

**APPROVED MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
HAMILTON COUNTY RECYCLING AND SOLID WASTE DISTRICT
POLICY COMMITTEE**

DATE: March 16, 2017

TIME: 1:30 p.m.

PLACE: Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services
250 William Howard Taft Road - First Floor
Cincinnati, Ohio 45219

PRESENT: **Policy Committee Members**

Elizabeth Bruggeman, General Interest Member
Tim Ingram, Hamilton County Public Health Representative
Jeff Luehrmann, Generator Representative
Sue Magness, Largest Municipality Representative
Todd Portune, County Commissioner, Chair
Larry Riddle, Ex-Officio Member
Jeff Ritter, Township Representative
Tom Turchiano, Public Member
Lilly Witte, Student Representative

Staff

Michelle Balz, Assistant Solid Waste Manager
Holly Christmann, Director
Ali Khodadad, Operations Manager
Jenny Lohmann, Program Specialist
Brad Miller, Assistant Director
Cher Mohring, Program Specialist
Susan Schumacher, Assistant Solid Waste Specialist, Clerk

Others in Attendance

Chuck DeJonckheere, Hamilton County Public Health
Katie Evans, Best Way Disposal
Dean Ferrier, Rumpke
Greg Kesterman, Hamilton County Public Health
Ann Witte, Resident

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Portune called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

2. CLERK'S REPORT

A. Approval of Minutes – January 19, 2017 Policy Committee Meeting

Mr. Portune stated that the January 19 minutes have been circulated previously to members of the Committee and asked if there were any changes or edits. Mr. Portune entertained a motion to approve the January 19, 2017 minutes as drafted. Mr. Ritter moved approval; Mr. Turchiano seconded. All were in favor and the minutes were approved.

B. Additions to the Agenda

There were no additions to the agenda.

3. DISTRICT REVENUE UPDATES/ANALYSIS

Ms. Christmann stated that included in Attachment B was revenue from 2017 comparing 2016 for one month. Revenue is slightly up over this time last year by about \$27,000. Also included in the Attachment was revenue from the entire year of 2016 comparing the entire year of 2015. Revenue was projected at \$2.6 million and this is what revenue came in at for 2016. For 2015, revenue was \$2.1 million.

Mr. Portune asked Mr. Riddle if he was seeing any trends that were not reflected in the report. Mr. Riddle stated that it should stay pretty consistent.

Mr. Ritter stated that since the settlement of the lawsuit, the tonnages are starting to jump again. Mr. Ritter asked Mr. Riddle if projected over a whole year in 2017 versus 2016, what he thought the increase would be. Mr. Riddle stated that it would be the same as it has been in the past few months. Mr. Riddle also briefly spoke of the seasonal tonnage fluctuations.

Mr. Ritter stated that he was seeing rises at the end of 2015 and into 2016. Mr. Riddle stated that the difference is that Rumpke diverted waste out of Rumpke Sanitary Landfill to their Brown County Landfill; this waste was moved back to Rumpke Sanitary Landfill.

Mr. Portune stated that revenue was \$2.1 million in 2015 and \$2.6 million in 2016 and asked if 2016 revenues were representative of what will be seen in 2017. Mr. Riddle stated yes.

Mr. Portune entertained a motion to approve the revenue report. Mr. Ritter moved approval; Ms. Magness seconded. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

4. HEALTH DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Ms. Christmann stated that an update has not been given regarding the Rumpke Sanitary Landfill lately so an update will be given today by Chuck DeJonckheere and Brad Miller. This update was actually spurred by an email that was sent to her by Mr. Portune.

Ms. Christmann stated that Mr. DeJonckheere and Mr. Miller are both intimately involved in regulatory oversight of Rumpke Sanitary Landfill. Ms. Christmann stated that this presentation was very similar to the one that was given at the Colerain Township Trustee Meeting on March 14, 2017.

Mr. Ritter stated that at the Tuesday night meeting, one resident requested that the Trustees pass a zero tolerance resolution and asked if he could discuss this after the presentation to see if there is any merit, in the Committees opinion, to move forward with something like this.

Mr. Portune provided background on the County's policy relating to MSD and gave other examples.

The Committee provided feedback to Mr. Ritter but no action was taken.

Mr. Miller and Mr. DeJonckheere gave a presentation on the Rumpke Sanitary Landfill (reaction, Ohio EPA findings and orders, Ohio EPA's violations against Rumpke, Rumpke's actions to address Ohio EPA's orders, etc.) which can be viewed here: <http://bit.ly/2odFtZq>

A question and answer session ensued.

Ms. Christmann thanked Mr. Miller and Mr. DeJonckheere and the teams at both organizations for taking this issue very seriously and have been doing so since 2009. They have been working tirelessly on this issue and they do not get enough credit.

5. POLICY ITEMS

A. Solid Waste Management Plan - Update

Mr. Portune stated that the Board of County Commissioners have acted on this item. Ms. Christmann stated that Colerain Township also approved the Plan. Ms. Christmann thanked both Mr. Portune and Mr. Ritter for their support.

Ms. Christmann stated that the Plan is out to vote right now and as of today, approval from jurisdictions representing 37% of the population has been received and 60% is required. The District is also required to have the Board of County Commissioners and the City of Cincinnati. Ms. Magness stated that it was in the process.

Ms. Christmann stated that once the District receives approval from the City of Cincinnati, approval will be well above 60% with the District's goal being 100% approval.

Mr. Portune stated to let the Committee know if they could be helpful.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the City of Cincinnati approving the Plan.

B. National Initiatives Focused on Reducing Wasted Food

Ms. Christmann stated that at the last meeting, there was great discussion about reducing wasted food so in the interest of keeping members updated, stated that, on a national level, the Food Donation Act of 2017 was introduced by U.S. Representative Fudge, who is from Ohio.

Ms. Christmann stated that this is doing some things to expand the Good Samaritan Act as there are still a lot of businesses that don't understand the donation protections under the Emerson Good Samaritan Act. The Food Donation Act of 2017 will make it easier to donate food.

Ms. Christmann stated that right now, it is referred to the House Education Workforce Committee. There was a similar house resolution in the last session but it did not go anywhere.

Mr. Portune asked if any of Hamilton County's representatives sat on that committee. Ms. Christmann stated she would check.

Mr. Portune stated that this act will save public spending in a variety of different ways. These are the kind of things the Committee might want to get behind in advance. In respect to State and Federal budget, if there are other areas where Ms. Christmann believes efforts of the District might be compromised because of what's proposed; all departments are going to be reached out to by County Administration to contribute to that discussion.

Ms. Christmann stated that on the private sector side, the Grocery Manufacturers Association and the Food Marketing Institute have come together to encourage their members to do better date labeling on their packages. These organizations are encouraging their members to do standardized labeling with two labels only; "best if used or frozen by" and "use by". It is their hope that everyone will be on board by 2018. These organizations claim that this will reduce wasted food by roughly eight percent.

Ms. Christmann stated that if you see any Cincinnati garbage trucks, you will see the District's Save the Food ads on the side of the trucks as billboards. Ms. Christmann thanked Cincinnati Public Services for working with the District on this.

6. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. 2016 Residential Recycling Tonnages

Ms. Christmann stated that Colerain and Springfield townships had huge increases thanks to their new curbside recycling programs. In 2015, Colerain Township residents recycled 982 tons and in 2016 they recycled 2,400 tons. They also received \$53,000 in recycling incentive funds in 2016 versus \$16,000 in 2015.

Ms. Christmann stated that Colerain Township had great success and congratulated Mr. Ritter.

B. Program Trends

Ms. Christmann stated that updated sheets have been provided to the Committee as the original had a typo. Ms. Christmann stated that this showed trends over the past six years which is pretty impressive. Ms. Christmann thanked all of the solid waste team for their efforts.

Mr. Portune stated that these are a very helpful series of visuals that, in a glance, demonstrate what is going on and also stated that he is grateful to Ms. Christmann and the team for putting this together.

C. 2016 4th Quarter and YTD Performance Measures

The Committee accepted this as presented.

D. Yard Trimmings Drop Off Sites

The Committee accepted this as presented.

7. TENTATIVE FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no future agenda items at this time.

8. POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERS' COMMENTS

There were no Policy Committee Members' comments at this time.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments at this time.

10. UPCOMING DISTRICT MEETINGS

The next Hamilton County Recycling and Solid Waste Policy Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, May 18, 2017. The meeting will begin at 1:30 p.m. at Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services located at 250 William Howard Taft Road - First Floor, Cincinnati, Ohio 45219.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 2:50 p.m.