

**HAMILTON COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES - RECYCLING AND SOLID WASTE DISTRICT  
MANAGER'S MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** May 10, 2019  
**TO:** District Policy Committee Members  
**FROM:** Michelle Balz, Solid Waste Manager

**1. Introduction/Opening Comments**

**NOTICE:** This memo is for the meeting to be held Thursday, May 16, 2019 at Hamilton County Environmental Services, 250 William Howard Taft Road, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Cincinnati, Ohio 45219 at 1:30 p.m.

*Policy Committee information (Agendas, Manager's Memos, Minutes, etc.) is available on the District's website at [www.hamiltoncountyclecycling.org](http://www.hamiltoncountyclecycling.org).*

**2. Clerk's Report/Additions to the Agenda**

**A. Approval of Minutes** – Minutes from the March 21, 2019 Policy Committee meeting are included as [Attachment A](#).

**B. Additions to the Agenda**

Please contact Susan Schumacher at 513-946-7734 or [susan.schumacher@hamilton-co.org](mailto:susan.schumacher@hamilton-co.org) if you have items to add to the agenda.

**3. District Revenue Updates/Analysis**

Updates will be provided on current revenue receipts and comparisons with the prior year, as included in [Attachment B](#).

**4. Policy Items**

**A. Continuous Organics and Waste Reduction Grant Program**

After awarding the Organics Diversion Grant projects, \$76,955 remains in this 2019 budget. These funds could be used to offer another grant program based on feedback from those organizations that did not apply. The new grant program would assist communities, schools, non-profits and for-profit organizations and would have a broader focus on not just organics but any waste reduction, reuse, composting, or recycling project in Hamilton County. This Grant program would be available on a continuing basis until funds run out and would require a 25% match that could be fulfilled with in-kind services. Organizations could apply for up to \$10,000 in funds.

***Staff Recommendation:*** District Staff recommends that the Policy Committee approve a new Continuous Grant program to use up the remainder of the grant funds in 2019.

**B. Carryover Balance, Additional Spending**

[Attachment C](#) offers a list of suggestions from staff on possible ways to spend down the carryover balance in 2019 and 2020. These programs take into consideration the limitations of staff time available to work on additional programs.

***Staff Recommendation:*** District Staff recommends approving, at minimum, an additional \$50,000 for the wasted food campaign.

**C. Ohio Senate Bill 50**

Ohio Senate Bill 50 was introduced on February 12, 2019 to the Ohio State Senate. This bill looks to amend section 3732.57 of the Revised Code to increase the state solid waste disposal fee that is deposited into the Soil and Water Conservation District Assistance Fund. Currently 25 cents for every ton is deposited into this fund and this bill would increase that amount to 50 cents per ton starting June 30, 2020.

Since these fees are passed on to customers, this increase would directly impact Hamilton County communities and businesses. Communities and residents in Hamilton County would pay an additional estimated \$62,848 per year and businesses would pay an additional estimated \$219,548 per year. These funds would go to Soil and Water Conservation Districts, not to waste reduction programming.

***Staff Recommendation:** District Staff recommends opposing Ohio Senate Bill 50 and requesting staff to send a letter to the Ohio Senate on behalf of the District opposing this increase.*

**D. 2019-2020 Student Representative**

The student representative is a one-year, non-voting position. This position was developed as a means of gaining new perspectives and ideas on recycling and waste diversion. Benefits to the student include: opportunities to create change at the local level; hands-on experience in developing policy and programs; direct experience in understanding how local government operates; opportunities to hone leadership and public speaking skills.

The District recommends that Alexandra Born be appointed to serve in this role.

***Staff Recommendation:** Staff recommends approving Alexandra Born to serve as the Student Representative and forward the recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners.*

**5. Informational Items**

**A. Beyond 34 Project**

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation has selected the Cincinnati area as their next focus for the Beyond 34 project. This initiative looks to move the U.S. beyond a 34 percent recycling rate. Beyond 34 applies a data-driven model, research, online tools, and resources to develop a customized approach to reducing waste and increasing the District's recycling rate. The Board of County Commissioners will vote on 5/23/19 to decide if we should enter into a MOU and become an official partner.

**B. Environmental Enforcement Program Update**

The District funds an Environmental Enforcement Deputy position to enforce illegal dumping and tire transport laws in Hamilton County. [Attachment D](#) shows activity of the deputy through April 30, 2019. Staff will provide an update on progress with the program.

**C. Recycling Contamination Project with City of Cincinnati**

The District is entering into agreements with Recycling Partnership, City of Cincinnati, and Rumpke to implement a contamination reduction project with 20,000 households within the City of Cincinnati.

**D. Small Scale Community Composting Operator Training**

A growing interest in smaller-scale community composting at community gardens and farms has prompted the District to take the proactive step of providing the tools these compost operators need to compost successfully. The District is working with the Institute for Local Self-Reliance (ILSR) to bring their model Neighborhood Soil Rebuilders program to Hamilton County. This will involve creating a customized plan for training community compost operators and offering the first training.

**E. 2019 Performance Measures: First Quarter**

[Attachment E](#) provides the results of the District's programs for the first quarter.

**6. Tentative Future Agenda Items**

**7. Policy Committee Members' Comments**

**8. Public Comments**

**9. Upcoming District Meetings**

The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, July 18, 2019**. This meeting will be held at Hamilton County Environmental Services, 250 William Howard Taft Road, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Cincinnati, Ohio 45219 at 1:30 p.m.

**10. Adjournment (Target Time: 3:00 p.m.)**