

SUSSEX COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL

MINUTES

OCTOBER 9, 2012

The meeting was opened at 7:35 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
Dennis Haff, Fredon Township
Karen Hansen, Hampton Township
Howard Baker, Hopatcong Borough
Stephanie Pizzulo, Lafayette Township
Ken Jaekel, Town of Newton
Jo-Ann Williamson, Sandyston Township
Eric Powell, Sparta Township
Don Drake, Stanhope Borough
Eleanor Mensonides, At-Large, Vice Chair
Richard Vohden, Freeholder Liaison

EXCUSED MEMBERS: Allan Esenlohr, Green Township
Robert Sturges, Montague Township
John Armeno, At-Large

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

ALSO PRESENT: Freeholder Director Phillip Crabb
Robyn Hattersley, Andover Township
Carlos Luaces, Byram Township Council
Mark Swyka, P.E., Cornerstone Environmental Group

Chairman Landrith asked for a motion to amend the Agenda to add under New Business, a report presented by SCMUA. A motion was made by Jason Doyle to add a report presented by SCMUA under New Business. The motion was seconded by Eleanor Mensonides and carried unanimously.

MINUTES CORRECTION/APPROVAL:

A typo was noted on Page 3, B, second paragraph, third sentence. Change to read, "Ross Hull, DEP had..." A motion was made by Jason Doyle to approve the Minutes of September 11, 2012 as corrected. The motion was seconded by Karen Hansen. All were in favor, with abstentions from Karen Hansen, Ken Jaekel, Eric Powell and Don Drake. Motion carried.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS:

Chairman Landrith skipped the Chairman's Remarks in order to move on to New Business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Dennis Haff reported that the Governor signed new legislation on solar panels to promote the use of solar farms on either closed landfills or brownfields to eliminate solar farms on agricultural land. He added that there is an entity currently working in Sussex County that is interested in working with SCMUA on this project.

A. **POTENTIAL SCMUA LANDFILL LIFE EXTENSION:**

Tom Varro said DEP invited him to a workshop on landfill life extension to speak about the recently approved utilization of landfill tarps instead of cover materials on weekends. The option of extending the life of a landfill through the use of a landfill berm was discussed at this workshop. Mr. Varro said Cape May and Atlantic County already received DEP approval for this type of landfill life extension; but they are not yet built.

Mark Swyka, P.E. with Cornerstone Environmental Group is the Solid Waste Consultant for SCMUA. He said he was here to speak about the thinking process with respect to looking at the landfill and landfill life over time. He did a Power Point Presentation which began with an aerial view of the landfill. He pointed out an area on the right and said it is an area that is not currently being considered with respect

to future landfill air space. Phase 2A, 2B, 3A and 3B are not final covered. Phase 2A and 2B are essentially at final grade; Phase 3A is the active landfill area; and Phase 3B will be filled at some point in the future. It was Phase 3A and 3B that they started talking about with respect to optimizing the air space within the landfill.

The thought process moved through increasing the slope angle of the final cover and then the concept of constructing a perimeter berm. Currently, the permitted final grade for the landfill is at a slope of 3 ½ horizontal to 1 vertical (about 30°.) In New Jersey, the regulatory maximum for final grade is 3 horizontal to 1 or 33%. They looked at what happens when they use a 3 to 1 surface above the landfill and how much space is gained in the process. Looking at a cross-section of Cell 3A from South to North, they pick up additional elevation of approximately 15 feet. This translates to approximately 250,000 cubic yards of airspace, which for this facility is 2 years of life. This was not enough to subsidize the closure fund deficit.

Mr. Swyka said there is a series of activities to go through in order to approve the 3 to 1 for the landfill because it is not part of the Solid Waste Permit for the facility. He estimated a period of six to nine months to include that change in the Solid Waste Management Plan and then comply with DEP requirements.

Mr. Swyka said the advantages of increasing the perimeter berm is that they can increase the landfill air space volume without increasing the footprint of the facility. Because this has already been permitted in New Jersey, they feel confident that they can pursue this modification of the facility. Slides were shown of a few sites where perimeter berms have been built: Babylon, LI; Carmel Landfill, NY; and Oak Landfill, Conley, GA.

In Sussex County, the northern edge of the landfill is somewhat problematic in that there are wetlands fairly close to the facility. This is also the location of the leachate pump stations. The slide of Step No. 2 showed a cross-section of a perimeter berm. Mr. Swyka said with a 50' high perimeter berm on the southern side, they gain space for 50' of additional waste across the entire slope. With a 50' high berm on the southern side and the northern side, they see a 50' veneer of waste over the entire area.

Mr. Swyka said if they do not extend the limit of waste, there has to be some intrusion into the waste mass. By sliding the berm out so that the toe of the berm begins where the landfill ends now, it becomes a 100' lateral expansion and eliminates the excavation of waste. They will have to disturb less of the existing landfill but will have to take a little bit more land to the exterior of the landfill. This is possible and has distinct advantages. He added that it can be constructed in Phases.

The full landfill cross-section of Cell 3A (South to North) working 3 to 1, adding 50' on the southern side, brings an elevation of 745'. Mr. Swyka said this picks up roughly 1.25 million cubic yards of airspace, which converts to approximately 10 years of life. They estimate a cost of \$14 million. A berm on the south and the north, increases the airspace volume by about 1 million cubic yards with a site life increase to 18 years. When asked, Mr. Swyka said this increase in site life is on top of the current projected

closure year. He estimated the total timeframe from start to permit to be about 2 ½ years.

Mr. Swyka said they started to sketch out some development costs and they estimated development at 40% of the total construction cost. This includes engineering, DEP permitting fees, legal administrative bonding and other miscellaneous costs.

There was a period of questions from SWAC. When asked about the height restrictions, Mr. Swyka said there are no specific height restrictions in New Jersey. Landfills are limited by its own physical geometry or concerns of visibility. The current permitted elevation for the landfill is 723'.

Eric Snyder said extending the life of the landfill will give the other technologies that were presented to SWAC some time to mature and for the modules to be refined to where they can handle the relatively small amount of waste that Sussex County generates.

Mr. Swyka said they have not done a comprehensive financial analysis yet but everything that they have done up to this point says it is an adequate volume and an adequate period of time so that the closure funding would be financed.

Eric Snyder asked how much more difficult would it be to slide the footprint out on the northern face. Mr. Swyka said he would not know exactly how much more difficult it would be until they actually look at distances, offsets and what the volumes would be for what they would have to construct. They would still need to remove the leachate, extend the leachate collection and pumping facilities and be sure they do not encroach on the wetlands.

Carlos Luaces, Byram Township Councilman asked instead of spending money on extending the height of the landfill, why not make the waste coming in more efficient by sorting out the recyclables and metals and only putting in waste that can't be recycled into the landfill. This will extend the life of the landfill and will cost a lot less than \$14 million. Freeholder Director Crabb said that would not generate revenue. Mr. Luaces said the sorted materials can be marketed. He added that instead of paying for cover material, SCMUA should be looking to construction companies that are looking for a place to dump dirt and charge them to dump it. Freeholder Vohden asked if this is being done anywhere. Mr. Luaces said there is a landfill in Lincoln Park, Jersey City and a waste facility in Prospect Park, Jersey City.

Freeholder Director Crabb said he and Freeholder Vohden were invited to a presentation by SCMUA last week. The challenge is the stranded debt and the closure cost. This is an avenue to do continuous operation. Using the airspace to extend the life of the landfill will provide the opportunity to not worry about where the money for the stranded debt and closing costs is coming from and pushes the closing strategy off for 30 years. The added years also gives SWAC time to look at new technologies.

Mr. Luaces said prolonging the life of the landfill may also be prolonging a defunct entity and may even build a bigger deficit. Howard Baker asked if there was any

guarantee that funds could be put aside for closure. Freeholder Crabb said the stranded debt is paid in two years. This option takes the County out of being indebted to the State. He added that the Freeholder Board thirty years from now will be in a lot better financial shape than this one is.

Freeholder Vohden said the transfer station also involves increasing costs. Eric Snyder said the transfer station always troubled him because it puts you in a vulnerable position with rising gas prices and the possibility of states refusing to take the waste. He said this is a home-grown solution for a period of time and gives the opportunity to look at alternative technologies. Howard Baker said when the landfill does reach the end of its life, the technologies available at that time will be vastly different.

Eleanor Mensonides said there was mention of a Phase 4. She said Phase 4 should be included as potential in the plan amendment. She would like to see some estimates of costs and revenues for Phase 4 and information on the transfer station being used more for moving as much waste as possible and what the markets are for the other things that come into the facility. Chairman Landrith encouraged SWAC members to give this proposal some thought.

OLD BUSINESS:

Tom Varro asked about the status of Farmside Landscape and Design. Neal Leitner said as of Thursday Miles Kuperus has not received the letter of recommendation from Wantage.

Mr. Varro also asked about the status of Evergreen Recycling. Mr. Leitner said he has been in contact with Evergreen. He has not received any official word.

REPORTS:

A. SCMUA UPDATE:

Tom Varro deferred his SCMUA Update to the presentation this evening.

B. RECYCLING COORDINATOR:

Renee Casapulla said the Recycling Coordinators had a meeting on September 26 with 19 towns represented. Wayne DeFeo was the guest facilitator. The discussion focused on the trending of the overall county recycling rate being in the lower quadrant of the overall State recycling rate for at least 13 years. They looked at possible reasons and looked at individual municipal recycling rates to see trends. There were a couple of items that need to be followed up on, such as a centralized reporting form and talking with the haulers that service the towns.

On September 29, there was a prescription take back day that was held with the Sheriff's Department and the Center for Prevention. They reported that they collected 633 lbs. of material from all the different collection sites. This is double the amount collected during the spring collection. Another collection day is scheduled for November 10. Ms. Casapulla reported that Newton now has a permanent, secure prescription drop box at the Police Department. The State Police Barracks in Augusta are working on the same and Sparta hopes to have one in place for early 2013.

Flyers were provided this evening for the E-Waste Collection Event on Saturday, October 13 from 7:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. This is the fourth and final collection day at SCMUA for 2012. Ms. Casapulla added that Byram, Stanhope, Stillwater and Vernon do their own E-Waste collections.

On November 3 there will be a Fall Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event. The events for October 13 and November 3 will have collections on the day before for public agencies; however the agencies need to coordinate with the MUA beforehand.

C. STATE LIAISON:

Ross Hull did not attend this evening's meeting nor did he send a report.

D. SWAGER REPORT:

Eleanor Mensonides said SWAGER did not meet this evening.

DIRECTOR'S REPORTS:

A. ERIC SNYDER:

Eric Snyder did not have anything to report.

B. HEALTH DEPARTMENT:

Anita DeMatteo reported that the Health Department performed 205 container inspections, 34 truck waste flow investigations and issued one Notice of Violation to Gary Grey for holding waste at his facility for more than 24 hours. There were no waste flow violations. On September 21 there was a garbage truck spill in Newton which resulted in a penalty assessment. When asked, Ms. DeMatteo said the container inspections were a cumulative total for the year.

CORRESPONDENCE:

A. SCMUA REVENUE AND APPROPRIATIONS REPORT:

B. ALL POOL DEMOLITION:

C. WQ NORTHEAST, INC., MONTHLY DISPOSAL REPORT FOR JULY 2012:

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

All business having been completed, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Howard Baker. The motion was seconded by Karen Hansen and carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.