

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

DATE: May 17, 2018

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
Sue Magness, Largest Municipality Representative
Raj Rajagopal, Township Representative
Larry Riddle, Rumpke
Tom Turchiano, Public Member

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
Angela Rivera, Outreach Specialist
Susan Schumacher, Assistant Solid Waste Specialist, Clerk
Mary Sticklen, Business Specialist

Others in Attendance

Lisa Anderson, Hamilton County Budget Office
Chuck DeJonckheere, Hamilton County Public Health
Katie Evans, Best Way Disposal
Dean Ferrier, Rumpke
Bob Gedert, RRS
Greg Kesterman, Hamilton County Public Health
Michael Mains, City of Harrison
Catherine Stockhoff, City of Harrison

ABSENT: **Policy Committee Members**
Isabella Mazza, Student Representative
Todd Portune, Hamilton County Commissioner, Chair

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Ingram called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m. and introduced himself as Vice-Chair. Mr. Ingram asked the Committee to introduce themselves.

2. CLERK'S REPORT

A. Approval of Minutes – March 15, 2018 Policy Committee Meeting

Mr. Ingram asked if everyone had a chance to read the minutes. Ms. Magness moved to approve the minutes. Ms. Bruggeman seconded. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

B. Additions to the Agenda

Ms. Christmann introduced Angela Rivera as the new Outreach Specialist who will be focusing on education outreach programs and already is doing a fantastic job.

3. DISTRICT REVENUE UPDATES/ANALYSIS

Ms. Christmann stated that Attachment B included the revenue reports comparing 2017 to 2018 for the same time period. Revenue is about \$90,000 more than last year.

There was a discussion on why revenue is higher than projected.

4. INTRODUCTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT DEPUTY

Ms. Christmann stated that a new program was started working with the Hamilton County Sheriff's Department to start environmental enforcement of predominately illegal dumping of tires. Obviously, there are other environmental crimes this Deputy can enforce but illegal dumping of tires was the primary reason that this program was started.

Ms. Christmann stated that in April, Deputy Caroline Kotlas came on board, and has exceeded staff's expectations of this program so much. Ms. Christmann stated that a hotline and website has been set up for people to report tire dumping or illegal dumping in their community. These messages go straight to Deputy Kotlas.

Deputy Kotlas provided an update on what she has been working on.

A brief question and answer session ensued.

5. POLICY ITEMS

A. Presentation – Financial Update

Ms. Christmann stated that at the last meeting it was brought up that revenues are exceeding expenditures and that staff anticipates receiving more revenue than projected in our solid waste plan. As such, staff is seeking guidance from the Committee as the 2019 budget is in the beginning phases. The presentation is [here](#).

Ms. Christmann stated for the 2019 budget, staff anticipates spending an additional \$100,000 because of the increase in revenue.

Ms. Christmann stated that one option is to add that \$100,000 into the RRI Program which would bring RRI funding closer in line to previous levels prior to the new solid waste plan which was about \$1 million. The money could also be spent on the Priority Waste Stream. Currently, \$85,000 is budgeted to focus on the organics stream which is the largest piece of the waste stream. A third option is to bolster efforts to reduce the residential waste stream because industry standards all recommend spending at least \$1/household/year on education and outreach; the District spends \$.30/household.

Ms. Christmann stated that those were the three broad options staff has come up with internally to potentially budget for in 2019 and that budget will come before the Committee at the July meeting.

Ms. Magness asked to consider the return of the District Priority Grants because that is something the City of Cincinnati could use. Ms. Christmann stated that something to think about is does the District want to just make it a blank grant or should it be focused more on organics which can be discussed internally and bring back an option at the July meeting.

Ms. Bruggeman asked how much was allocated for the Priority Grants. Ms. Christmann stated that about \$100,000 was budgeted.

Ms. Magness stated that she was most interested in containers since she now has an opportunity with the Parks. Ms. Christmann stated that there is money set aside in the 2018 budget for containers for facilities like parks, etc. so if she doesn't want to wait, ask the parks to speak to Ms. Mohring.

Mr. Riddle asked if the plan calls for this scenario and what those target projects would be. Ms. Christmann stated that the plan's revenue scenarios only went to \$2.7 million.

Ms. Bruggeman asked what staff was thinking in terms of the priority waste streams and organics. What other programs would be effective with that \$100,000. Ms. Christmann stated that if the Committee wanted us to focus on this, then staff would come back with more specifics. Some ideas could be grants towards reducing more food waste going to landfill, compost bin sale, working with businesses on a system called LeanPath that helps them reduce, not just compost, how much food they are generating. There is still lack of awareness about wasted food so there is the option of putting money into awareness or a food waste app.

Ms. Bruggeman stated that she feels that the District needs to hit where it starts with food waste reduction. Increasing the awareness and education of the public, restaurants, and corporations who are producing the food would be the most important place to target first. Ms. Christmann stated that as everyone knows, Hamilton County does not have any facilities to compost or digest food waste.

A brief discussion ensued regarding anaerobic digestion versus landfilling.

Mr. Ingram stated that given the industry standards on advertising of \$1/household/year, is there any solid waste district in Ohio that is spending that amount? Ms. Christmann stated that she would venture to say no. Mr. Ingram stated that one can spend a lot of money on advertising and marketing but then the question becomes did it make a difference and asked if she had any thoughts in that regard. Mr. Ingram asked Ms. Christmann if she had a recommendation to the Committee on what she would like to spend the additional money on.

Ms. Christmann stated that regarding the first question, staff has data that shows its advertising has resulted in an increase in recycling rates. The last time the District did a large campaign in 2012, there was a nine percent increase in recycling rates in the communities that were targeted.

Ms. Christmann stated that staff wanted some guidance first before internal talking began about specific recommendations to make to the budget.

Mr. Ingram stated that from his perspective, there are some pretty heartfelt thoughts about organic waste streams. Notwithstanding what he is hearing from the Committee, he thinks Mr. Riddle also has some reasonable advice coming back to the Committee as an industry representative and gave examples.

Mr. Ingram stated that given the dialogue, asked that staff come back with both looking at the priority waste stream and advertising focused on reducing waste in the residential sector.

A brief discussion ensued on food waste.

B. 2019 Budget Preparation

Ms. Christmann stated that based on the conversation that just ensued, the Committee will be receiving a copy of the recommended 2019 budget the in early July that will be discussed and voted on at the July meeting. The comments heard today will be taken into consideration in the development of that budget.

Ms. Christmann asked the Committee to let her know if they wanted staff to look at anything else as the budget is being pulled together.

Mr. Ingram asked Ms. Christmann to send this out as a reminder in a few weeks.

C. Waste Generator Representative Recommendation

Mr. Ingram stated that applications were solicited for the Waste Generator Representative. Ms. Christmann stated that staff received a handful of applications which she reviewed along with Ms. Magness.

Ms. Christmann stated that it was unanimous to recommend Tony DiPuccio, with SCS Engineers, back to the Committee as the new Waste Generator Representative beginning in July replacing Jeff Luehrmann.

Ms. Christmann reminded the Committee that only the statutory members (Mr. Ingram, Ms. Magness, and Mr. Rajagopal) were allowed to vote on this recommendation.

Ms. Magness moved that Tony DiPuccio be appointed the Waste Generator Representative. Mr. Rajagopal seconded. All statutory members were in favor and the motion was approved.

6. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. Rumpke Sanitary Landfill Public Meeting

Ms. Christmann stated that this evening, there will be a meeting regarding the expansion at the Rumpke Landfill. Mr. Riddle stated that the meeting would take place at Houston Early Learning Center on Compton Road at 6:30 pm. Mr. Riddle stated that it was statutorily required for the application for the eastern expansion to give information based on the permit itself to the public so they can get a first-hand look at it without going into the permit themselves which includes the specific details.

Mr. Riddle briefly discussed other items that will be discussed at the meeting: recycling, construction, fees paid to the District, State of Ohio, Colerain Township, a presentation on landfill construction, best available technology, best management practices, and a technical presentation on the permit itself. Ohio EPA will also be there to discuss what the requirements of proceedings will be in the future, public hearings, etc.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the expansion.

B. General Interest Representative

Mr. Ingram stated that ten applications were received for this position and the selected person will replace Ms. Bruggeman. Ms. Christmann stated that three interviews will take place in about two of weeks. Mr. Turchiano and Ms. Magness will be assisting with the interviews.

C. Student Representative

Ms. Christmann stated that today would have been Ms. Mazza's last meeting as well. Currently, applications are being accepted.

Mr. Ingram read an email dated 5/15/18 from Ms. Mazza:

Good Morning Susan,

I am graduating from Seton on Thursday so I will be unable to attend the last policy meeting. I am very upset that this conflict falls on the last meeting but if you could pass along this message to the rest of the committee I would really appreciate it.

It has been an honor and privilege to work with all of you over these past couple of months. I have learned so much not only about recycling and waste, but about local government and policy. I am so grateful to have been given this opportunity and I know I will carry my lessons with me later in life. Thank you all again for everything.

*Thank you,
Isabella*

The Committee applauded the email. Mr. Ingram asked staff to make sure she receives some sort of certificate of appreciation.

D. 2018 Performance Measures – 1st Quarter

Ms. Christmann stated that a lot of the programs haven't really started or are just starting. One that Ms. Christmann wanted to highlight and thank several people on our team for is the number of businesses, institutions and schools that expanded or started recycling programs. Thirty-one new businesses, institutions, and schools have started a recycling program in just three months. Ms. Christmann thanked Ms. Sticklen, Ms. Lohmann, Ms. Mohring, and Ms. Balz.

Ms. Christmann stated that placed in front of the Committee was the direct mail piece for the residential campaign that was mailed to about 48,000 residents detailing what can be recycled which includes a magnet. Ms. Christmann stated that there were also videos running on YouTube, social media, theaters, etc.

Ms. Christmann stated that specific metrics will be reported back to the Committee at a future meeting.

Ms. Magness asked if the videos could be shown on Citi-Cable and shared on their social media. Ms. Christmann stated yes and to please do so.

7. TENTATIVE FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- From the financial presentation: ideas for priority waste stream and increased advertising focusing on reducing waste in the residential sector
- Local Food Waste Study Findings

8. POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERS' COMMENTS

- Mr. Rajagopal showed a pillow made entirely of plastic bags. A brief discussion ensued.
- Ms. Magness asked for assistance in spreading the word on breaking down cardboard into 3' X 3' sections due to online ordering and folks not breaking them down leading to the boxes not being picked up. A brief discussion ensued.

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- Mr. Ingram presented Ms. Bruggeman with a certificate of appreciation and stated how much he has enjoyed working with her the past few years. Everyone applauded Ms. Bruggeman. Ms. Bruggeman stated that it has been a pleasure and honor for her to have been on the Committee. Ms. Bruggeman thanked the Committee for letting her serve and maybe she will be back.

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, July 19, 2018. 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

Mr. Ingram moved to adjourn. Mr. Rajagopal seconded. The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 2:30 p.m.

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