

SUSSEX COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL

MINUTES

OCTOBER 14, 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
Gary Larson, Frankford Township
Allan Esenlohr, Green Township
Howard Baker, Hopatcong Borough
Stephanie Pizzulo, Lafayette Township
Jo-Ann Williamson, Sandyston Township
Christopher Fitzpatrick, At-Large
Eleanor Mensonides, At-Large, Vice Chair (7:15 p.m.)
Donald Ploetner, At-Large

EXCUSED MEMBERS: Eric Powell, Sparta Township

STAFF MEMBERS: Eric Snyder, Planning Director
Antoinette Wasiewicz, Recording Secretary
Adam Boltz, Health Department
Reenee Casapulla, Recycling Coordinator

MINUTES CORRECTION/APPROVAL:

Minutes were not available.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS:

Chairman Landrith welcomed John Burd, the newly appointed SWAC member. Mr. Burg represents Hamburg Borough.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. COUNTY FOOD WASTE RECYCLING QUESTIONS:

The County Food Waste Recycling Questions came from DEP and the SCMUA provided the answers. A copy was provided to the SWAC members. Chairman Landrith said he spoke to a representative at Andover Borough and was told they are very leery about anything that will cause people to keep rotting food in their house until it's picked up. There are also concerns about bears and other wild animals if the food waste is kept outside. They feel it will be a significant burden on the residents and probably not worth the minimal improvement it may offer. Howard Baker said it seems like the opportunity is for commercial facilities. It was agreed that it would be easy for large facilities but not for households. Mr. Baker said AG Choice should probably be listed as an answer to Question #8.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. UPDATE ON DELTA THERMO ENERGY:

Tom Varro said there was an article on Delta Thermo Energy saying that the facility in Allentown, PA is not going forward. Mr. Varro said, in his opinion, Delta Thermo really doesn't have standing and that SWAC did not receive a formal application. There was a SWAC sub-committee that was studying alternate methods of disposal and the basic conclusion was that none of them were quite ready at this point.

In 1994 incinerators were eliminated from the County Plan as a technology. Delta Thermo was not offering Plasma Technology. They were taking refuse and sludge, combining them and turning them into a fuel which would be burned for energy. This is a newer version of an incinerator and it is not approved anywhere---there are no scale operations. He said we have a landfill and Delta Thermo's proposal did not eliminate landfills. Delta Thermo said the best scenario was for the incinerator to be on the County's solid waste site in Lafayette or at the wastewater site in Hardyston. Both towns are unlikely to agree to this.

Eric Snyder said Delta Thermo did not submit a formal application but they did ask for more information on the County's waste generation. Jim Landrith said he would like to see more information on costs. Donald Ploetner said they need to start with a formal application. Tom Varro said the question is, "Do we want to see an application at all?" "If somebody came before SWAC saying they wanted to dispose of radioactive waste in Sussex County, would we even entertain an application?" Mr. Snyder said anybody is entitled to make an application. As a public agency we will accept and consider anybody's application. They are welcome to make applications, they are welcome to make presentations and SWAC is welcome to say, "No" based on what we hear. Mr. Baker said they have to be given the opportunity to show that they can solve whatever problem prevented from the being in the plan in the first place. If somebody has a great idea on how to do it, our job is to listen.

B. OUT-OF-COUNTY FACILITIES DISCUSSION:

Eric Snyder said when Gaeta made their presentation to SWAC, they were advised to submit an application. They have not done so yet. The entire issue of out-of-County facilities was addressed in the letter that John Hatzelis wrote and in Mr. Snyder's response to it. These letters were part of the SWAC mailing. If Gaeta has statistics that make sense, if they have ways to handle all the out-of-County controls and other issues that were discussed, then there may be an argument in its favor. Allan Esenlohr asked if Gaeta would charge for this service. Mr. Snyder said Gaeta is currently servicing his commercial customers. There was some question as to how Gaeta could make a profit by transporting waste out and then back in to the County. Mr. Landrith said another concern was that the County would not get back necessarily what was taken out, so that the County loses control of what goes through the landfill.

REPORTS:

A. SCMUA UPDATE:

Tom Varro reported that on September 26 he sent a letter to Herb Yardley regarding the Solid Waste Flow Control Enforcement Program. He provided Mr. Yardley with ID 10 Tonnage Data Comparisons by town. Mr. Varro provided SWAC with this information at the September meeting. The commissioners wanted him to do this so that resources could be focused on a potential area of the County rather than have to look at the entire County for tonnage loss.

Adam Boltz said this is a complex issue and following garbage trucks is not the answer. They came up with the idea of documenting the trucks picking up garbage in the County and then following them on paper, and it has worked. There used to be a State Trooper driving around following trucks all the way to their destination, but that was one Trooper and one truck. Mr. Boltz said that looking at trucks markings and writing down plate numbers while driving is dangerous. He said he monitors the information and when he does catch these vehicles, they get fined.

Mr. Varro said that Cavalier is the new operator of the Grinnell Material Recovery Facility. DEP advised him they are sending out letters advising of this change. Grinnell is the owner of the facility and he believes they still have the hauling. He is not sure what the status is with the paving at that site and the Class B operation. He does not believe Reliable Wood is on site anymore. Eric Snyder asked if DEP did an inspection when Cavalier went in. Adam Boltz said DEP is aware of their presence. He said he has not seen Cavalier's operation yet because it's been fairly recent. Tomorrow he is meeting with DEP and will discuss it with them. Mr. Varro said we do not have to alter the Solid Waste Management Plan because Grinnell is still the permittee of record; Cavalier is just a licensed operator. Eleanor Mensonides asked about the other company that wanted to process waste on the site. Mr. Boltz said the last time he was in that MRF, the machine was there but it was covered in dust---it was not being used. Based on the atmosphere of the conversation with the driver, he does not believe it is going to be used. He said he will take a look at it the next time he is there, which should be shortly.

JoAnn Williamson said she is one of the haulers that are listed in Mr. Varro's report and Montague is shown with a decrease in tonnage. Montague is on the border with New York. She does not cross into New York and is not dumping anywhere else. She said she has looked at these figures and cannot explain the difference in tonnage because the customer base has not changed that dramatically. Perhaps people are putting out less garbage and recycling more. Some of it could be reporting errors by the drivers. Eric Snyder said there is a lot of discussion going on that people are buying less, therefore, they are generating less waste. In fact, stores are already pushing Christmas because they are not at all optimistic that they will see a great deal of Christmas spending. Mr. Snyder also said in some cases, packaging is reduced. There was some discussion on misreporting by drivers.

B. RECYCLING COORDINATOR:

In the absence of Renee Casapulla, Tom Varro gave a brief report. There was an E-Waste Event on Saturday, October 11. A total of 965 vehicles came to the facility and approximately 48 tons of material was collected for recycling. A Household Hazardous Waste Event is scheduled for Saturday, November 1. He provided SWAC with flyers about this event. The flyers will also be sent to the towns.

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:

Eric Snyder said he already discussed much of what he had to report.

B. HEALTH DEPARTMENT:

Adam Boltz reported that to date he inspected 146 solid waste roll-off containers and 151 solid waste containers were closed. A total of 42 garbage truck routes have been inspected to date, all are closed.

There were two Notices of Violation issued since the last meeting, one for waste flow and the other for an improperly labeled solid waste container. Since January 1, 2014 there were six penalty assessments. Also since the last meeting, a Warren County waste hauler removed a container from the County for disposal in Pennsylvania. A Settlement Agreement has been issued.

There have been 14 NJDEP Referred Investigations this year, two since the last meeting. These were for solid waste dumping on Edison Road at the Ogdensburg/Sparta border and for foul mulch odor at RER. Mr. Boltz said when he visited the site; he did not detect any odor whatsoever. Periodically there is a mulch smell. The complainant does not live near the facility but said that there is an odor as

he drives by. Mr. Boltz said according to DEP, the law reads it's not a violation unless it is at the property line of the complainant.

Mr. Boltz said RER has new technology which they are currently constructing for use in the spring. It will spray an enzyme over active piles.

To date there have been 18 CEHA Solid Waste Complaints/Referrals (up from 16). The Grinnell leaf beneficial use project was inspected today by NJDEP. Correspondence to follow. There is a pending issue regarding mercury in a toilet of a Wantage resident.

There have been seven Class A Convenience Centers, two leaf transfer facilities and one Class B tree parts grinder inspections and 134 recycling truck inspections at the SCMUA landfill (up from 116.)

Mr. Boltz reported that he issued two recycling Notices of Violation. One violation was to Lenape Lodge and the other was to Pezza Pizza, both in Andover Township. Lenape Lodge now has a single stream dumpster on site.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- A. LETTER RE: GAETA RECYCLING, 9/12/14:
- B. SOLID WASTE MONTHLY DISPOSAL REPORT FOR AUGUST 2014, ENVIRONMENTAL PRODUCTS AND SERVICES, 9/12/14:
- C. SOLID WASTE FACILITY MONTHLY RECOVERY REPORT FOR AUGUST 2014, GRINNELL RECYCLING, 9/17/14:

Eleanor Mensonides noted that in Grinnell's Monthly Recovery Report, the Final Destination does not say SCMUA. Mr. Boltz requested that Tom Varro ask John Hatzelis if Grinnell is current on their tonnage because they are required to bring a certain amount to the County landfill. He added that the last time he spoke with Mr. Hatzelis, he said Grinnell was in good standing.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

All business having been completed, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Donald Ploetner. The motion was seconded by Howard Baker and carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.