

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

DATE: July 18, 2019

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
Bob Gedert, Public Member
Karen Hurley, General Interest Member
Tim Ingram, Hamilton County Public Health Representative, Vice Chair
Sue Magness, Largest Municipality Representative
Raj Rajagopal, Township Representative
Larry Riddle, Rumpke
Sydney Sauer, Student Representative

Staff

Michelle Balz, Solid Waste Manager
Abbey Cherry, Public Relations Specialist
Brad Johnson, Director
Ali Khodadad, Operations Manager
Joy Landry, Public Relations Specialist
Brad Miller, Assistant Director
Susan Schumacher, Assistant Solid Waste Specialist, Clerk
Mary Sticklen, Business Specialist

Others in Attendance

Lisa Anderson, Hamilton County Budget Office
Chuck DeJonckheere, HCPH
Dean Ferrier, Rumpke
Greg Kesterman, HCPH
Deputy Bryan Peak, Hamilton County Sheriff's Office

ABSENT: **Policy Committee Members**

Todd Portune, Hamilton County Commissioner, Chair

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Ingram called the meeting to order at 1:32 pm and stated that he would be chairing the Policy Committee in Commissioner Portune's absence.

2. CLERK'S REPORT

A. Approval of Minutes – May 16, 2019 Policy Committee Meeting

Mr. Ingram asked if everyone had a chance to read the minutes and asked if there were any corrections or additions.

Mr. Gedert stated that he was present at the May 16, 2019 meeting.

Mr. Ingram asked for a motion to approve the May 16, 2019 minutes as corrected. Ms. Hurley moved; Mr. Gedert seconded. All were in favor and the minutes were approved.

B. Additions to the Agenda

Mr. Ingram asked Ms. Balz to recognize one of the great members of the staff. Ms. Balz stated that she would like to recognize Ms. Lohmann. The Committee and audience applauded Ms. Lohmann.

Ms. Balz stated that within the last two months, Ms. Lohmann has received two big awards. At the Midwest Sustainability Summit she received the 2019 Sustainability Advocate of the Year Award and from Buckeye SWANA, which is the Ohio Chapter of SWANA, Ms. Lohmann received the Solid Waste Innovator Award.

The Committee congratulated Ms. Lohmann and everyone applauded. Mr. Ingram thanked Ms. Lohmann for her passion, dedication, and her hard work in what she does. It is much appreciated.

3. DISTRICT REVENUE UPDATES/ANALYSIS

Ms. Balz stated that Attachment B compared revenue through May from 2019 and 2018. Revenue is up about \$133,000 which is about ten percent. Ms. Balz stated that about three and a half percent jump of that is in-district and about a 12 – 13% jump of out-of-state and out-of-district.

A brief discussion ensued about the recent tornados in the Dayton area and debris disposal.

Mr. Ingram asked for a motion to approve the District revenue update. Ms. Magness moved approval. Mr. Rajagopal seconded; all were in favor and the motion was approved.

4. POLICY ITEMS

A. 2020 Proposed Budget

Mr. Ingram stated that Ms. Balz sent the 2020 proposed budget to the Committee in early July. Ms. Balz stated that the 2020 budget recommendation needs to be submitted to County Administration on July 22, 2019 which is why it is prepared so early.

Ms. Balz stated that the budget is \$3.25 million and is expecting \$3.25 million in revenue.

Ms. Balz briefly summarized some key changes compared to 2018 which is included in Attachment C. Ms. Balz stated that there was a last minute change that was not included in the Attachment which was that the Residential Recycling Campaign and the Wasted Food Campaign. In 2019, they both were funded at \$100,000 and in 2020, they will be funded at \$75,000.

Mr. DiPuccio asked for clarification on the Residential Recycling Incentive (RRI) Program compared to the Residential Recycling Campaign. Ms. Balz explained that the RRI was the \$900,000 grant program where the communities report how much they diverted (recycling and organics) every year and District gives them dollars per ton based on their recycling rate, which is intended to help offset the cost of curbside recycling, organics collection, drop-off recycling programs, etc.

Ms. Balz stated that communities were allowed to spend RRI funds on advertising , if they would like, but that is the community spending that money.

Ms. Balz stated the Residential Recycling Campaign was where the District, internally, creates a county-wide campaign to improve recycling participation.

Mr. DiPuccio asked if RRI funds were restricted. Ms. Balz stated yes and that funds could only be spent on waste reduction activities. If communities want to purchase recycled-content materials and have a recycling rate lower than 20%, they must receive District approval prior.

Mr. DiPuccio asked if the District had documentation for what each community is spending their RRI funds on. Ms. Balz stated that when communities submit their RRI applications, they must show how much was spent, which includes invoices which are tracked.

Mr. DiPuccio asked if staff has ever done a year end compilation on what each community is spending with their RRI funds. Ms. Balz stated that she did and would be happy to share with him.

Ms. Balz stated that she and Mr. Khodadad will be doing the first audit on this program this year.

A brief question/answer session ensued.

Mr. Rajagopal moved approval of the recommendation for the 2020 budget. Mr. DiPuccio seconded. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

5. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. Annual District Report

Ms. Balz stated that every year, the District submits its annual district report to Ohio EPA. A big part of that is the commercial survey and explained what this was. Ms. Balz stated that this is what Ohio EPA bases each district's diversion rate on and whether the District is meeting state goals.

Ms. Balz stated that once the report has been submitted, Ohio EPA will confirm the data and let the District know what its diversion rate is for 2018, usually in October or November.

Mr. DiPuccio stated that it is very difficult to get this sort of information and gave an example. Mr. Ingram congratulated staff on getting this data.

B. Compost Bin Sale

Ms. Balz stated that on Saturday, August 10, 2019, the District will be holding its compost bin sale. The sale will be at St. Xavier High School from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. This is the first sale the District has had since 2011.

Ms. Balz stated that any residents that attended the spring compost seminars received a \$10 off coupon. Ms. Balz stated that Ms. Rivera, who is overseeing the sale, offered two webinars so residents could receive a \$10 off coupon. One was on July 9 and one will be July 31.

A brief discussion ensued.

C. For the Love of Food – A Free Foodie Fest

Ms. Balz stated that this is an event, on September 8, 2019, to try and increase awareness around reducing wasted food. There have been similar events in other parts of the country and now it is being brought here. In front of each member is the draft flyer.

Ms. Balz stated that the District is partnering with La Soupe, Green Umbrella, Plant Cincinnati, and a few others. Ms. Balz stated that Ms. Lohmann is organizing it and asked if she had anything to add.

Ms. Lohmann stated that this is a totally free event to promote prevention of wasted food and to get people to think about creative ways to cook. There will be cooking demonstrations, taste testing food, etc. Sponsors, logos and more information will be added to the flyer as it becomes available. There will be a Facebook event page shared with all of the partners.

Ms. Lohmann invited everyone to attend and/or volunteer at the event on September 8. This will be a fun, family event in hopes of reaching 500 people.

A brief question/answer session ensued.

D. Environmental Enforcement Program Update

Ms. Balz stated that Attachment D showed a graph of complaints received and investigated from June 2018 – June 2019.

Deputy Peak gave an update of his work over the past few months.

A brief question/answer session ensued.

Mr. Ingram suggested that the www.reportdumping.org website and report dumping number of 946-7788 be publicized to the communities.

6. TENTATIVE FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. Hurley asked what the report was for an update on S.B 50. Ms. Balz stated that the District has not heard and will let the Committee know once she has information.

7. POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Ms. Sauer stated that this was her last meeting and wanted to thank the Committee for the opportunity as she has learned a lot. Ms. Sauer stated that she will be studying computer science at Ohio State. Mr. Ingram thanked her for serving on the Committee.

Mr. Gedert reminded everyone to please register for the Beyond 34 event on July 31, 2019. Mr. Gedert stated that there will be continuing discussions and updates throughout the year, there will taskforces developed beginning from the discussion on July 31 and asked everyone to bring their ideas. Ms. Hurley asked for additional information as there was not any on the registration website. Mr. Gedert stated he would pass this information on and the main focus was to bring your thoughts on advancing the local waste reduction and recycling programs.

Mr. Ingram presented and read a certificate of appreciation for Ms. Sauer's service on the Committee.

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS

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 September 19, 2019. 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. Ingram adjourned the meeting at 2:23 p.m.