

SUSSEX COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL

MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 10, 2013

The meeting was opened at 7:33 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
Dennis Haff, Fredon Township
Stephanie Pizzulo, Lafayette Township
Ken Jaekel, Town of Newton
Jo-Ann Williamson, Sandyston Township
Eric Powell, Sparta Township
Annette Stendor, Sussex Borough
Christopher Fitzpatrick, At-Large
Eleanor Mensonides, At-Large, Vice Chair

EXCUSED MEMBERS: Ron Garrett, Hamburg Borough
Howard Baker, Hopatcong Borough
Donald Ploetner, 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: None

MINUTES CORRECTION/APPROVAL:

A motion was made by Ken Jaekel to approve the Minutes of July 9, 2013 as received. The motion was seconded by Eleanor Mensonides. All were in favor, with abstentions from Dennis Haff, Stephanie Pizzulo, Eric Powell and Christopher Fitzpatrick. Motion carried.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS:

Chairman Landrith waived his Chairman's Remarks in order to expedite the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Eleanor Mensonides asked to re-establish SWAGER and to set up a work committee to work on the Solid Waste Plan. SWAGER would meet at 6:30 p.m. on SWAC meeting dates. Chairman Landrith asked for an e-mail to be sent out to SWAC asking for volunteers to serve on SWAGER. Ms. Mensonides asked that copies of the Solid Waste Plan be provided to the sub-committee members.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. STATUS OF SCMUA AMENDMENT FOR LANDFILL EXPANSION, APPLICATION TO DEP:

Alice Brees reported that the Amendment for the Landfill Expansion went to Public Hearing on July 24. There were no comments from the public. She did receive the Resolution from Lafayette Township endorsing the Amendment. The Landfill Expansion is on the Agenda for tomorrow's Freeholder meeting for the Approval Resolution. After that, the application will be sent to DEP.

Jo-Ann Williamson said she had a couple of comments on what Herb Yardley said at the July 9 SWAC meeting. Mr. Yardley said it was the Recycling Coordinator's job to make sure that facilities were recycling within their communities. Ms. Williamson said not every municipality has someone on payroll to do that job. She said Sandyston Township is one of those towns and that there is a limited amount of time that she, as the Recycling Coordinator, is willing to put forth. As the Recycling Coordinator, she feels she has a handle on what is going on within her municipality. She does not understand why a Health Department official who notices that nothing is being recycled does not include that in his report.

She also commented on discussion at the July meeting about trucks coming into the SCMUA without proper decals. She said a two-year decal costs \$100.00 to license a truck and \$60.00 for a container. For new vehicles purchased a year into the term, the cost is half. She said vehicles coming to the landfill without proper decals should be issued violations.

Mr. Varro said they do not have enforcement power at the SCMUA, but they will turn the truck away and refer it back to the Health Department. Mr. Powell said he is the Recycling Coordinator for Sparta Township. He is also the Township Engineer. His time does not allow for visits to businesses. He said if he were to receive a letter from the Health Department or a copy of a violation notice to a business owner who is not recycling, he would do a friendly visit to the business and offer to help the owner understand the recycling process. Eric Snyder said this should be teamwork. No one entity can do it all themselves. If the Health Department notices a violation, they should let the Recycling Coordinator know about it. The Health Department has the authority to deal with issues relating to Solid Waste. The issue is about maximizing the amount of recycling and minimizing what goes into the landfill.

A member asked if SCMUA has the authority to turn away a truck if it has a lot of recycling in it. Mr. Varro said he did not believe they have the authority. He said typically they don't notice the recycling material being discarded until they dump the load. If at that time they notice recycling, they usually segregate the load and call the Health Department. If the Health Department is available, they come out and follow up with an investigation and/or enforcement. Adam Boltz, Health Department, said there were two fines of \$4,500.00 each issued thanks to collaboration between SCMUA and the Health Department. One is being contested and the other has been reduced by 50%.

Mr. Boltz said he briefed the other inspectors to check if businesses are recycling while they are doing a food inspection. If the business owner is not recycling, the inspector is to report back to Adam. He said it would be nice to send an e-mail to the local Recycling Coordinator to advise him or her of the situation. Eric Powell said the Recycling Coordinator can meet with a business owner but they do not have enforcement power. Some business owners know that and will not comply. Eric Snyder said the Recycling Coordinators can meet with the business owner and if they do not cooperate, they can report back to the Health Department.

REPORTS:

A. SCMUA UPDATE:

Tom Varro provided a graph showing the comparison of monthly revenues from Fiscal Years 2011 through 2013, the period of December 1, 2011 through August 31, 2013. There has been some fluctuation but overall the revenues are up. There was also a graph showing the cumulative revenues from Fiscal Years 2011 through 2013. From August 2011 to August 2012 there was a 2% increase and from August 2012 to August 2013, there was a 3.33% increase over the prior year. Through August 31, the total revenue from solid waste tip fees was \$8,199,232.00. In addition to this there are other revenues but solid waste tip fees are the main staple for their budget. They projected 103,000 tons collected and they expect to be within 3% ± of that projection.

Mr. Varro gave an update of the landfill gas project. They awarded a contract at their last meeting and the project will begin soon. This is a \$500,000.00+ project which will

add nine new wells and some additional facilities to help manage the landfill gas. They hope to have the project completed by the end of the year.

B. RECYCLING COORDINATOR:

Renee Casapulla reported that SCMUA received a Recycling Grant from the Carton Council. This is the council for recycling milk cartons, aseptic juice cartons, soup cartons, etc. This grant was specifically for school carton recycling. The MUA chose four elementary schools within the County for a pilot program. They used the small grant received from the Carton Council to buy containers for the school cafeterias. It provides a way to collect the liquids from the cartons and to collect them for recycling. The four schools are Stillwater Elementary School, both Andover Township schools and the Green Hills School in Green Township. The schools are in various stages of the program. SCMUA has already seen two large garbage bags of milk cartons diverted from the solid waste stream from Stillwater School in one day from lunches for 350 students. Ms. Casapulla said the carton material is valued higher than paper because it is virgin material and of good quality. When asked if there was a baseline study done before the program, Ms. Casapulla said there was not but they have figures from the custodians as to how much waste they generate on a weekly basis. SCMUA also knows how large the schools' dumpsters are and the pick-up services. They are hoping that the schools can reduce the number of pick-ups or the size of their dumpsters.

A flyer for the last free E-Waste Event for 2013 was provided to SWAC. The event is scheduled for Saturday, October 5. Ms. Casapulla said she will be sending out an E-Bulletin to SWAC, the Recycling Coordinators, etc. As always, towns and schools will be permitted to drop off E-Waste the day before.

There will be a Municipal Recycling Coordinators Meeting on Tuesday, October 22 at the SCMUA. She will be sending out an e-mail with more details. Ms. Casapulla said she invited the Health Department and that they will be on the Agenda. This will allow them to develop dialogue between the Health Department and the Recycling Coordinators.

The State released the 2011 County Recycling Rates. For Sussex County, the recycling rate for 2011 is 36% (in 2010 it was 31.2%) Hopefully, this trend will continue. The recycling rates were developed based on municipal recycling reports which were submitted in 2011. The increase in percentage will be reflected in a grant increase. Ms. Casapulla said the County recycling rate for "total recycled" which includes metal, wood and propane tanks was 66%.

Ms. Casapulla also gave a report on the SCMUA 2012 Annual Recycling Program Report. She explained that it takes some time between the completion of the report and providing it to SWAC. This report is also on the SCMUA website and has been before the SCMUA Commissioner Board. The report is only for the materials brought to the MUA and does not represent all the recycling efforts within the County. They do not provide a recycling rate based on the percentage of solid waste or recycling they receive because the rate would be skewed. Waste Flow regulations require all the solid waste to be taken to the facility; recycling is a free market based process.

The total amount of recycling for 2012 was 9,771 tons. Diverting 9,771 tons of recycling from the solid waste stream represented a savings of 1.5 months worth of landfill space. For Class "A" Recyclables, there was a decrease of 18.4% for co-mingled containers and a decrease of 7.8% for mixed fiber in 2012 as compared to 2011. They feel other markets that are available to haulers are a factor when the market value is high.

For Class "B" (household appliances, metals, tires, propane tanks and clean wood) there was a slight decrease overall in the metal for 2012 (2.7% decrease.) They feel this was due to the fact that scrap metal maintained its value throughout 2012. There were 109,000 tons of tires collected (10,000 tires.) The tires go to a Waste to Energy market and to another market that makes rubberized mulch. There were 71 tons of appliances collected. They work with an authorized scrap vendor for Freon removal. They collected five tons of propane tanks (500 tanks.) The propane tanks were recycled by a propane tank vendor. The clean wood is a new program and is done by SCMUA staff. They sort the clean wood, which consists of wood pallets and unpainted fencing, from the mixed wood that comes into the Resident's Convenience Center. They saw an increase in 2012 of 18.6% for clean wood.

Mixed Rigid Plastic is also one of the MUA's newer programs. They just completed the first full year of the program. Mixed Rigid Plastics covers many different types of plastic materials: buckets, pet carriers, Little Tykes toys, planting containers, plastic furniture, corrugated plastic signs, laundry baskets, etc. MUA staff removes these materials from the mixed loads that come into the Resident's Convenience Center. They also remove any metals from the plastics. In 2012 they diverted 91 tons of these plastics from the landfill. By marketing Class "A" and Class "B" materials, they generated \$472,342.00 in revenue. This revenue offset the operating and maintenance costs.

Class "C" recyclables are vegetative waste (leaves, grass, brush, trees and stumps.) In 2012 SCMUA collected 2,453 tons of vegetative waste which was a slight decrease of about 12% from 2011. They attribute the decrease to Super storm Sandy occurring late in the fall of 2012 followed by an early winter. This delayed the clean-up efforts until spring 2013. Ms. Casapulla said they make compost from the leaves and grass and colorized mulch from the brush. In 2012 they generated over \$138,700.00 in revenues from a combination of disposal fees and the sale of compost and mulch. Compost and mulch are available to residents and business owners who are willing to load the material themselves.

Class "D" recyclables are hazardous materials. Overall in 2012 there was a slight decrease as compared to 2011. For E-Waste there was a 5% increase in 2012. This area has increased every year since the inception of the program in 2002 and they expect this trend to continue. Ms. Casapulla said they collected 15 tons of batteries and 84 tons of motor oil and anti-freeze from residents and businesses. This represents almost 24,000 gallons. They recycle both the motor oil and the anti-freeze and used the motor oil in the shop furnace.

Other SCMUA Programs are Earth Day Educational Events, a fluorescent lamp recycling program, monthly paper shredding, rechargeable battery collection program, a boat shrink wrap recycling program and a medical waste collection. Details about these programs are on the MUA's website. The SCMUA 2012 Annual Recycling Report, also on the website, has more information about these programs.

In 2012 there was a monthly average of about 21,000 vehicles which came into the Solid Waste and Recycling Center facilities. Ms. Casapulla said the success of their recycling efforts are due to their staff, the Board of Commissioners, the Sussex County Board of Chosen Freeholders, County and Municipal officials and most importantly, the public participating each and every day at the facility.

C. STATE LIAISON:

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

DIRECTOR'S REPORTS:

A. ERIC SNYDER:

Mr. Snyder did not have anything new to report.

B. HEALTH DEPARTMENT:

Adam Boltz reported that to date in 2013, the Health Department inspected 170 solid waste containers, 110 waste flow closures and there were 25 garbage truck routes inspected. They sent out 19 Notices of Violation of which six were recycling related. There were 11 Penalty Assessments, 4 more since the last meeting. These were for no decal, expired decal, spilling garbage on private property/roadway and A901 Exempt small hauler providing container/waste removal service.

There were 16 NJDEP referred investigations and 15 CEHA solid waste complaints/referrals. The complaints were for animal waste, buried concrete and asphalt millings. Facility inspections completed were the SCMUA Landfill, six Class A Convenience Centers, one Class B, three Exempt Class B and two Exempt Class C. RER was inspected after the June meeting. All figures are year to date.

As discussed earlier, Mr. Boltz said SCMUA recently sent the Health Department photographs of four different trucks which were observed dumping loads of Type 10 municipal waste at the landfill that contained quite a bit of cardboard and other recyclables. He sent out N.O.V.'s and was able to assign two distinct penalty assessments at \$4,500 each and recovered four commercial facilities through that photography work.

Eleanor Mensonides asked if Mr. Boltz would be attending future SWAC meetings, saying that it is helpful to have someone who does the work answer questions raised by SWAC. She also said it would be helpful for someone from the Health Department to work with SWAGER on updating the Solid Waste Management Plan.

Renee Casapulla requested that when the Health Department reports on the number of inspections, etc. that it be clear whether the figures represent a monthly amount, year-to-date, etc. Mr. Boltz said his figures are year-to-date numbers. He asked SWAC to let him know what information they are looking for. Mr. Snyder said it would be helpful to know what violations the N.O.V.'s were issued for and for what town. Mr. Boltz said often these matters are pending and he cannot give out information that is still confidential during an open public meeting. Anyone who wants more information can always telephone him.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- A. MONTHLY SOLID WASTE REPORT, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR, 7/10/13; 8/15/13:
- B. MONTHLY SOLID WASTE REVENUE AND APPROPRIATION REPORT (DEC. 1, 2012 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2013):
- C. SOLID WASTE FACILITY MONTHLY DISPOSAL REPORT, NJDEP, 7/16/13; 8/13/13:
- D. MUNICIPAL RESOLUTIONS OPPOSING SENATE BILL 2528 FOR PROPOSED EXEMPTION FROM SOURCE SEPARATION REQUIREMENTS: BYRAM, HAMBURG, LAFAYETTE, MONTAGUE AND VERNON:
- E. LAFAYETTE TOWNSHIP RESOLUTION FOR SOLID WASTE AMENDMENT FOR SCMUA LANDFILL EXPANSION, LAFAYETTE TOWNSHIP, 8/12/13:

Alice Brees reviewed the above listed Correspondence with SWAC. Renee Casapulla said Senate Bill 2528 for Proposed Exemption from Source Separation Requirements, Renee Casapulla is dying. She said it made a big difference to have the Resolutions from the municipalities in opposition of the Bill.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Eleanor Mensonides asked about the timeframe for re-organizing SWAGER. Eric Snyder said an e-mail will go out to SWAC asking for volunteers. At the next meeting, Chairman Landrith can assign them for the November meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

All business having been completed, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ken Jaekel. The motion was seconded by Eleanor Mensonides and carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.