township  
Allan Esenlohr, Green Township  
Richard Fenimore, 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: Ralph Suppa, Gaeta Recycling Co., Inc.

**PRESENTATION:**

A. GAETA RECYCLING CO., INC.:

Ralph Suppa thanked SWAC for the opportunity to speak. He said he is the Sales Manager at Gaeta Recycling located in Paterson, NJ. He said Gaeta Recycling has been doing a significant amount of business in Sussex County for about 20 years. It is their hope to be included in the Waste Flow Program for Sussex County.

Gaeta Recycling is a licensed transfer station. They are also a MRF and a Class A Recycling Center. It would benefit them to bring the waste to their facility, sort it and then send the residual waste back to Sussex County. Mr. Suppa said they have done this for a couple of different counties for well over 10 years without any issues. He added that this arrangement would benefit them as well as the County. If they can keep their trucks out of the landfill, be more efficient and effective, they can help their customers by being more cost-effective.

Mr. Suppa said Gaeta Recycling has a vested interest in helping Sussex County. He said he and Renee Casapulla have worked together for years to enhance the Recycling Program with his customers. He said they have increased the recycling coming out of the County with his accounts. About a month ago, his salesman provided a list of their accounts to try to further enhance each customer to expand on their recycling.

When asked, Mr. Suppa said they take in tires, wood, cardboard, plastic bottles, aluminum cans, glass, shrink wrap and other items. The loads get dumped at the Transfer Station. The pickers take out the light iron and then the load is moved to the conveyors. The conveyor belt takes it across about six picking stations where they take out other recycling. This is processed separately. Everything is then baled. He said they gave a good system of getting everything out quickly. They also have isolated trucks where they pick up only cardboard or only comingled. They also have some single stream sites. Obviously, they are a lot easier to handle than sifting through the garbage to pull out recyclables.

Eric Snyder asked Tom Varro if he sees any issues with this proposal. Mr. Varro said he missed the beginning of the presentation. Mr. Suppa quickly recapped what he spoke about earlier. He also said they have an excellent track record with the State and DEP.

Mr. Varro said the issue that SCMUA and SWAC would have is the policy on flow control. Going back to Minutes of February 8, 2011, Ross Hull talked about lawsuits regarding waste flow. According to Mr. Hull, DEP said the counties should allow materials recovery facilities to take garbage out of the county, process it, recycle it and return the residual back to the county. This is not the case with Morris County and Sussex County. In April of 2011, there was a discussion with Jim McDonald, County Health Department, where he clarified the County's position as there are two designated facilities, the MUA landfill and the Grinnell MRF. Nothing leaves the County. That is the opinion of Health Department. Mr. Varro said, at that time, he recommended that County Counsel may want to get involved. The last thing he wants

to see is to issue a flow control violation only to have it overturned. He does not think this has been resolved.

In September 2012, Evergreen Recycling Solutions came before SWAC with a similar proposal. Basically, they were advised of the Health Department's position and the issue did not go any further. There have also been other companies that approached the MUA with similar proposals. Mr. Varro said if the Health Department and County Counsel agree to do this, there are many MRFs. How do you pick one to put into the Solid Waste Management Plan? Mr. Snyder said if one, then any, so long as they are on the up-and-up. Mr. Varro said the only other concern he would have is the fact that Gaeta takes ID-10, ID-13, ID-13C and ID-27. This would be an issue that would need to be dealt with. How would this be controlled, policed or enforced? We would have to rely on the entity to file the proper paperwork showing what was received, what was recycled and what was returned to the County.

Eric Snyder asked Mr. Suppa what other flow control counties allow Gaeta Recycling to take garbage out of the county. Mr. Suppa said primarily, Hudson County and Morris County for years, until recently.

Donald Ploetner asked about the cost to the County. Mr. Suppa said there would be less cost to the County because currently the County handles their trucks on an individual basis at the landfill. He said there would be a savings to the County.

Mr. Snyder asked if he had contracts with municipalities in the County. Mr. Suppa said not in Sussex County and that they have about 18 towns for trash, vegetative or recyclables. Mr. Snyder said this is a matter of policy discussion that SWAC needs to take up. Mr. Varro confirmed that Gaeta is looking to be in the Solid Waste Management Plan as a designated facility. This would mean the plan would be amended so that there is an exception for waste to leave the County. Mr. Snyder said he is hesitant to look at the exception route because someone else can come and ask for the same thing. Mr. Suppa said Gaeta is looking to be an approved out-of-county facility. Regarding ID-10, Mr. Varro said he would have to run that by the MUA Commissioners, but he feels they will have a problem with ID-10. When asked about the turn-around time. Mr. Suppa said that would be negotiated. They could do it back within a week or less.

Howard Baker said if someone is willing to take ID-10 or any solid waste container and sort through it to find recyclables, it would be a good thing regardless of DEP technicalities of classification. It is a good and virtuous thing to do and maybe the definitions need to change to allow this kind of thing because it ought to be done. Mr. Suppa invited SWAC to visit to his facility. He also suggested that he be allowed to carry out his proposal for six months to see how it works out. Mr. Baker said SCMUA is concerned about losing ID-10 tipping fees to somebody else and then not getting 100% back. When asked what happens to recyclables when they are mixed in with residential waste, Mr. Varro said they are landfilled. They do not sort through the garbage. Any paper or cardboard that are mixed in have been contaminated and it is not cost effective or realistic to pull out the cans and bottles.

Eric Powell said there are competing entities at this table. There are Solid Waste Facility Managers who want tipping fees to meet their budgets and pay the debt service and there are Recycling Managers who want to improve recycling. The State government has required municipalities to reach a 50% recycling rate. Now there is a residential solid waste component that could have 5-10% recycling tonnage in it. Mr. Baker said that is what SWAC is supposed to balance out. If SCMUA's interests were the only ones at the table, then the County wouldn't need SWAC. Mr. Varro disagreed. He said SWAC discussed, talked, debated and balanced out flow control. The County took a stand and the Freeholders confirmed that stand. It is down at DEP in a certified Solid Waste Management Plan. Mr. Varro said that SWAC is potentially contemplating changing the plan to say there is no more flow control. We are going to allow the waste to leave the County. Flow Control is based on the economics of trying to support the bonds and the operating costs of the SCMUA and the landfill. Once you say the waste can go elsewhere, you've lost all flow control and now put a burden on the Health Department to monitor the reports. He does not think it is wise to give up flow control. His recommendation would be to get an opinion or a position statement from the Health Department, the MUA and from County Counsel. Mr. Snyder said SWAC will need further discussion and analysis. Howard Baker confirmed that Gaeta is proposing to take the waste, pull out the recyclables and whatever is not recyclable comes back to Sussex County. Mr. Suppa said that was correct. Mr. Baker said that was all accountable. Mr. Varro said we've had an issue with an in-county facility and reporting. Mr. Baker said it needs to be discussed on both sides of the table. If a mechanism can be put in place for waste to go out of the County, be sorted out of County and be reasonably assured that the residuals are going to come back, then it is appropriate to consider that. If a mechanism can't be put in place to be assured of that, then Mr. Varro is right, it is a bad idea. Mr. Suppa said that is what he is saying. Gaeta Recycling has credibility, they have a clean record. Mr. Baker said if there is a mechanism to do this, it would benefit the County's recycling rate. Mr. Varro said that is what was supposed to happen before flow control. How much recycling was done in that period of time and how much came back? Renee Casapulla said that was when the County's recycling rates were at the worst. Mr. Varro said the County received nothing back. Ms. Casapulla said from 1998 to 2005, the County recycling rate averaged around 25%. Mr. Varro said DEP has a mixed load rule, which allows waste to go to these facilities and for the residual to be sent back. When asked what the recycling rate was after flow control, Ms. Casapulla said it averaged 34% over the next five years. Mr. Baker asked how much of that could be attributed to changes in society. Ms. Casapulla said his points are very valid but that this is a unique proposal. This is not going to be resolved this evening. She feels SWAC should look for trends and have additional questions and discussion at a future meeting.

Eleanor Mensonides asked about tonnage processed for Gaeta and their commercial customers from Sussex County. Mr. Gaeta said he did not have that information available this evening. Ms. Mensonides asked if he could provide that. She also asked how much of that is going out as mixed waste and how much is being separated. She said she has concerns about mixed waste leaving the county because of jurisdiction issues. There have been past issues with this.

Mr. Snyder said the issue seems to be, if Gaeta, then many. The County needs to know how many, if there are ways to do "policing," and what are the financial impacts. Part of the certification for the SCMUA landfill expansion was the requirement to report on what the County has done to increase the recycling rate to get closer to the 50% State mandate. The County met the deadline on that requirement. Mr. Snyder said Ms. Casapulla has done an excellent job and that part of the success in increasing the County's recycling rate has to do with e-waste days, etc. This is an initial conversation. He added that it may come down to the fact that because there are so many facilities with whom we may have problems that we have to close out even a good opportunity. He recommended that this issue be put as a running item on the Agenda. He also asked Mr. Suppa to return with the statistics he was asked about and any other information he feels is useful, including how this is policed elsewhere.

Mr. Varro asked when a load comes in to his facility, how is it tracked? Is it dumped on a common tipping floor? Mr. Gaeta said it is first weighed, documented where it came from and then dumped on a tipping floor. When asked, he said occasionally it is combined with other loads. Mr. Varro said that Sussex County's load does not go onto a floor, they pull out recyclables and then it comes back. It is being dumped with other counties. The Counties recyclables and residuals are being shared with other counties. Mr. Baker said that the average of that process is a smaller number of landfill material and a larger number of recyclables than the County would have had otherwise.

Mr. Gaeta said he would get a monthly tonnage amount for Type-10, cardboard and comingled. It was suggested that he e-mail this information to Ms. Brees. Adam Boltz asked if his proposal was accepted, would he still require his customers source separate. Mr. Gaeta said yes, because it is not cost effective if he has to separate it. Mr. Boltz asked if he had an estimate of how much recyclables are in an average Type 10 load. Mr. Gaeta said it averages 5-10%. He added that Mr. Gaeta goes above and beyond what is required by DEP. He suggested that SWAC research Gaeta. They do not have any violation issues. Mr. Snyder said it may not be fair to Gaeta, but this is opening a door that the County has nailed shut. He suggested that Mr. Suppa provide SWAC with more information.

**MINUTES CORRECTION/APPROVAL:**

A motion was made by Eleanor Mensonides to approve the Minutes of May 13, 2014. The motion was seconded by Donald Ploetner. All were in favor, with abstentions from William Koelhoffer, Ken Jaekel, Eric Powell, Don Drake and Annette Stendor. Motion carried.

**CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS:**

None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

None

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Eleanor Mensonides asked if there was any more information on the composting operation at Grinnell. Tom Varro said the MUA received correspondence from Grinnell regarding money it owes the MUA. They asked if they could pay it with a discount because their stating intention was to lease the operations to another entity. Nothing specific was spelled out. Ms. Mensonides asked if leasing out the operation would require them to come before SWAC. Mr. Varro said that would be question for the State Liaison. Mr. Powell said it probably would also have to go before the town.

Ms. Mensonides also asked about updating the Solid Waste Plan. Ms. Brees said she has been focusing on updating the Wastewater Plan.

**REPORTS:**

A. SCMUA UPDATE:

Mr. Varro said he provided SWAC with tonnage comparisons for FY 2014 for the period December 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014. During this period, there were 55,107 tons. During the same period last year, there were 56,911 tons, a 3.2% difference. In April, the differential was -5.3% and in May, it was -4.2%. They are still below where they were last year, but they are catching up on the loss.

There are no issues with ID102 Bagged Waste at the Residential Convenience Center (RCC), ID13 at the RCC, Animal Waste and Industrial/Asbestos. There are areas that started out with a large deficit but that deficit is closing. They are ID13 Bulky and ID13 C&D Waste. They began with -20% and -16% a few months ago and they are down to -11% and -7.7%. This may be due to the severe winter. The ID10 waste remains about the same. It is -2.3% now and was -2.6% in May. Howard Baker said materials are being made lighter and smaller. Eric Snyder said there is a significant reduction of commercial waste generation because the businesses aren't there anymore.

B. RECYCLING COORDINATOR:

Renee Casapulla said she does not have the tonnage for the May E-Waste Collection but she did report on the Household Hazardous Waste Event on June 7. There were 835 cars, including local towns and schools. There were 17 tons collected for that event. The MUA has had a Household Hazardous Waste Program for over 25 years and they average about 40 tons on an annual basis. The MUA is having its Third E-Waste collection on July 26.

Ms. Casapulla talked about the Sussex County MUA Annual Recycling Program Report. The 2013 SCMUA Annual Recycling Program is only for materials brought into the MUA and does not represent all the recycling efforts within Sussex County. The total for 2013 was 13,620 tons. She explained that Class A is traditional: papers, bottles and cans; Class B is non-traditional which is more bulky type materials; Class

C is vegetative; and Class D is environmentally hazardous materials. There are also street sweepings and hazardous waste.

The DEP definition for Class A is source separate, non-putrescible recyclable material. The tonnage figures for 2013 were comparable to 2012. There was a slight decrease for mixed fiber by 25 tons and a slight decrease for comingled by 15 tons. The marketing success for the MUA is to maintain the material value by segregating the fiber streams. They separate and market cardboard, newspaper and mixed fiber.

Class B materials are non-traditional. They are source separated recyclable materials. They include mixed ferrous metals and non-mixed ferrous metals. (Non-ferrous metals are copper and brass.) For ferrous metals there was a slight increase of 3% from 2012 and for non-ferrous there is an increase of 23 tons. Ms. Casapulla explained the huge increase in the non-ferrous tonnage was due to their work to separate the loads that come in to the Residents Convenience Center.

There were seven tons (7,700 tires) collected. The tires are marketed at a Waste to Energy Facility and to a facility that grinds them up for playground cover. When asked, Ms. Casapulla said the County does receive recycling credit for the tires.

Freon from air conditioners and refrigerators are marketed to a scrap company that is certified for Freon removal. There was a six ton decrease from 2012. It is hard to determine the reason for the decrease. Since there is scrap value for these items, they could be going elsewhere for recycling. It is also possible that less people are replacing these appliances.

In 2013, there was a two ton increase in the collection of 20 gallon propane tanks (700 tanks.) This figure also fluctuates. They are marketed to a company that pays a per tank rate. In 2013,

Ms. Casapulla said MUA staff also diverts clean wood (wood pallets and unpainted fencing) from the mixed loads that come in to the RCC. There was a decrease of about 29 tons. This could be due to a decrease in construction or other uses for the wood, such as burning for fuel.

The mixed rigid plastic program started in October 2010. Rigid plastic containers are separated from the trash residents are bringing in as mixed loads to the RCC. There is a walking floor container that holds 120 yards which barely holds 2.5 tons of rigid plastic. They were able to remove 89 tons in 2013, freeing up valuable landfill space. Ms. Casapulla said the marketing value of this plastic is minimal but the plastics are grinded up to make a manufacturing feedstock to make more rigid plastic.

Combined Class A and B materials which were marketed in 2013 generated \$369,460.00 in revenue. This was used to offset operating and maintenance costs.

Class C materials are vegetative: leaves, grass, brush and stumps. In 2013, they collected 2,277 tons of vegetative waste. The leaves and grass are composted and the brush is grinded up for mulch. There is single ground mulch or double ground much

which is colorized in black or red. Single ground mulch is free to residents. The colorized mulch is sold. In 2013 the MUA generated \$138,700 in revenue from disposal fees and sale of the mulch and compost.

Class D recyclables are the environmental hazard types of material. In 2013 there was an increase of 9% increase compared to 2012. There has been a steady increase in e-waste every year.

For auto batteries, the MUA collected 10 tons in 2013. These batteries contain lead and acid and they do have scrap value. There was 26,000 gallons of motor oil and anti-freeze collected and recycled. The MUA has a shop furnace and some of the motor oil is used as heating oil during the winter.

Ms. Casapulla said the MUA also has Earth Day Education Events, monthly paper shredding, a fluorescent lamp collection program, larger quantity hazardous waste collection, medical waste for sharps and prescription medical waste. The boat shrink wrap program will probably finish up by the end of next week. They also have an American Flag Retirement Program.

During 2013 the monthly average of vehicles coming into the facility is just under 22,000. This averages to 786 vehicles on a daily basis when they are operational. This figure is slightly higher than 2012.

Ms. Casapulla said the success of these recycling efforts is due mainly to the SCMUA staff, the Board of Commissioners, the SC Board of Chosen Freeholders, County and Municipal Officials and most importantly, the public's participation each and every day.

When asked, Ms. Casapulla said this report covers commercial and residential collections. She was also asked about smoke detectors. She said that every smoke detector has an address on the back of it. The smoke detector should be sent back to the company.

C. STATE LIAISON:

The State Liaison did not attend this evening's meeting, nor did she provide a report.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORTS:**

A. ERIC SNYDER, PLANNING DIRECTOR:

Mr. Snyder said the report regarding the County's plan to increase the recycling rate was sent to Guy Watson at the NJDEP by the deadline date. This report is due every six months. He will keep SWAC informed.

B. ADAM BOLTZ, HEALTH DEPARTMENT:

Mr. Boltz reported that, to date, there were 120 solid waste containers inspected; up from 99 and that 103 solid waste containers were closed. There were 33 garbage truck routes inspected to date, up from 24. All but one closed. There was a Notice of Violation issued to an A901 hauler caught taking waste out of the County and for inaccurate recordkeeping.

Notices of Violation were also issued to a Pennsylvania company for container service in Walpack (a Federal contract.) A filled container remains on site. A local A901 hauler received a NOV for breaking the wasteflow law and Back Thru the Future received one for disposing recyclable batteries. (The batteries exploded at the landfill.)

Since January 1, 2014, there were three Penalty Assessments; none since the last meeting. There were also no new NJDEP Referred Investigations since the last meeting. There was a total of 13 CEHA Solid Waste Complaint Referrals, up from 11 and there were 19 closed landfills inspected. There were 105 recycling inspections at the SCMUA landfill, up from 79.

Mr. Boltz gave an update on a discussion at the last meeting regarding QuickCheks' lack of recycling containers. He said that QuickCheks that are under contract with Waste Management now have recycling containers on site. The containers were provided by the hauler. The pizzeria located at the A&P Plaza in Sussex is now in compliance for recycling and Eastern Garden will be in compliance next week.

There was an NOV issued to Barn Hill Care Center in Newton for failure to recycle. Letters with flyers regarding the need to recycle the cardboard in construction waste were issued to all Township Clerks, except Frankford (an e-mail address is needed.) The letter requested that the flyers be included in their construction permits.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

- A. SOLID WASTE FACILITY MONTHLY DISPOSAL AND MATERIALS RECOVERY REPORT FOR APRIL & MAY 2014, GRINNELL RECYCLING, 5/14/14 & 6/14/14:
- B. "WE BUY PLASTIC, PAPER & METALS" E-MAIL, RECYCLING REVOLUTION, LLC, 6/9/14:
- C. SOLID WASTE TRANSPORTER MONTHLY DISPOSAL REPORT FOR APRIL & MAY 2014, EQ NORTHEAST, 6/14/14 & 6/26/14:
- D. LETTER TO DEP RE: RECYCLING REQUIREMENTS, E. SNYDER, 6/20/14;
- E. REQUEST TO PARTICIPATE IN THE S.C. WASTE FLOW PROGRAM, GAETA RECYCLING CO., INC. 6/25/14:

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Eric Snyder reported that letters are going out to four towns that do not have SWAC representatives.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

All business having been completed, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Eleanor Mensonides. The motion was seconded by Donald Ploetner and carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.