

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

**DATE:** May 18, 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  
Jeff Ritter, Township Representative, Vice-Chair  
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  
Catherine Walsh, Business Outreach Coordinator

**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

**ABSENT:** **Policy Committee Members**  
Todd Portune, County Commissioner, Chair  
Larry Riddle, Ex-Officio Member

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Ritter called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. and stated that Commissioner Portune was not able to attend so he would be Chairing the meeting.

**2. CLERK'S REPORT**

**A. Approval of Minutes – March 16, 2017 Policy Committee Meeting**

Mr. Turchiano moved approval of the March 16, 2017 minutes as written. Ms. Bruggeman seconded. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

**B. Additions to the Agenda**

Mr. Ritter stated that this Board has been blessed and fortunate over the last year to have a student representative, Lilly Witte. Mr. Ritter stated that this was Ms. Witte's last meeting and stated that he had a Certificate of Appreciation to recognize and thank her for her service. Mr. Ritter congratulated Ms. Witte.

Ms. Witte briefly spoke about her future endeavors and thanked the Committee for the opportunity.

Ms. Christmann stated that she would like to discuss HB 49 which is the House Appropriations Bill in the State of Ohio. There is some language that could impact solid waste districts.

**3. DISTRICT REVENUE UPDATES/ANALYSIS**

Ms. Christmann stated that included in Attachment B was revenue from 2017 comparing 2016 through March. Revenue is right on target and about where it was last year.

**4. POLICY ITEMS**

**A. Declaration of Solid Waste Management Plan Ratification**

Ms. Christmann stated that she had a resolution that she will be asking the Committee to vote on and sign which certifies that the District has met all of the requirements of approvals for the District's solid waste management plan (Plan).

Ms. Christmann stated that this means that staff is ready to send the Plan to Ohio EPA for final approval.

Ms. Christmann stated that for the first time ever the District received 100 percent approval from political jurisdictions.

Ms. Christmann thanked Staff for all their hard work on the Plan as well as the Committee for providing their guidance and support.

Ms. Christmann stated that Staff is recommending that the Plan be declared ratified. Mr. Ritter stated that he would offer a motion to approve. Ms. Bruggeman moved approval. Ms. Magness seconded. All were in favor and the motion was approved. Resolution 02-2017 was then circulated to the Committee for signature.

Ms. Christmann stated that this resolution will be included with the Plan that will be sent to Ohio EPA next week. Ohio EPA will then have 90 days to review. Staff is not anticipating any problems at all. Ohio EPA has held this Plan up as a model for the rest of the State.

**B. 2018 Budget Preparation**

Ms. Christmann stated that the 2018 recommended budget will be sent to the Policy Committee in early July with a vote on it at the July 20, 2017 meeting.

Ms. Christmann stated that Attachment C provided a brief overview of the 2018 budget. As a reminder, the Plan goes into effect in 2018 so there will be some changes to the recommended budget from what the Committee is used to seeing in previous budgets. These changes are outlined on the back page of the Attachment. Ms. Christmann summarized the changes.

Ms. Christmann stated that if Committee members have any suggestions as staff is drafting the budget, please let her know. Ms. Magness stated that if at all possible, to see if the District Priority Grant could be reinstated for

communities that allow the purchase of recycling containers in public areas. Ms. Christmann stated that staff would explore internally some options for public recycling assistance.

**C. HB 49 – Automotive Shredding Residue Exemption**

Ms. Christmann stated that placed before the Committee was a quick summary of language that was inserted into the Ohio House Appropriations Bill.

Ms. Christmann stated that this provision in Ohio’s budget bill focuses on auto shredder residue, which is the non-recyclable residue created after a car is shredded. This material would be exempt from classification as a solid waste if it met certain criteria. If it was the consistency of dirt or mulch or no larger than three inches in diameter, it would be exempt as a solid waste.

Ms. Christmann stated that the way the District is reading this is that there would be no state tipping fees associated with this waste stream, no local solid waste tipping fees, nor host community fees.

Ms. Christmann stated that there is some disagreement on how this language is worded because it goes on to state that it allows auto shredder residue that meets those requirements to also be used as alternative daily cover at a landfill.

Ms. Christmann stated that the District is interpreting this as if the auto shredder residue meets these requirements and goes into the landfill as waste, it is not subject to fees and it can also be used as daily cover. This is the way the District is interpreting this language. Other people are saying that this is not the intent; the intent was to say that it should only be used as daily cover and will be exempt from fees.

Ms. Christmann stated that she does not think this will have a direct impact on the District.

Ms. Christmann stated that she was aware of two solid waste districts that have exempted this material.

Ms. Christmann discussed as outlined in the summary:

- Sets a precedent of exempting waste from the definition of solid waste, which could lead to further requests for more exemptions.
- No state or local fees would be levied on this waste.
- The state deciding that local governments cannot charge fees on this waste and gave an example.
- Because the quantity of material that meets the criteria is not unknown, we do not know what the state impact would be.
- Will this draw more waste in from out-of-state? If so, how is this going to affect disposal capacity in the state of Ohio?
- Slipping this type of legislation into a budget bill does not allow for appropriate vetting and informed decision-making.

Ms. Christmann stated that for the above reasons, the District would like to oppose this and would like the Committee’s feedback, questions, etc.

The Committee discussed the issue.

Mr. Ritter asked Mr. Miller or Mr. DeJonckheere if they were aware of any environmental concerns associated with this type of waste historically.

Mr. DeJonckheere stated that they came across a guidance document from Ohio EPA that the criteria for review of alternate daily covers is protective of human health and the environment and they did a review of auto shredder fluff. In one of those reviews they did find concerns with fire hazards because cover limits fire potential; it's a fire cover/fire break.

Mr. DeJonckheere stated that wind driven scattering dispersal outside the working face can cause small particles of plastic to lift with the wind. There is also the potential for contamination with asbestos from brake pads, mercury from switches, etc. There was a review but most of the newer automobiles only have a couple of these concerns but certainly there is some environmental concern.

Ms. Evans stated that the National Waste and Recycling Association Ohio Chapter met three weeks ago and this came before them and at the time the way the language was written, they opposed this because of the uncertainties of how the material was going to be handled. If the material was not defined as solid waste then where would it go? Does it have to go to a landfill?

Ms. Evans stated that potential illegal dumping could also occur so the Chapter that is made up of most of the haulers in Ohio decided to oppose the bill at the time as the way it was written.

Ms. Magness asked if there were any landfills that have been using it for cover for a long time and have there been air quality monitoring for the particulate matter. Ms. Christmann stated not that she is aware of. In general, and Mr. DeJonckheere listed off those points, an Ohio EPA guidance document from 2005 was found that stated specifically no auto shredder fluff as daily cover because of the concerns Mr. DeJonckheere raised. They did allow exemptions for that for one or two cases in Ohio. Ms. Christmann thought this was in the last few years but they have to give an exemption for it now and it has to be reviewed by the Ohio EPA engineers to allow for that exemption. Mr. DeJonckheere stated that this might have been specific to that shredder as well so consistency can vary.

Mr. Ritter stated that he thought the opposition for it is something the Committee should support.

Ms. Christmann stated that she left a message for the Hamilton County Administrator, Jeff Aluotto, this morning to double check the process of the District opposing legislation and thought getting the Policy Committee's approval was the first step and the District will move from there.

Mr. Ritter asked if Ms. Christmann would like him to reach out to Bill Blessing and Bill Seitz expressly. Mr. Ingram stated that Mr. Seitz would be out of it now because it is in the Senate. Mr. Ingram stated if this is going to be changed, Senator Chair Wilson is going to have to be reached and thought this would be the best bet at this point.

Ms. Christmann thanked the Committee.

Mr. Ritter stated that he would offer a motion voice the opposition of the Hamilton County Solid Waste Recycling District to impeach HB 49. Mr. Ingram seconded. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

Mr. Ingram stated that Ms. Christmann was going to have to move fast and that they are starting to take amendments now.

**5. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

**A. 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Performance Measures**

Ms. Christmann stated that Attachment D was the first quarter.

Ms. Christmann stated that the Pollution Prevention Internship Program hired an intern and will be working at TriHealth focused on the organic waste stream. The District is excited about this and is looking forward to bringing back some great results to the Committee at the end of the summer.

Mr. Ritter stated that food waste was going to be one of the District's strategic emphasis items in the next year and asked what metrics were in the performance measures that will demonstrate this. Ms. Christmann stated that most of those metrics will be for 2018 because that is when the District is putting all of their emphasis on that. The District is keeping track of how many schools are being worked with on the food sharing program.

**B. Update of Ohio EPA Grant Applications**

Ms. Christmann stated that the District applied for three Ohio EPA grants in January and two of the three were funded. The District applied for a \$250,000 grant on behalf of Cleanlites to expand their recycling operations which was granted. A tire grant was also received to conduct more tire collections and clean-ups. Unfortunately, the District did not receive the grant for a campaign to reduce wasted food.

**C. Update on Scrap Tires**

Ms. Christmann stated that Ohio EPA is starting to look at the scrap tire problem that counties and cities have been talking about the past several years. Ohio EPA asked for early stakeholder input into their scrap tire regulations. Hamilton County did supply comments as indicated in the Manager's Memo. Most of the comments were the result of a state-wide committee led by solid waste districts that included the tire industry as well as legislative changes that the committee would like to see.

Ms. Christmann stated that in addition, a couple of local comments were included which were from the Hamilton County Prosecutor's Office as well as a conversation she had with a Cincinnati Police Officer about how to help.

**D. Outstanding Community Volunteer Award**

Ms. Christmann congratulated Ms. Bruggeman on her award from the American Society for Public Administration. The Committee applauded and congratulated her as well. Ms. Christmann presented Ms. Bruggeman with her certificate from the Public Employees Recognition Ceremony which was held on Fountain Square last week.

Ms. Bruggeman was nominated by Ms. Mohring for all of her work on the Policy Committee and for the amazing work she has done on waste reduction at the Sycamore School District.

**E. Circle of Excellence Award**

Ms. Christmann stated that the Solid Waste District was recently awarded Hamilton County's Circle of Excellence Award for the team project in writing the solid waste management plan. The District saved \$100,000, approval of 100% of Hamilton County political jurisdictions, involved all the team currently present, and everyone learned something new. Ms. Christmann congratulated staff on a job well done.

The Policy Committee applauded and congratulated staff.

**6. TENTATIVE FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Ms. Christmann stated that the 2018 proposed budget will be on the agenda for the July 20, 2017 meeting.

**7. POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERS' COMMENTS**

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

**8. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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There were no public comments at this time.

**9. UPCOMING DISTRICT MEETINGS**

The next Hamilton County Recycling and Solid Waste Policy Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, July 20, 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.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Ritter moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:02 p.m. Mr. Ingram seconded. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

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