



DIVISION OF PLANNING

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Eric K. Snyder, PP, AICP  
Director

**County of Sussex**

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**SUSSEX COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**MINUTES**

**OCTOBER 13, 2009**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chairman Jim Landrith. The meeting is held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, NJSA 10:4-1 of 1975, as amended. Present were:

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

James Landrith, Chairman, Andover Borough  
William Koellhoffer, Byram Township  
Jason Doyle, Franklin Borough  
Allan Esenlohr, Green Township  
William Sanford, Hampton Township  
Howard Baker, Hopatcong Borough  
Edith McGrath, Lafayette Township  
Ken Jaekel, Newton  
Jo-Ann Williamson, Sandyston Township  
John Armeno, At-Large  
James Wright, At-Large

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:**

Eleanor Mensonides, Vice Chairman, Vernon  
Richard Pumphrey, Frankford Township  
Dick Plog, At-Large

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Eric Snyder, Planning Director  
Reenee Casapulla, Recycling Coordinator  
Tom Varro, SCMUA  
Neal Leitner, Program Manager

**ALSO PRESENT:**

John Hatzelis, Administrator, SCMUA  
James Sparnon, Solid Waste Superintendent

## MINUTES

At the request of County Counsel, the minutes of the July 14, 2009 and September 8, 2009 meetings were tabled until next month. Mr. Hatzelis said the June 9 minutes were distributed but never approved. He suggested that they also be considered at next month's meeting. Mr. Doyle made that motion, and it was seconded by Mr. Koellhofer. Mr. Wright and Mr. Esenlohr opposed this motion; motion passes.

## CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

At this time, Mr. Esenlohr said that there is a problem with the sound system; it is not adequate for a meeting like this. He suggested we take up a collection and go to Radio Shack and buy a sound system. Mr. Esenlohr said if a lawyer ever looks at the minutes and they are unintelligible, we are going to suffer. Chairman Landrith said he will use the gavel more often to alleviate some of the problem, and Mr. Snyder said he will talk to his superiors about it.

## REPORTS

A. SCMUA Update – Mr. Varro reported on the tonnage figures shown on the Solid Waste Facilities graph for the period December 1 through September 5. Just as reported last month, there is a decreasing trend from 2006 to present. Declines are as follows: 8% in 2007, almost 10% in 2008 and 12% this year. Total tonnage so far this year is 76,171. The average tip fee has shown some increase over last year; \$82.59 this year versus \$80.97 in 2008. Flow control years (1994 through 1997) had the highest average tip fee. Regarding the Tonnage by Municipality graph, Mr. Varro said this information compares 1997 (the last year of flow control) to 2009. The tonnage that year is fairly comparable to the tonnage totals we are seeing now. The only difference in the reporting is total year figures were used in 1997 and 2009 figures run from January 1 through September 30. The next page of the report showed the actual data that the municipality report was based on. Mr. Varro said that a very interesting calculation is at the bottom of the page. He said if you assume a 0% growth in municipalities from 1997 through 2009, there was a total of 6,628 tons lost from all waste types just this year. At our average tip fee, that equals over \$500,000 in lost revenue by SCMUA because the waste is going elsewhere. Mr. Varro said this is an illustration of why we need flow control.

B. Recycling Coordinator – Ms. Casapulla stated that SCMUA's Electronics Recycling Day was held on October 3 and was well attended. Over 30 tons of electronics waste was collected. This brings the YTD total of electronic waste collected at SCMUA to just under 200 tons. November 7 is Household Hazardous Waste Day.

Ms. Casapulla reported on the Sussex County 2007 Recycling Rates – generation and disposal rates in tons from 1998 to 2007 (latest figures reported by DEP). The chart

compares the recycling rate in Sussex County to New Jersey's overall recycling rate. The column MSW% states the 2007 recycling rate for Sussex County is 31.8%, which is the highest Ms. Casapulla has seen since she started recording in 1998. Ms. Williamson asked if it is from the increase in recycling tonnage; Ms. Casapulla said the answer is no. It is directly attributed to the decrease in solid waste generation. Ms. Casapulla reminded the committee that these numbers are of 2007. Sussex County's recycling rate rank is now 15 out of 21 counties. This is the first time that Sussex County is out of the lower quarter. Also on the chart that Ms. Casapulla was referring to are the recycling rates for individual municipalities. It is the annual reporting of the individual towns that makes up the overall County recycling rate. These numbers will be looked at closely by municipal recycling coordinators and will help in planning how Sussex County's recycling can be improved.

Mr. Baker stated that the rate number itself is somewhat absurd when you look at the perspective of reduce, reuse and recycle. If you reduce and reuse enough, your rate of recycling on a percentage basis could be anything. If you reduce far enough so there is not much solid waste, the proportion of non recyclable to recyclable is virtually meaningless. Mr. Baker is not sure why so much focus is given to the numbers when they don't mean too much. Ms. Casapulla said she agrees with Mr. Baker; the solid waste generation rates did reflect on increasing our recycling rate for our County. It also reflects on the municipalities, who depend on their recycling programs being successful in order to get funding. This translates into increased funding for this year. Mr. Baker said when numbers are reported he thinks we should not only discuss the amount of recycling that is going on, but any apparent reductions in solid waste. That is a significant contributor to the overall goal of managing solid waste.

C. State Liaison - not present - no report

### DIRECTORS' REPORTS

A. Eric Snyder - Mr. Snyder stated that we have received a letter from the DEP indicating that the submission for the flow control amendment has been completed and they're in the process of reviewing it. The County has also sent them a letter asking them to act quickly in order to meet the budget constraints for municipalities.

Mr. Eskilson asked Mr. Snyder to inform the council that Mr. Yardley has put together a draft of the enforcement program that should be available for transmittal to the MUA within the next few days. Working with that information and the MUA's draft, there should be something for the council to review at the next meeting.

B. Herb Yardley - not present - no report

## CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Leitner mentioned the following pieces of correspondence and asked the committee if anyone had any questions or comments. The only comment that was made was from Mr. Hatzelis who said that the report listed in B is not one of SCMUA's reports. It is not something that was put together by the MUA. Mr. Hatzelis said the MUA hasn't seen it; didn't transmit it; can't verify the information. Mr. Leitner then stated the latest Grinnell Recycling figures for September were received today; they will be on next month's correspondence.

- A. Grinnell Recycling August Monthly Disposal and Materials Recovery Report
- B. SCMUA's Solid Waste Revenue and Appropriation Report
- C. Approval of Minor Technical Review from DEP to Grinnell Recycling for a system of how recyclable material is logged and tracked while in the new 85' by 220' area to the west of the TS/MRF building
- D. Resolution from the Board of Chosen Freeholders approving the Solid Waste Master Plan Amendment to reinstitute Flow Control within Sussex County at the September 9, 2009 meeting

## NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Landrith asked the committee if anyone has new business to discuss. Mr. Esenlohr said yes; he'd like to talk about a letter from Blue Diamond. He said a gentleman from Blue Diamond spoke at the September 9 meeting. The letter Mr. Esenlohr referred to was about the hours of operation at SCMUA. Mr. Esenlohr said if you want to bring Sussex County garbage to Sussex County, and a guy finishes loading the truck at 3:00 in the afternoon and SCMUA closes at 2:00, he's going to go wherever it makes sense for him. The other thing he mentioned was that on trash pickup day he has noticed that people put out TVs, dehumidifiers, all kinds of stuff and it's taken. Should it be taken? I'm sure that he doesn't sort it out when he gets to wherever he's going. Chairman Landrith asked Mr. Esenlohr if he was recommending some enforcement and/or would he like to file a complaint. Mr. Esenlohr said this is just an observation. Chairman Landrith stated that until the end of the year it is perfectly legal to landfill electronic equipment. Mr. Esenlohr asked if that is going to change. Chairman Landrith said yes, that is going to change on January 1, 2010. Ms. Casapulla said this change has been moved; it's now 2011.

Chairman Landrith suggested that the committee get thoughts together on what is observed and to inform Mr. Yardley, who will probably be here next month regarding the enforcement policy.

Mr. Esenlohr stated that the older dehumidifiers have Freon in them. Chairman Landrith said he doesn't know if that is taken out before being disposed of.

### OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Varro said last month there was a discussion regarding the Grinnell letter, and there was a motion made by Ms. Mensonides, seconded by Mr. Doyle, sending a letter of inquiry to Grinnell to discuss the accounting of their recycling. He suggested that a draft letter be presented at next month's meeting. Mr. Leitner said a letter has been sent out to Grinnell discussing 13C waste. In that letter Grinnell was asked what they do with the 13C waste that is collected from markets outside of Sussex County. Mr. Snyder said this letter will be included in next month's correspondence.

Ms. Casapulla said regarding the last two month's minutes that have been tabled, she's noticed are times when a motion is made and an action will be decided as a result of that but there is no way of tracking that subsequent action. She then mentioned a couple of specifics to illustrate how a motion is made at a meeting, but nothing seems to be done to move the motion forward. Ms. Casapulla said she would like to see some type of follow up implemented.

### OPEN TO PUBLIC

None

### ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business to be discussed at this time and a motion was made by Mr. Armeno to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Baker and carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.