

SUSSEX COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL

MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 9, 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  
Dennis Haff, Fredon Township  
Allen Esenlohr, Green Township  
Karen Hansen, Hampton Township  
Howard Baker, Hopatcong Borough  
Ken Jaekel, Town of Newton  
Jo-Ann Williamson, Sandyston Township  
Eleanor Mensonides, At-Large, Vice Chair  
Donald Ploetner, At-Large

EXCUSED MEMBERS: Gary Larson, Frankford Township  
Eric Powell, Sparta Township  
Don Drake, Stanhope Borough  
Christopher Fitzpatrick, 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

**MINUTES CORRECTION/APPROVAL:**

A motion was made by Eleanor Mensonides to approve the Minutes of April 8, 2014. The motion was seconded by Howard Baker. All were in favor, with abstentions from Dennis Haff, Allen Esenlohr and Karen Hansen. Motion carried.

The Minutes of July 8, 2014 will be corrected to show that Karen Hansen was present. Also, on Page 4, first paragraph, line 16, the word "option" will be changed to "opinion." A motion was made by Donald Ploetner to approve the Minutes of July 8, 2014 with the corrections noted above. The motion was seconded by Howard Baker. All were in favor, with abstentions from Dennis Haff and Allen Esenlohr.

**CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS:**

None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

None

**OLD BUSINESS:**

A. OUT-OF-COUNTY FACILITIES DISCUSSION:

Tom Varro said he delivered a letter to Eric Snyder, dated today and copied to Jim Landrith, with regard to the Gaeta Recycling Co., Inc./Out-of-County SW Facilities. He read the letter in its entirety into the record.

Chairman Landrith asked for confirmation that solid waste from Sussex County will be mixed from other areas and that we could be getting back someone else's toxic waste. Mr. Varro said, "Yes, you don't know where it's coming from or what it constitutes. You've lost control. This is one of a number of different reasons why the MUA believes it is not appropriate." Allan Esenlohr said the MUA does not know what is coming out of the trucks now. Mr. Varro said that was correct but they do have an idea because it is all residential from Sussex County. They are not taking in industrial waste from Bergen and Essex Counties. Mr. Esenlohr said he read all of the Minutes and statements from Mr. Gaeta. He said he didn't think it was a good idea but he would have liked to have seen the letter before this evening. He said he hopes it does not preclude other proposals that may come in the future. He would like to leave the door open for someone who has a good proposal where we don't have to bury so much trash and recyclables. Mr. Esenlohr asked if a copy of the letter was available. Mr. Snyder said he would provide copies to SWAC.

Chairman Landrith asked if the solid waste would have to be stored until it could be transported to Paterson, or would they send a truck every day. Mr. Varro said that wasn't for him to answer. The MUA stated their position on this issue. Howard Baker said the logistics would have to be detailed and worked out. SWAC only heard a

general proposal. There are concerns about assuring that what leaves the County comes back.

Chairman Landrith said without doing calculations, it seems that the diesel fuel in transporting the waste to and from Paterson would cause more pollution than what would be saved by the increased recycling.

Eric Snyder asked if the County was already getting waste from out-of-County from Grinnell. Mr. Varro said the technicality of that is that whatever goes to that facility, the residual is considered in County waste. Mr. Baker said the problem with the character of out-of-County waste is at least similar if not identical. Some of it came from out-of-County and may or may not be everything that we like, but it's there and we're dealing with it. They said they dump it on the floor and pick through it. It sounded like most of the time that load would go back into the truck to go back to Sussex County, except for the recyclables, but some of it might get mixed occasionally with residuals from somewhere else. Mr. Baker said he'd be surprised if the business model actually works if only 4% of the waste is recyclables. Mr. Varro said if the business model doesn't work, that strains the County's ability to monitor it because they will try to make it work to make it profitable. Mr. Landrith said he would challenge the environmental model as well. Eleanor Mensonides said Grinnell takes in demolition and construction, it's not Type 10. She also said the expansion of the landfill will require a consistent waste flow.

Ms. Mensonides asked Adam Boltz what such a proposal would mean to the Health Department as far as enforcement. Mr. Boltz said he spoke with Jim McDonald this morning and he said before they could enforce anything they would require paperwork and more man hours. It would be based on the numbers provided to them by Gaeta and their formulas for how much recyclables they are removing. Also, there are very hefty penalties associated with falsification of records. The highest fine now is \$40,000 for such a violation.

Mr. Suppa said he is the Sales Manager at Gaeta Recycling. He was here in July to make a presentation to SWAC. He missed the beginning of this evening's meeting so he is not sure of what the County's position is. He asked if County Counsel was consulted. Mr. Snyder said he was consulted but has not offered his opinion yet. Mr. Suppa said he would be interested in hearing what his position is. Mr. Snyder said as soon as he hears from him, he will relay the information to all parties involved. Mr. Suppa asked where he stands, at this point and what the next step is. Mr. Varro said he read into the record a position statement by the Sussex County MUA whereby they opposed any out-of-County facility being added to the Solid Waste Management Plan. They believe doing so sets a precedent for loss of flow control for which they worked quite hard to receive and their facilities are planned, designed and constructed on having flow control remain intact.

Mr. Suppa said the waste flow protection has gone on in other counties with them and there have never been any issues. This type of system does work. As far as controlling what waste comes back to the County, there is no guarantee from anyone about what types of things people throw away. The risk from what's coming from Sussex County

and what might come from his facility is similar. Therefore, he believes this issue should not carry a lot of weight; especially since they are seeing the material. In the event there is something that should not be in it, there is a much better chance they will catch it as opposed to sending it to a landfill. He said when he was here in July; he invited SWAC to visit his facility. He said his proposal will benefit Gaeta and the County. He said Gaeta can recover more than 4% recyclables from the roll-offs that go to the landfill. Mr. Varro said the 4% number is what they get facility-wide and is spread among all of the users. Mr. Suppa said that is primarily coming out of front loaders and rear loaders. Mr. Varro said they are not going to have, say 8% from Sussex loads and 2% from Essex loads. They are going to take everybody's loads and mix them together. They are coming up with a composite recycling rate for everything that they do. Mr. Suppa said that was correct, but realistically he said they are recovering a higher percentage from roll-offs. When homeowners utilize 30 yard containers, there is a significant amount of recyclables---much more than 4%. He said this can be researched further. He said Gaeta has been successful doing the same work in other counties. Mr. Suppa again expressed a desire to hear Mr. McConnell's opinion. Mr. Snyder said he will contact Mr. McConnell again. He requested that Mr. Suppa provide additional figures to back his claims. Mr. Suppa said when he started this process; he wasn't sure what information the County needed. He said he will investigate further and provide a more accurate report.

Jo-Ann Williamson asked to confirm that Gaeta is proposing to take only their customer's Type-10 or Type-13 waste to Paterson. Mr. Gaeta said that was correct. Mr. Varro said once a facility is included in the Solid Waste Management Plan, you cannot prevent anyone from using that as an alternate disposal location. Renee Casapulla asked if Gaeta was making an application to amend the Solid Waste Management Plan. Mr. Suppa said he believes that is what he is trying to do. He is also trying to establish the procedure. He said he would be happy to submit an application. Howard Baker said on a theoretical level it's possible for his application to come in and go through but SCMUA has some very serious concerns regarding flow control and how it would affect their business. If the application details should demonstrate how the proposal works and how the controls would be implemented, SWAC would consider it, but the barrier is very high. Ms. Casapulla said she would be interested in seeing how other counties have handled it. Mr. Suppa said he would contact Ms. Brees tomorrow about submitting an application for inclusion in the Solid Waste Management Plan.

Jo-Ann Williamson asked why SCMUA doesn't pull recyclables from the roll-offs. Mr. Varro said you need to be permitted as a Materials Recovery Facility from DEP. You cannot sort on a landfill, it has to be done on a tip floor in a building with air and dust controls and sprinkler systems. It is a very large investment. Mr. Suppa said that Gaeta is a certified MRF and they have a good history with DEP. Ms. Williamson expressed concern about other facilities that may not have a good history taking waste out of the County. Mr. Suppa said he researched as to other possible facilities that might want to do the same. He said there are no other facilities other than the facility in Sussex County.

Mr. Snyder said there is a process in submitting a formal application. The discussion so far has shown that there are concerns with enforcement, waste mix and the

business model. The answers to those questions need to be addressed in the application before SWAC can make any kind of recommendation to the Freeholders. Mr. Suppa said that is more than fair and that is what he will do. Mr. Varro also requested that he provide references. Mr. Suppa said it would probably be best to talk to DEP since they monitor them monthly.

Mr. Esenlohr asked Tom Varro if someone comes in with a 30 or 40 yard roll-off with construction debris, do they charge as much or less than Grinnell does. Jo-Ann Williamson said SCMUA charges less than Grinnell. Mr. Esenlohr said SCMUA is burying materials that should be recycled. Mr. Varro said they go through loads as best they can. They remove many things on the landfill. C&D is one of the places where they can remove certain things, particularly metals, tires, bulky items such as hot water heaters. Mr. Varro said SCMUA's concerns are not necessarily with the proposal itself, but with the repercussions of losing flow control.

### **REPORTS:**

#### **A. SCMUA UPDATE:**

Tom Varro provided SWAC with an analysis of ID-10 Solid Waste tonnage from Fiscal Year 2014 (Dec. 1 through Aug. 31) as compared to FY 2013 for the same period. The tonnage is broken out by municipality. Overall there is a 3.4% decrease in ID-10 tonnage Countywide. Some of the towns that showed a significant decrease were Frankford with a tonnage difference from 2013 to 2014 of -125 tons---a 15% drop; Montague with a 201 ton differential---a 19% drop; Sparta with a 452 ton differential--a 6% drop; Sussex with a 259 ton differential---a 14% drop; Vernon with a 416 ton differential---a 5% drop; and Wantage with a 439 ton differential---a 15% drop. There was no ID-10 waste coming out of Walpack for the last two years. In the past, there was 20-25 tons from Walpack. The total tonnage is 1,812 minus 3.4% @ \$96.00 per ton equals a loss of \$174,000. Projected to the end of the year would come to about \$250,000.

Mr. Varro said in the past, SWAC has offered a number of explanations for decreases in tonnage, including a drop in population, empty houses, lighter packaging material and increased recycling. He said he used Lafayette Township as an example because their waste comes to SCMUA in municipal trucks collected curbside. They get free disposal and therefore this is a pure statistic. Nobody has the desire or ability to shortchange the system. Over the past three years, for the same period of time (December 1 through August 31) there were 469 tons for FY 12; 487 tons in FY 13; and 484 tons in FY 14. There is consistency in this municipality when there is only municipal curbside collection that is being brought to SCMUA. Mr. Varro said Renee Casapulla's figures for recycling have not increased dramatically.

At one point in time, when there were concerns about flow control in the County, it was the southern municipalities that showed waste leaving. Now it's the northern municipalities (Montague, Wantage, Sussex Borough and Vernon) where there are some potential questions about the activity. Mr. Varro also provided SWAC with an Analysis of Municipal Detail by haulers for Frankford, Montague, Sparta, Sussex

Borough, Vernon and Wantage. Discussion followed which included new businesses in Lafayette, population decline for younger families, lighter packaging and a very dry year. Also, 3.4% decrease is not that large when taking everything else into account. Eric Snyder said he would be interested to know if there are similar decreases in similar counties, such as Warren and Hunterdon. Mr. Varro said he is meeting with his counterparts later this month and will discuss this with them.

B. RECYCLING COORDINATOR:

Renee Casapulla said the Boat Shrink Wrap recycling program ended on the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend. This year they collected seven tons of boat shrink wrap material from local marinas and boat owners.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> E-Waste Recycling Event for 2014 was held on July 26. There were 890 cars that came in to the facility with 45 tons of e-waste. The last (free) E-waste Recycling Event for 2014 is scheduled for October 11. (The MUA does collect e-waste between the free events.) A number of municipalities also have e-waste drop-off programs: Newton, Vernon, Byram and Hopatcong.

There will be a Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Day on Saturday, November 1. This is free to Sussex County residents, schools and municipalities.

SWAC was provided with an e-mail and hard copy of an article relating to the closing of Green Sky Industries. Since neither the SCMUA nor any County municipality is contracted with Green Sky, the County initially will not be affected by the Green Sky closing. Ms. Casapulla said this company has been around for a number of years. She believes Green Sky was overextended with the type of material they collected and tried to market. They collected mainly single stream recycling materials. Ms. Casapulla talked about China's Green Fence Program where every bale of recycling that was brought to China was inspected and the majority of it was rejected because of contamination. This created increased costs for companies such as Green Sky. The Green Fence Initiative is no longer in place; however, China is even more stringent now. Companies are now sending recycling to other countries.

Ms. Casapulla did a brief survey of the members present who represent a municipality about single stream recycling collection. She is looking to update information regarding municipal recycling collection.

Ms. Casapulla said many County residents have single stream recycling collection. They occasionally find the need to take their recycling to the landfill and are recycling it as single stream. The SCMUA put out a notice that they do not accept single-stream Class A material for recycling. She said she will be e-mailing this notice but also asked the members to take this notice back to the towns. Tom Varro asked if the recyclables that have been pulled out of ID-10, ID-13 and ID-27 are of greater or lesser quality than recyclables from a single stream. Ms. Casapulla said the quality is probably one step lower than what comes out of single stream recycling. She said it is called a dirty MRF. She also said that the residents and business do a great job of bringing in

material already source separated. However this new single stream confuses even the most experienced recycler.

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, PLANNING DIRECTOR:

Eric Snyder did not have a report this evening.

B. ADAM BOLTZ, HEALTH DEPARTMENT:

Adam Boltz reported that he inspected a total of 134 solid waste containers to date, 14 since the last meeting, and that 140 solid waste containers were closed, 37 since the last meeting. There were 41 garbage truck routes inspected to date, eight since the last meeting. All were closed.

There were five Notices of Violation issued since the last meeting. They were for an expired decal, an unregistered hauler, a wasteflow violation and two for improperly labeled solid waste units.

Since January 1, 2014, there were five penalty assessments. Since the last meeting, a Pennsylvania hauler who was unregistered in New Jersey removed a container from the County for disposal.

To date this year there were 12 NJDEP Referred Investigations, four since the last meeting. They were for solid waste in fill, a cooking oil spill, dumping in the Paulins Kill Watershed Management Area and shingle dumping.

There was a total of 16 CEHA Solid Waste Complaints/Referrals, three since the last meeting. They were for odors at AG Choice, recycling sorting after a festival at the Rickey Farm and for burying waste on Garrett Road in Hampton Township.

A total of 21 closed landfills have been completed, three since the last meeting and there were 116 recycling inspections at the SCMUA landfill, 11 since the last meeting. Mr. Boltz said that he has one more closed landfill to inspect.

Mr. Boltz reported that the Barn Hill Care Center in Newton is now recycling. The Newton Theater and Lenape Lodge were found to not be recycling but Newton Theater seems to be willing to get some decals for their receptacles and start recycling immediately. Notices of Violation were issued to Lenape Lodge and Pezzo Pizza.

Tom Varro asked Mr. Boltz about his work with a prominent Sussex County roofing business that no longer brings his shingles to the MUA. Mr. Boltz said his investigation is ongoing and that he enlisted the help of the field inspectors in his

Department, along with some of the local municipalities to find out where they're working. He said he is going to have to confront them. He also said if the shingles are being recycled at a plant, the County needs to know about it so we can add that to our numbers.

There was also some discussion about odors at the Quick Chek on Route 23 in Wantage. Mr. Boltz said he drives through that area a couple of times a week and sometimes there is an odor. Before he can make an investigation, a complaint has to come from the owner of a neighboring property. The investigations are done at the property line.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

- A. E-MAIL FROM GAETA RECYCLING CO., INC., 7/9/14:
- B. SOLID WASTE FACILITY MONTHLY DISPOSAL AND MATERIALS RECOVERY REPORT FOR JUNE 2014, GRINNELL RECYCLING, 7/15/14:
- C. NOTIFICATION OF EXEMPT RECYCLING ACTIVITIES – WANTAGE EXCAVATING CO., INC., NJDEP, 8/7/14:
- D. SOLID WASTE FACILITY MONTHLY DISPOSAL AND MATERIALS RECOVERY REPORT FOR JULY 2014, GRINNELL RECYCLING, 8/12/14:
- E. E-MAIL FROM JOSEPH STAAB RE: WANTAGE EXCAVATING O., INC., NJDEP, 8/18/14:

Alice Brees reviewed the Correspondence listed above.

**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 Donald Ploetner and carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.