

SUSSEX COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL

MINUTES

NOVEMBER 13, 2012

The meeting was opened at 7:34 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
Allan Esenlohr, Green Township
Howard Baker, Hopatcong Borough
Stephanie Pizzulo, Lafayette Township
Robert Sturges, Montague Township
Ken Jaekel, Town of Newton
Don Drake, Stanhope Borough
John Armeno, At-Large
Richard Fenimore, At-Large
Eleanor Mensonides, At-Large, Vice Chair
Richard Vohden, Freeholder Liaison

EXCUSED MEMBERS: Gary Larson, Frankford Township
Jo-Ann Williamson, Sandyston Township
Eric Powell, Sparta Township

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

ALSO PRESENT: Mark Swyka, P.E. Cornerstone Environmental Group

MINUTES CORRECTION/APPROVAL:

A motion was made by Howard Baker to approve the Minutes of October 9, 2012. The motion was seconded by Robert Sturges . All were in favor, with abstentions from Allan Esenlohr, Robert Sturges, John Armeno and Richard Fenimore. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Ken Jaekel to amend the Agenda to move the item, "Potential SCMUA Landfill Life Extension – Phase 4" from "New Business, A" to "Old Business, A." The motion was seconded by Eleanor Mensonides and carried unanimously.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

A. UPDATE ON FARMSIDE LANDSCAPING ADMINISTRATIVE AMENDMENT PROPOSAL:

Neal Leitner reported that on Thursday, Wantage Township will approve a Resolution to endorse Farmside Landscaping for inclusion in the Solid Waste Master Plan. This will allow Mr. Kuperus to come before SWAC with a presentation at the December meeting.

B. THANK YOU LETTER TO BOB SMITH:

Planning Staff prepared a letter of appreciation to Bob Smith for his service to SWAC and Sussex County. Chairman Landrith read the letter to the members.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. POTENTIAL SCMUA LANDFILL LIFE EXTENSION – PHASE 4:

Mark Swyka, of Cornerstone Environmental Group was here this evening to discussion Phase 4 of the potential SCMUA Landfill Life Extension. For the benefit of those who were not present during his original presentation in October; and for those who were unable to access the Minutes of that meeting, Mr. Swyka reviewed much of what was already covered last month.

Mr. Swyka said Cornerstone Environmental Group works solely in the environmental field with respect to management of solid waste in various forms. They looked at what could be done to cost effectively extend the life of SCMUA until such time as other viable management alternatives become available. During the SWAC presentation in October, Mr. Swyka was asked to provide information on what the potential impact of Phase 4 would be on the overall life of the facility.

Mr. Swyka displayed an aerial view of the landfill. He pointed out an area that was closed, Phase 1 and Phase 2A. He said Phase 2A and 2B are a little bit below the permitted elevation. Phase 3A is the active cell and Phase 3B is constructed and will be available for landfilling once Phase 3A reaches its full capacity. The slope of the landfill was looked at. Currently, the slope is constructed at 3.5 to 1, which is a little bit flatter than what is permitted. They then looked at how to increase the capacity of the footprint by building a perimeter berm around the existing footprint. They are looking at a lateral expansion into Phase 4 and possibility a little bit beyond that. They are proposing to take the waste fill to the slope of 3 to 1, beginning right at the permitted limit of waste which would allow them to pick up the additional airspace volume. They do not anticipate any problems with modifying the facility permit in order to gain the approval to fill to 3 to 1. Mr. Swyka said this expansion buys the landfill two years of life.

Mr. Swyka said they are looking at the southern side of the landfill and along to the west. They believe that those areas south of 2A, 2B, 3A and 3B are the most advantageous in terms of available area and the additional airspace volume that they would gain from that. The west is constrained because of a wildlife mitigation area further west and the north is constrained because of a wetlands footprint. They are continuing to evaluate the potential for a smaller berm on the north and whether they include that or not is subject to that evaluation. For a 50' high berm, they have a lateral expansion of about 100'.

If the berm was placed on the south and the west, they pick up about 1.3 million cubic yards, ten years of life. The airspace value is approximately \$107 million with a construction cost of \$14 million. To implement this, they need a Solid Waste Management Plan Amendment and they would have to modify the Solid Waste Permit. They estimate the total timeframe to implement this as 2.5 years. For budgeting purposes, they are assuming 40% of construction and they believe this is a safe, no surprises number.

During the October meeting, Mr. Swyka talked about the possibility of Phase 4. Phase 4 as it was previously defined extends into an area that is currently being used for the management of cover soils. This footprint is less than eight acres and they would, in concept, build a wall around the perimeter of Phase 4 on the east and southern sides. Phase 4 with the wall on two sides is approximately 1.4 million cubic yards in addition to everything already discussed. That is an additional 11 years beyond the additional time that would be achieved with the other modifications, with airspace value of just under \$120 million. The construction cost is estimated at about \$13 million without development costs. The same implementation program would apply as already discussed. Development costs are estimated at \$5.2 million in addition to the construction cost.

Currently the landfill life will go to 2018. With modified slopes, there is landfill life to 2020. Construction of the perimeter berm on the southern side of the landfill, adds another 10 years (2030.) If they were able to build on the north also, the landfill will gain another eight years of life. Phase 4 will extend the landfill life to 2049. Mr. Swyka said each one of the alternatives allows the facility to maintain the tipping fee

at its current level. He added that the costs are all in 2012 dollars and there will be some escalation due to inflation at whatever time the actual costs are implemented.

Don Drake said the proposal seems like a major life expansion for minimal cost compared to some of the other options SWAC has heard about. He said it should be moved along to the next step.

Carlos Luaces, Byram Township Councilman said it is a very good idea but it is very costly. He asked if it was smarter to update the transfer station and make the current process more efficient before going into this expense. He said the landfill is already at an \$18 million deficit over the next ten years. He questioned the need for that kind of space.

Tom Varro said from SCMUA's standpoint they are looking at not just the cost to implement but also the additional airspace value. The additional revenue will bail out the current deficit and liability with regard to the closure account.

John Armeno asked what the comparative costs were with regard to a transfer station. Mr. Varro said those costs were provided last October. The analysis for the transfer station does not include where the waste is going. Gas prices and availability of landfill space at other states will affect the cost. Howard Baker said because you are at the mercy of the disposal market and availability of disposal sites, tipping fees may have to be raised significantly just to break even. With the landfill capacity expansion, the tipping fee can remain relatively stable and under local control.

Allan Esenlohr said he sat through a presentation just like this a long time ago where the County would come out with zero costs at the end and money would be in the back for landfill closure. Then the State redirected trash and raided the closure funds once. He asked what was to prevent that from happening again. Eric Snyder said there is nothing to suggest that the State can't change the rules. He added that it wasn't the State that said you can no longer have flow control, it was a Supreme Court decision.

Mr. Luaces said sorting garbage would maximize recyclable income and would minimize what's going into the landfill. It would also create jobs. He said this process has worked in California for the last 20 years. Mr. Swyka said the landfill expansion is an opportunity for the County to continue to have a place to put the waste with no additional cost in tipping fee rather than being forced to abandon the landfill in 2018, go to a transfer station, with the cost of transfer which will probably be higher than the current tipping fee, plus having to cover the debt associated with the closure. This mechanism allows that closure fund to be funded, allows the additional time to be provided so that the County can look at the alternative technologies.

Mr. Luaces said his concern is for the tax payers. There is a big dollar amount already owned and now the County will spend more money on top of bad and the County may be in the same position in the next 10-15 years. Howard Baker said the bonding that would happen for the landfill expansion would not be contingent on a promise from the State to help us pay it back. We'd be paying it back with the revenue from our

own operations. Mr. Luaces said revenue is going down because there is less material coming in. The County has to make that money with less income. He said the County may be able to get to 2020 without spending \$50,000 because there is less material coming in already.

Eric Snyder said this is a concept that buys the County some time. It seems, on the face of it, to be a good direction to go because it doesn't foreclose any of the other opportunities we've covered. All the other options remain viable. One of the things we talked about at a previous meeting was you were going to give us some estimate, as to when do the two lines cross. When is that hole in the fund, the \$18 million, paid off and when do we actually go into the black. Because it is at that point that it is a completely neutral situation. Mr. Swyka said that occurs about 2030.

Howard Baker said if the landfill is short on tonnage coming in to ensure the revenue stream is good enough, we will probably be very desirable to bring it in from out of the County. The County will be competing with other places that are charging more.

Neal Leitner asked if Phase 4 or even Phase 5 would use up the potential footprint for a waste to energy plant. Mr. Varro said Phase 4 is a wide open spot but with a Phase 5, you would have a tough time finding a spot for another facility unless you put in top of a cap.

With no other comments made or questions asked, Chairman Landrith said this is something that should continue to be investigated. We should continue to get information on this and other pursuits as well. Eleanor Mensonides asked for a copy of the presentation. It was suggested that the presentation be e-mailed to Eric and Staff, who will distribute it to SWAC.

Chairman Landrith asked for a motion to continue to investigate this proposal and perhaps send a letter to the Freeholders supporting additional review and research by the SCMUA on the landfill expansion options. A motion was made by Eleanor Mensonides to this effect. It was seconded by Howard Baker and carried unanimously.

REPORTS:

A. SCMUA UPDATE:

Tom Varro said SCMUA was closed on the 30th due to Hurricane Sandy. Wednesday, the facility was opened under emergency power. By Friday they had full power and communications was restored. SCUMA was opened on November 3 for the Household Hazardous Waste Day. November 5, 6 and 7 they extended their hours from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the request of commercial haulers. With three days of extended hours, they picked up 251.67 tons of ID-10 and 5.77 tons of ID-13.

There were no reportable incidences as far as rainfall. They maintained containment at all times. The rainfall was measured about 2.5-2.6". The biggest issue was fuel

supply. They used about 340 gallons of diesel fuel per day and their supply was down pretty low. The fuel shortage situation seems to be lessening up.

The flare was down for a day on Tuesday and was running again on Wednesday. By Thursday the landfill gas to energy facility was online when power was restored. The flare remains as a back-up and helped in the management of the landfill gas.

B. RECYCLING COORDINATOR:

Renee Casapulla reported that the second of the annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event was held on November 3. This event was poorly attended due to the public being cut off from the usual means of advertisement for this event. They typically have between 900-1,200 vehicles per event. This day brought in 430 vehicles. Usually, they accommodate quite a few schools and towns the Friday before the event and many of the schools were closed. Despite schools being closed, eight schools and townships did participate. They collected 13.19 tons of material when they usually average 20-22 tons of material. For 2013 the Household Hazardous Waste Collections days are scheduled for June 1 and November 2.

The last of the four free E-Waste Collection Events was held in October. Ms. Casapulla reported that 965 vehicles came through the facility. They collected 29.52 tons which filled four tractor trailers. This brought their 2012 year-to-date tons for all their events to 318 tons. The date for the 2013 free E-Waste Collection Events have not been determined yet; however they should be available by the next SWAC meeting.

C. STATE LIAISON:

Neal Leitner said that he received a call from Ross Hull last week who advised him that he has been placed on hurricane duty. Any municipality that has a debris issue can either call Ross Hull or contact the Planning Division who will contact DEP.

D. SWAGER REPORT:

Eleanor Mensonides reported that there will be a SWAGER meeting next month and she hopes to have a speaker.

DIRECTOR'S REPORTS:

A. ERIC SNYDER:

Eric Snyder did not have anything new to report.

B. HEALTH DEPARTMENT:

Maureen These reported that eight containers were inspected this month. There were seven Type 10 garbage truck investigations, which resulted in one waste flow Notice of Violation and two penalties for mixing recycling with garbage. There was one other

suspected waste flow violation. All are from the same company and the cases are still pending. The company is currently contesting the charges.

The company that spilled the contents of one of its trucks in Newton on September 21 has paid its fine in full.

CORRESPONDENCE:

A. DTE QUESTIONNAIRE;

Neal Leitner received a Questionnaire from Delta Thermal Energy (DTE.) Mr. Leitner said most of this information should come from SCMUA and he asked Mr. Varro to look into this. Rob van Naarden is interested in continuing to work with SCMUA and the answers to this questionnaire will tell him whether or not this is a viable project.

It was brought to our attention that Dennis Haff was present for the meeting of October 9, 2012 and that he was the speaker referred to in the first paragraph under New Business. The Minutes will be corrected to reflect this.

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 John Armeno and carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.