DIVISION OF PLANNING

Sussex County Administrative Center
One Spring Street
Newton, N.J. 07860
Tel. 973-579-0500
FAX 973- 579-0513
E-mail: esnyder@sussex.nj.us
County WebSite: www.sussex.nj.us

Eric K. Snyder, PP, AICP
Director

County of Sussex

SUSSEX COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL
MINUTES
DECEMBER 8, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 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
Eleanor Mensonides, Vice Chairman, Vernon
William Koellhoffer, Byram Township
Jason Doyle, Franklin Borough
Allan Esenlohr, Green Township
Chris Kelly, Hamburg Borough
William Sanford, Hampton Township
Howard Baker, Hopatcong Borough
Edith McGrath, Lafayette Township
Jo-Ann Williamson, Sandyston Township
Eric Powell, Sparta Township
Katherine Little, Sussex Borough
John Armeno, At-Large
James Wright, At-Large
Dick Plog, At-Large

STAFF PRESENT:

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

Before the regularly scheduled topics, Chairman Landrith called upon Mr. Snyder to make a few comments regarding the microphone system. Mr. Snyder said that our recording system has caused some problems in the past and we are working to improve that. However, until we are able to, please pass the microphone around. Also, Mr. Snyder asked the committee to not all talk at the same time. He said if you have something important to say, please ask for the microphone so your remarks will be noted in the minutes.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Armeno to approve the minutes of June 9, 2009 as amended. It was seconded by Ms. Mensonides. After abstentions from Mr. Plog and Ms. Mensonides, motion carried. A motion was made by Mr. Armeno to approve the minutes of July 14, 2009 as amended. It was seconded by Mr. Kelly. After abstentions from Mr. Powell and Mr. Plog, motion carried. A motion was made by Mr. Armeno to approve the minutes of September 8, 2009 as amended. It was seconded by Ms. Mensonides. After abstentions from Mr. Powell and Mr. Plog, motion carried.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

None

REPORTS

A. SCMUA Update – Mr. Varro reported on the end of fiscal year 2009. The final number is 90,103 tons, which is the largest monthly decrease this year and a 12.6% decrease from FY 2008. The preceding annual tonnage decreases compared to the prior year's solid waste disposal amounts are 7.6% and 10.8% decreases from 2006 and 2007 (respectively). Mr. Armeno asked if the major decrease is in type 10 and 13. Mr. Varro said 10 and 13 are both down, but 13 is the higher percentage decrease.

B. Recycling Coordinator – Ms. Casapulla asked that the podium be removed from the middle of the room. Mr. Snyder moved it.

Ms. Casapulla said the Annual Sussex County Municipal Recycling Coordinators' Meeting was held last week and it was well attended. Fourteen municipalities were represented. Eric Snyder was one of the guest speakers and spoke about current Sussex County Solid Waste Management and some of the possibilities for the future. Herb Yardley was asked to speak about implementing recycling compliance in the County, but was unable to attend. Mr. Yardley was not in attendance at tonight's meeting, therefore Ms. Casapulla would like to put him on the agenda for the next SWAC meeting.

Ms. Casapulla made SWAC aware of another topic that was brought up at the recycling coordinators' meeting. It is an initiative that is statewide and will affect every municipality and every business in the state. The Federal DOT has implemented new guidelines as of January 1, 2010. Because batteries have been packaged together in large containers (such as 55 gallon barrels) without having the terminals taped, they have caused arcing and numerous truck fires. Therefore, the Federal DOT has enacted new regulations for the packaging and transporting of batteries. Ms. Casapulla then gave some

background information. She said the SCMUA has collected over 75 tons of mixed household batteries since 2002. This year alone over 11 tons were collected. An average 55 gallon barrel weighs 750 pounds. Batteries are also a very expensive material to handle and to properly dispose of or to recycle.

Ms. Casapulla said what we're going to do in this State (and therefore, in this County) is a three phase separation process. She then passed around a draft pamphlet; she would like comments/suggestions and will make changes if necessary. There are three different battery types noted in the pamphlet, and they are categorized by how they are handled. Alkaline batteries (for the homeowner), according to the new guidelines, can actually be thrown in the trash. Rechargeable batteries are probably the ones that are causing the arcing (lithium, ion, etc.). Ms. Casapulla brought a sample of the process that retail stores, or any kind of location, are to use to collect batteries. There is already one to two cents in the pricing of rechargeable batteries being devoted to this program. The program is called Call to Recycle. Boxes are provided for free; anyone can join. Plastic bags are made available; you put your battery in it; and then put the battery in the box. The plastic bag protects the battery from any kind of connection with other batteries. Also, non-metallic duct tape should be used to tape the batteries so the terminals are not exposed, and then place them in the box. Consumers must now look at the types of batteries they purchase and learn where they are to be disposed of. Other types listed in the pamphlet are button cell batteries, lithium batteries and wet cell batteries. At the SCMUA, the battery collection area will be relocated to the residents' convenience area and there will be a sorting location where physical examples of the battery types will be displayed on a board. Ms. Casapulla asked SWAC to assist her in getting this word out. She also said we need to amend our Solid Waste Management Plan to reflect this. At next month's SWAC meeting, Ms. Casapulla will have something prepared that reflects these guidelines.

Mr. Baker asked a question about button cell batteries used for hearing aids. He said when he gets a new one, he puts the old one in that packaging. Is it permissible to throw it out (recycle) this way? Ms. Casapulla said absolutely.

Mr. Leitner stated that the pamphlet should include the basics on arcing. Ms. Casapulla said she has a letter from the Federal DOT which includes some pictures; so that could be made available.

Mr. Kelly reiterated that Ms. Casapulla said this new program was to be in place January 1, and there is already a one to two cent price increase to help fund this. He asked if there is a mechanism for that funding to trickle down to the MUA. Ms. Casapulla said no; the money is going to this national program. She also said the MUA has always gotten funding from the State for a number of programs (such as hazardous waste) and that funding will continue. Mr. Kelly asked how schools and municipal buildings could get involved in getting these containers so that it's not going to cost the County

additional money. Ms. Casapulla said there is an email address on the Call to Recycle pamphlet. Anyone can sign on and your location then becomes a participant. The boxes are transported by UPS Ground at no charge.

Ms. Mensonides said since this program is no cost to anyone, why not just do the program at the municipalities, therefore no cost to the MUA. Ms. Casapulla said that is what she is trying to promote today – to get the word out to the municipalities.

C. State Liaison – not present – no report

DIRECTORS' REPORTS

A. Eric Snyder – Mr. Snyder stated that Grinnell Recycling is going to come in for an administrative action with SWAC regarding their leaf recycling proposal. They have been talking to DEP and now it has to be presented before this committee. Also, the Flow Control Resolution and Plan that was submitted to DEP is currently being reviewed, and a response is expected shortly. Mr. Doyle asked if any feedback, positive or negative, has been received regarding the Resolution. Mr. Snyder said the only question they have is the contract between Grinnell/SCMUA and the County.

B. Herb Yardley – not present – no report

CORRESPONDENCE

A. Grinnell Recycling September & October Monthly Disposal and Materials Recovery Report – Mr. Leitner said, as requested from the October meeting, all counties (not just Sussex) that send their tonnage to this facility have been included in this information which was sent to the committee.

B. SCMUA's Recycling Report – Mr. Leitner said this document reported numbers dated October 19. It summarizes the amounts and types of materials recycled by the SCMUA.

C. Monthly Solid Waste Revenue and Appropriation Report – Mr. Leitner said we're looking into the originator of this report to properly title it.

D. Letter to Grinnell Recycling re: 13C Waste Flow – Mr. Leitner said a letter was sent to Grinnell and we have not yet received a response. Mr. Varro had a few comments regarding this letter. He said it's not addressed to anyone in particular so he thinks that might be the reason a response has not been received. Also, the second paragraph of this letter states the SCMUA does not have the ability to recycle 13C waste. Mr. Varro said that SCMUA does have the ability and does recycle 13C waste, but SCMUA does acknowledge that the Grinnell facility is better able to recycle this type of material at

this time. Mr. Varro also mentioned a problem in the wording of the next paragraph. He suggested that SWAC was not questioning where the waste is directed, but where the recycling markets are. His suggestion is that SWAC resend the letter with these changes noted.

NEW BUSINESS

The first new business topic was the 2010 meeting dates. Mr. Snyder suggested that the January meeting of the following year be noted on this list as well. Ms. Mensonides raised the question of reserving the fourth Thursday of the month in case another meeting of this committee is needed. Mr. Snyder said we will deal with that on an as needed basis. Mr. Armeno asked that the August meeting be noted on the 2010 list even though we usually cancel it. Ms. Mensonides made a motion to approve these meeting dates as amended. It was seconded by Mr. Doyle. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Chairman Landrith appointed Mr. Armeno, Mr. Plog, Mr. Sanford and Mr. Doyle to the nominating committee for the selection of chairman and vice chairman.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Esenlohr asked when there will be another meeting of the 2016 sub-committee. Chairman Landrith suggested meeting for a few minutes after this meeting to agree on a January date.

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 Ms. Mensonides and carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.