

SUSSEX COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL

MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 14, 2010

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
Richard Pumphrey, Frankford Township
Jason Doyle, Franklin Borough
Allan Esenlohr, Green Township
Howard Baker, Hopatcong Borough
Ken Jaekel, Town of Newton
Kathy Little, Sussex Borough
Eleanor Mensonides, At-Large, Vice Chair
James Wright, At-Large

EXCUSED MEMBERS: William Koellhoffer, Byram Township
Jo-Ann Williamson, Sandyston Township
Eric Powell, Sparta Township
John Armeno, At-Large

STAFF MEMBERS: Eric Snyder, Planning Director
Neal Leitner, Program Manager
Antoinette Wasiewicz, Recording Secretary
Jim McDonald, Health Department
Reenee Casapulla, Recycling Coordinator
Tom Varro, SCMUA

ALSO PRESENT: None

MINUTES CORRECTION/APPROVAL:

A motion was made by Bob Smith to approve the Minutes of July 13, 2010 as presented. The motion was seconded by Jason Dolye. All were in favor, with abstentions from Richard Pumphrey, Ken Jaekel, Kathy Little and James Wright. Motion carried.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS:

Chairman Landrith took a moment to express how fortunate we are to live in this country.

REPORTS:

A. SCMUA UPDATE:

Tom Varro said that as he reported in June, the MUA raised their rates to \$109.00 per ton. The \$109.00 calculation was arrived at by utilizing \$1.5 million from the self-closure account to keep the rates from going higher than that. Fortunately, Senator Steve Oroho, Assemblywoman Alison McHose and Assemblyman Gary Chiusano were able to obtain \$3 million in financial aid from the State.

On September 1, the MUA reduced the rate for ID-10 from \$109.00 per ton to \$89.00 per ton. ID-10 is residential waste and it made the best reduction for the residents of Sussex County. The \$3 million covered the \$1.5 million which was already allocated for rate stabilization and another \$1.5 million. Mr. Varro said he was very thankful to those who fought for this aid and that they were able to help their customers by reducing the rates. These rates will carry through 2011 and hopefully, aid will again become available for the 2011 FY budget.

Mr. Varro said that for the first time they are seeing an increase in tonnage. From December 1 through August 28, there has been an 8.3% increase, for a total of almost 69,000 tons, compared to the same timeframe a year ago. The tonnage is not yet at the 2008 rate, but it is very encouraging to see the increase. He said the increase is across the board and is not just for ID-10.

The tip fee is now close to \$97.00 per ton, which is 15.1% over the average tip fee of a year ago. This will be tempered a bit due to the fact that the rates have been reduced for ID-10, but hopefully with the increase in tonnage and the stabilized tip fee, they should be able to balance their budget.

B. RECYCLING COORDINATOR:

Renee Casapulla reported that there are a number of events planned at the MUA for the fall. Paper shredding will be done this Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. A Prescription Drug Disposal Day is scheduled for September 25 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Unwanted prescription and over-the-counter medications may be brought to police departments and pharmacies throughout the County as listed on the flyer. On

October 2 the MUA will hold an Electronics Waste Recycling Program for municipalities and government agencies. Quantities are limited to five units per vehicle. November 6 is Hazardous Waste Disposal Day from 7:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. There are limits of 100 lbs. of dry household hazardous waste materials, 35 fluorescent bulbs and 10 gallons of liquid waste.

Ms. Casapulla distributed copies of a chart outlining Sussex County Generation and Disposal Rates. The recycling rate for Sussex County in 2008 is 31.9%, representing a .1% increase from 2007. The increase in the recycling rate is due to the decrease in solid waste generation. There was a decrease in the recycling tonnage from 40,055 in 2007 to 39,116 in 2008. Statewide, Sussex County ranks 17 out of 21 for recycling percentages. Ms. Casapulla said SWAC should discuss strategies to increase the recycling percentage rate at a future meeting.

A trends summary for Sussex County's recycling rates was also provided to SWAC. The chart provided figures for all sources of revenue, Type 10 municipal solid waste and Type 13 bulky waste. Ms. Casapulla said that the Department of Community Affairs put out a checklist, "The Best Practices Checklist" for municipalities. State aid for the FY 2011 budget is based upon their responses on this checklist. The checklist is due to the State on October 1. After this evening's meeting, the information on the trends summary will be available to the municipalities.

Neil Leitner questioned the huge increase in Hampton's recycling rate. Ms. Casapulla said she would look into it. There was some discussion on possible causes for increases and decreases in recycling rates which included change of businesses, location of industry and trends in packaging. There was some speculation as to whether the big box stores located in Hampton have contributed to the increase in recycling rates. There was also some question as to how haulers fill out their reports when picking up recycling from multiple municipalities on the same truck.

C. STATE LIAISON:

The State Liaison did not attend this evening's meeting and did not provide a report.

D. SWAGER REPORT: COVANTA WASTE FOR ASH COVER PROPOSAL:

Eleanor Mensonides said she did not have anything to report on Covanta.

DIRECTOR'S REPORTS:

A. ERIC SNYDER:

Mr. Snyder reported that the Freeholders adopted the Resolution and held the second public hearing on Back to the Future's address change. Notification of the hearing, which was held last week, will be sent to the State liaison.

B. HEALTH DEPARTMENT:

Jim McDonald reported that at the end of the second quarter the Health Department completed the following:

Facility Inspections - 2 Class A Recycling Centers, 3 Exempt Composting, 6 Municipal Convenience Centers
Recycling Surveys - 91 Surveys with 58 Warning Letters sent
Hauler Interviews - 29 Interviews
Container/Waste Flow Investigations - 35 Investigations with 11 Notice of Violations (NOVs)
Truck Check - 11 checks
Complaint Investigations - 76 Investigations with 11 NOVs

To date, 203 recycling surveys have been completed and it appears at least 80% of them are not in compliance with recycling requirements. Most of that is failure to understand that they need to report the information to their municipal recycling coordinator. They will get a warning notice advising that in March 2011 they need to send their information to the municipal recycling coordinator.

There was some discussion regarding the naming of the County Health Department as the enforcement official for recycling in a town's ordinance. Mr. McDonald said this can only be done with the Health Department's permission. Eleanor Mensonides said that the taxes the towns pay to the County for the Health Department should cover this service. Mr. McDonald said this was a question for Herb Yardley.

Mr. McDonald said the Health Department is using new decals for container inspections for tracking purposes.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- A. SCMUA Monthly Solid Waste and Appropriation Report for June
- B. SCMUA Tipping Fee Reduction announcement
- C. July Grinnell Recycling Report
- D. August Grinnell Recycling Report
- E. Monthly Revenue Report
- F. Resignation letter from Edith McGrath
- G. Monthly Tonnage Reports from NYC Interstate Waste Services

Mr. Leitner said he prepared a Thank You letter to Edith McGrath in recognition of her service to SWAC.

Renee Casapulla asked if the tonnage report from NYC Interstate Waste Services was for solid waste or recycling. Neil said he would clarify that and report back at the next meeting.

Allan Esenlohr questioned the lack of a report from SWAGER. Eleanor Mensonides said that they do not have anything in writing from Covanta and that there is nothing to discuss until they do. Eric Snyder said that there has been a lot done on this but that there are many questions that still need to be answered.

Ms. Mensonides asked for the number of municipalities that do not have a representative to SWAC, to which the recording secretary responded there are six municipalities that are unrepresented and three At-Large openings. She suggested sending a letter out to the towns encouraging them to appoint a representative. Eric Snyder agreed and added that if anyone knows someone who would be interested in an At-Large position, they should contact Elaine Morgan, Clerk of the Board.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Kathy Little reported that she received a call from a woman about a program in Valley Green school in Cedar Knolls. The program allows autistic children to collect small electronics and separate the components. She asked if Sussex County would be interested in such a program. Renee Casapulla recommended that the woman write to the MUA with her inquiry.

Jim McDonald asked Eric Snyder if he was aware of any outside facilities that have requested to be in the County Solid Waste Management Plan. Mr. Snyder said that there was one question from a possible recycling/composting facility asking how they could be included in the County Solid Waste Plan.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

All business having been completed, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Eleanor Mensonides. The motion was seconded by Kathy Little and carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.