

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

DATE: September 20, 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**

Tony DiPuccio, Generator Representative
Karen Hurley, General Interest Member
Tim Ingram, Hamilton County Public Health Representative
Sue Magness, Largest Municipality Representative
Todd Portune, Hamilton County Commissioner, Chair
Larry Riddle, Rumpke
Sydney Sauer, Student Representative
Tom Turchiano, Public Member

Staff

Michelle Balz, Assistant Solid Waste Manager
Ali Khodadad, Operations Manager
Joy Landry, Public Relations Specialist
Jenny Lohmann, Program Specialist
Brad Miller, Interim Director
Cher Mohring, Program Specialist
Angela Rivera, Outreach Specialist
Susan Schumacher, Assistant Solid Waste Specialist, Clerk
Mary Sticklen, Business Specialist

Others in Attendance

Chuck DeJonckheere, Hamilton County Public Health
Brian DePeel, Environmental Enterprises, Inc.
Dean Ferrier, Rumpke
Bob Gedert, Citicom
Greg Kesterman, Hamilton County Public Health
Deputy Bryan Peak, Hamilton County Sheriff's Office

ABSENT: **Policy Committee Members**

Raj Rajagopal, Township Representative

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Portune called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. and welcomed everyone. Mr. Portune welcomed Ms. Balz who is now overseeing the Recycling and Solid Waste District and taking the place of Ms. Christmann.

Mr. Portune wished Ms. Christmann well and stated that she would do very well in her new role in Centerville. Mr. Portune complimented Ms. Christmann in her role as Director of Environmental Services and is grateful for all of her hard work.

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Mr. Portune stated that he would like to invite Holly Christmann to a future Policy Committee Meeting so she could be thanked and officially be recognized publically for all her work over the years.

Mr. Portune welcomed Ms. Sauer and Ms. Hurley as the new members and thanked both for their interest.

Mr. Portune stated that Reuse International and the District are participating in the Reuse Conex conference October 18 – 20 at the Holiday Inn downtown.

Ms. Balz briefly discussed the conference.

2. CLERK’S REPORT

A. Approval of Minutes – July 19, 2018 Policy Committee Meeting

Mr. Portune asked for a motion from one of the members that attended the meeting to move approval of the July 19, 2018 minutes. Mr. Ingram moved to approve the minutes. Mr. DiPuccio seconded. The remaining members present, (Ms. Magness and Mr. Turchiano, and Ms. Hurley), did not vote because they were not at the meeting. Mr. DiPuccio, Mr. Ingram, and Mr. Portune were in favor and the motion was approved.

B. Additions to the Agenda

There were no additions to the agenda.

3. DISTRICT REVENUE UPDATES/ANALYSIS

Ms. Balz stated that the revenue trend increase continues. Through July, compared to 2017, revenue is up about 17 percent and the out-of-district waste is up about 100,000 tons compared to 2017.

Mr. Portune asked if this was the result of new contracts. Mr. Riddle stated yes and it was from Montgomery County and it should remain pretty steady.

Mr. Portune asked if there was a ballpark estimate of how much above our budget estimate for the year that revenue would be. Ms. Balz stated that staff is projecting close to \$3.1 million. In the Plan, there was base revenue of \$2.5 million and strategies were set up of what would be done if revenue came in at \$2.7, \$2.8 and after that point, strategies were not set up.

Mr. Portune stated that it looked as though revenue would be about \$300,000 above what was projected.

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

4. INTRODUCTION OF NEW ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT DEPUTY

Mr. Portune introduced the new Environmental Enforcement Deputy, Corporal Bryan Peak, who became the Environmental Enforcement Deputy on August 22, 2018.

Mr. Portune stated that funding in this program is used to enforce illegal dumping and tire transport laws in Hamilton County.

Mr. Portune stated that the first successful prosecution and conviction of an illegal dumper has been a result of this program. Ms. Balz briefly discussed the specifics of what laws the person had broken and his punishment.

Deputy Peak discussed his background, role in this position, and gave a brief update on contacts, hotspots for illegal dumping, surveillance, arrests, etc.

A brief question/answer session ensued.

5. PRESENTATION ON 2018 RESIDENTIAL RECYCLING CAMPAIGN

Ms. Balz stated that this is the first year of the new Solid Waste Plan. When the Plan was being assembled, staff heard from communities that they wanted more consistent messaging and more advertising/communication on residential recycling.

Included in the 2018 budget was \$100,000 which was invested in this campaign. Ms. Balz acknowledged Ms. Landry for her effort and work in making this campaign successful.

Ms. Balz stated that included as the tag line for this campaign was "Because What We do Matters" and discussed all the elements/results from the campaign.

A brief question/answer session ensued.

6. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. Smart Kitchen Initiative

Ms. Balz stated at the July meeting, the Committee heard about this initiative and Ms. Sticklen has been working hard to make this a reality.

Ms. Balz stated that the District partnered with Green Umbrella to offer this program. The District will pay for 50% (up to \$5,000) of the cost of installing Lean Path (food waste tracking technology) into large institutions. Ms. Hurley asked what food waste tracking technology was. Ms. Balz explained how the program worked and gave examples. Staff is targeting hospitals, schools, etc. that have more than a \$300,000 budget for food per year.

Ms. Balz stated that this program was modeled after Alameda County, CA. Ms. Balz stated that the District will pay for institutions in Hamilton County and Green Umbrella will pay for institutions outside of Hamilton County which includes a ten county region.

Ms. Balz stated that currently, Ms. Sticklen is working with TriHealth (Good Sam & Bethesda) and possibly implementing it there. Also, Ms. Sticklen is setting up a meeting with Cincinnati State. The University of Cincinnati is already using this technology.

This program is being advertised on our website and social media with Ms. Sticklen already having contacts in large institutions.

Mr. Portune asked if there were specific kitchens that would like to be targeted. Ms. Sticklen stated that she is a little hesitant to reach out to too many yet because she wants to go through the process of talking with TriHealth to see what materials and questions they had before she promoted it too much. Ms. Sticklen stated she would be meeting with TriHealth tomorrow to discuss which systems are best and would go from there. Ms. Sticklen stated that the budget allows for three institutions.

Mr. Portune requested at the November meeting to have another report showing bullet points on what happened from September to November including any data to carry this forward to January, 2019 and try to map out goals in terms of users that should be approached and thought three institutions was a conservative beginning.

Mr. Portune stated that this might be an item to revisit from a budget perspective if \$300,000 will be unobligated.

Mr. Portune stated that there is a lot of opportunity here to reduce food waste and gave examples.

A brief question/answer session ensued.

B. Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off program

Mr. Portune stated that the Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off program began at 1:00 p.m. today and will continue every Thursday from 1:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. until November 15, 2018. Mr. Portune stated that the drop-off site is located at Environmental Enterprises, Inc., 4600 Spring Grove Avenue (directly across from Winton Road).

Mr. Portune asked Ms. Balz if there was anything she wanted to add. Ms. Balz stated that Ms. Mohring has taken on this program and done an excellent job getting it off the ground and gave examples.

Mr. Ingram asked if schools could participate in this program. Ms. Balz stated no and that, according to Ohio EPA, they are considered a business and a small quantity generator so they have certain regulations they have to follow.

Mr. Ingram asked if there were any alternatives for schools. Ms. Balz stated that staff can give schools a few hazardous waste companies to get quotes from.

Mr. Ingram suggested staff trying to help schools with their hazardous waste. Ms. Balz stated that in previous solid waste plans a clause was included to assist small quantity generators but it was not included in this Plan.

Mr. Portune stated that since there has been higher revenue than anticipated when the budget was adopted, he suggested we could go back and revisit these programs or consider new programs, etc.

Mr. Portune suggested keeping an eye on that and at the November meeting, have staff provide a listing of what those opportunities are that are available to us and try to marry that with what might be available from the budget depending on what revenue is at that point.

Mr. Ingram stated that he would have his staff work with Michelle on schools that need assistance to see if there was some way the District could assist schools in disposing of their hazardous waste.

C. 2nd Quarter Performance Measures

Ms. Balz stated that many tire clean ups occur in the second quarter. The Keep Cincinnati Beautiful grant given by the District and the Ohio EPA Tire Grant received by the District, a combined 5,868 tires were collected with 16 communities participating.

Ms. Balz stated that over 2,000 residents were reached this year with Public Events, which a lot of that is Ms. Lohmann and Ms. Rivera.

Ms. Balz stated that over 6,000 students were reached so far this year.

A brief discussion ensued regarding adopt-a-highway.

D. Update on Public Member Applications

Ms. Balz stated that the Public Member applications are due tomorrow, September 21, 2018. So far, three applications have been received. Ms. Magness and Mr. Turchiano have agreed to help with the interview process.

7. TENTATIVE FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Mr. Portune requested that an update be given at every meeting on Environmental Enforcement.
- Smart Kitchen Initiative update
- Ms. Magness requested that staff potentially get into market development locally, getting businesses to buy the material from Rumpke so that there is a good reliable market versus being dependent on exports. If the District could somehow incentivize some startup businesses to make products out of the recycling.
- Ms. Magness suggested camera technology for the Environmental Enforcement Deputy; having him have his own cameras and not relying on deer cams from Keep Cincinnati Beautiful which would make him more effective and be able to do more recognition with something that is able to read a license plate. A brief discussion ensued regarding camera purchases.

8. POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Mr. Ingram brought up the subject of straws and a brief discussion ensued. Ms. Sauer stated that this subject is a big deal on social media right now with 18 – 25 year olds. Ms. Sauer suggested one way this could be leveraged and get more of a social media following would be to do a campaign about straws or posting about it and this could really attract young followers. Mr. Portune asked if people were suggesting answers. Ms. Sauer stated that she thought people just liked controversy but thinks that overwhelmingly, people want to get rid of straws which is called #strawban but there is a pushback because obviously there are disabilities, etc.

Mr. Portune asked Ms. Sauer to help distill a little bit down what the essential points are that are coming out of social media within that 18 – 25 or 16 – 25 age group.

Mr. Portune stated to Mr. Ingram that he identify anything from a public health perspective and Ms. Balz identify anything from a solid waste perspective and the City Stormwater District, the County Stormwater District, Metropolitan Sewer District he wouldn't be surprised if somebody's tracking this. Ms. Magness stated that the U.S. Coast Guard monitored Cincinnati's trash mat this spring from the Millcreek and stated that there was a huge accumulation of plastics in a particular spot. Mr. Portune asked what trash mats were. Ms. Magness explained it was similar the Pacific garbage patch "island" the size of Texas.

A brief discussion continued regarding straws, plastics, and plastics in the oceans.

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, November 15, 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. Portune moved that by rising vote, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.