



WOOD COUNTY SOLID WASTE DISTRICT

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Jim Carter, Chairman

Brad Espen

John Quinn

Donald Bechstein

Patricia Bacon

Jack Ritchie

Skip Baltz

POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

April 14, 2009

Minutes of Meeting

A meeting of the Wood County Solid Waste District Policy Committee was held on the 14th day of April 2009, in the Wood County Commissioners' Hearing Room, 5th Floor, 1 Courthouse Square, Bowling Green, Ohio.

Commissioner Jim Carter called the meeting to order at 8:30 A.M. The following attended...

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jim Carter, Pres., WC Commissioners
Brad Espen, WC Health Department
Skip Baltz, North Baltimore Recycling
Donald Bechstein, Plain Twp. Trustees
Jack Ritchie, Phoenix Technologies
John Quinn, Mayor, City of Bowling Green
Patricia Bacon, City of Northwood

ALSO PRESENT:

Ken Rieman, WC Solid Waste District
Patti Bowsher, WC Solid Waste District
Lauren Schall, WC Solid Waste District
Judy Hagen, City of Perrysburg
Erica Bruielly, WC Solid Waste District
Sergeant Rod Konrad, WC Sheriff's Office
Joe Hirzel, Hirzel Canning Co.
Kim Burnham, Ohio EPA
Mick Torok, N.A.T. Transportation
Kristin Tillison, WC Health Department
Dan Raezer, Waste Management
Steve Lonneman, Waste Management
Andrew Kalmar, WC Commissioners' Office
Vic Gable, C.E.S. of Woodlane
Dave Spengler, BG Recycling Center
Amanda Gamby, WC Solid Waste District

Commissioner Carter began the meeting by asking for review of the minutes from the February 3, 2009 meeting. With no corrections, Pat Bacon made a motion to accept the minutes and Jack Ritchie seconded that motion. Members present voted yes, motion carried and minutes approved.

Commissioner Carter moved to Item II, the Education Report. Amanda Gamby reported on Education and Awareness for the Solid Waste District Office. A detailed outline of education awareness activities and upcoming events is attached (see page 7).

Commissioner Carter moved to Item III, the Health Department Report. Kristin Tillison reported that since the last meeting she has performed monthly inspections of the landfills. Also completed were quarterly inspections of one Class II composting facility and two infectious waste treatment facilities. Annual inspections were also conducted at the closed landfill, one Class IV composting facility, and two

large generators of infectious waste. Three septic haulers have been inspected as well. Ms. Tillison also reported that the Health Department had their Solid and Infectious Waste Program survey in February. The survey has been returned and they are awaiting further approval from the Director, which they anticipate by the end of the month. Brad Espen added that the results of the survey were very good.

Commissioner Carter moved to Item IV, Landfill Reports. Dan Raezer and Steve Lonneman reported on activities and issues at the Evergreen Landfill. Mr. Lonneman reported on the Ohio EPA fee increase. They are concerned about the fees because they have seen a lot of their business go to Michigan, who has a significantly lower fee. He said the add-on fee would continue the drive of material out of Ohio into Michigan. Evergreen has met with the county, the city, and Senator Wagoner to put a program together to see if they can get an exemption on the fee for part of the State.

Mr. Rieman also discussed the State fee increase and distributed an informational fact sheet to the Committee and attendees, which was put together by the Ohio EPA. The fact sheet stated that the additional \$1.25 fee will generate much more money because the trash coming in is still going to all the landfills in Ohio. However, Mr. Rieman said the EPA did not take into consideration the border landfills in Ohio. If the cost of the fee gets too high then trash will start to go north out of Ohio which would drive business away from Evergreen. When the trash is driven away from Evergreen it also affects the Solid Waste District. Mr. Rieman said it doesn't appear at the State level that they are willing to give up on the \$1.25 fee increase; however, there is a provision for an exemption that seems to be the best solution for Evergreen at this time.

Dan Raezer then discussed operations at the Evergreen Landfill. He said beginning this Saturday they will be starting their summer hours and will keep those hours until the first week in October to try to capture some of the seasonal volumes that they typically see. In conjunction with declining volumes, there have been some layoffs at the Evergreen Landfill within the last month. They still continue to operate in their new cell and are currently working on some phasing on how they are going to capture the vertical expansion that was approved by the Ohio EPA and negotiated with Northwood.

Mr. Rieman also discussed the Wood County agreement of the 250-mile limit from the borders of Wood County. The condition still exists but Northwood has said that they will support opening up and eliminating the 250-mile limit. That issue would have to be negotiated between the Commissioners and Waste Management.

Mr. Rieman then reported on Wood County Landfill activities. He reported that the Commissioners have agreed to hold some public hearings to discuss accepting contaminated soil. The Landfill has always been able to accept the material by the EPA permit but the Commissioners had passed a resolution against accepting the contaminated soil. The resolution dates back to when there were many orphaned tanks and spill cleanups and the concern was not being able to figure out what was coming in. However, things have changed over the years and accepting contaminated soils could be another service that the Wood County Landfill can provide. Mr. Rieman explained it would only include accepting contaminated soils from small cleanups. For example they have had truck roll-overs out in front of the Wood County Landfill where the actual contaminated soil there would meet solid waste standards but had to be hauled elsewhere because of the resolution. The purpose is to provide a local solution for local materials. Mr. Rieman said the soil would not be trucked from long distances because the material is too heavy to haul. At the upcoming hearings they will also be adjusting some other rates at the Wood County Landfill. This would not include the solid waste rate. Mr. Rieman said increasing the rate would appear to bring in more income but feels that raising the rate would actually reduce income as it is projected some materials would be diverted to less-cost facilities. The proposed rate changes include increasing the price for the sand and soil mixture because they are not able to use it at the Landfill. Mr. Rieman said the Landfill will also propose raising the rates for mulch sales in hopes to bring in more revenue. Depending on the outcome of the hearings and everything is approved through the system, the effective date of these rate changes would be June 1, 2009.

Mr. Rieman also discussed the force main project at the Landfill. The designs are being completed and decisions are being made on assessments. Also, a decision must be made on whether or not the force main has to be oversized. A public hearing is planned for April 30th at the Plain Congregational Church.

Mr. Rieman also reported that the Wood County Landfill is anticipating construction of three of the six acres they have to complete before 2011. They are hoping to have everything covered with soil on the southern most part of the Landfill so they are able to plant grass. Landfill operations will be to the North and the section seen from Route 6 will be grass.

Commissioner Carter asked if there were any questions or comments for Evergreen Landfill or Wood County Landfill. Mick Torok, N.A.T. Transportation, commented that regarding Waste Management opening on Saturdays for the summer. He said those Saturday hours are very convenient for N.A.T. Transportation and also stated that he would not be opposed to the possibility of a premium rate for Saturday but would be opposed to discontinuing Saturday service.

Commissioner Carter moved to Item V, Litter Collection and Enforcement. Sergeant Konrad reported on numbers through the end of March for litter collection from roadside cleanup. They collected 272 pounds of aluminum, 343 pounds of glass, 474 pounds of plastic, 340 pounds of steel, 2,510 pounds of trash. All of those combined equals 3,939 pounds, which is a 539 pound increase from one year ago. They also collected 106 tires, which is an additional 39 tires from last year. There have been three reports of people dumping trash. After looking through the trash bags they were able to trace back and issue citations for all three.

Commissioner Carter moved to Item VI, Program Updates. Vic Gable gave an update Community Employment Services. Mr. Gable stated that there is not much to report on school recycling. He said Penta is getting closer to starting their recycling program. He also stated that C.E.S. will be adding a Perrysburg elementary school to their recycling collection. He also mentioned that Ohio EPA will be doing an annual file purge next week, which typically results in approximately one ton of paper being recycled. Mr. Gable reported they are working with Dave Spengler and Bill DenBesten at the Bowling Green Recycling Center at the commingled building and has a crew working to sort materials. It is a great opportunity and would like to thank Mr. Spengler and Mr. DenBesten. He also thanked Amanda Gamby and Erica Bruielly from the Solid Waste District for their help and participation with the Clean Your Files Event on April 17th.

Commissioner Carter asked if there were any questions for Mr. Gable. With no questions or comments, Dave Spengler then reported on activities at the Bowling Green Recycling Center. He said the commingled sort operation is up and running and they things are running well. He mentioned an Open House is planned at the Recycling Center on May 30th and hopes everyone can attend and tour the new building and sort line equipment.

Mr. Spengler also reported that in spite of not collecting glass curbside, they have seen about a 40% increase in the volumes that are being run through the commingled sort line. Although the volumes are up, the main concern right now is the price of materials and the amount the Center is able to sell them for. He said that last year they were able to sell newspaper at \$100.00 to \$150.00 per ton but now that same ton is sold for only \$30.00 to \$40.00 per ton. Also, sorted office paper last year sold for \$190.00 to \$225.00 per ton but currently is only worth \$90.00 per ton. He also mentioned that cardboard once was \$75.00 to \$100.00 per ton but now is only worth \$25.00 to \$40.00 per ton. Hopefully the markets will rebound and the markets will increase but in the meantime the Center is forced to use their cash reserves in order to meet their expenses.

Jack Ritchie commented that much of the price decreases in recyclable material is caused by the slow down of the worldwide economy and China pulling out of the markets. China was paying extremely high prices for materials for their use to export to other countries (primarily Europe and the United States). Mr. Ritchie does not believe the prices will rebound to that extent and are about where they should be right now. It is unsure whether China will come back and buy materials again until the world economy rebounds. He also mentioned many states and local governments across the United States are starting to mandate materials that cannot be put in landfills.

Due to the absence of Duane Hamilton, no report was given on recycling activities at B.G.S.U. Ken Rieman mentioned though that when the markets are down, it is important that the quality of the materials must be the best. He said some of the plastic that was shipped from B.G.S.U. contained glass. He believes that one of the reasons for the contamination is B.G.S.U. discontinuing glass collection campus. Because of this, students started putting glass in the plastic recycling bins.

Mr. Rieman also mentioned the possibility of the Bowling Green Recycling Center discontinuing glass collection because the glass market has not been good for many years. What allowed the Recycling Center to accept and process the glass collected were the inflated prices they received for other materials. Now the prices from other materials are down and there is not enough income from glass alone to pay for the parts and repairs of the glass crusher.

Joe Hirzel from Hirzel's Canning stated that the markets are going to dictate where the various commodities go. He mentioned one of his company's biggest issues at the composting operation has been a source of carbon. He said that paper is a good source of carbon and that they are looking at being able to grind up the excess cardboard from their businesses that are not sent to the Bowling Green Recycling Center. As the prices change and different markets develop in different areas, the biggest concern is to get the quality of materials up so that they can make a market for the various products.

Due to the absence of Wayne Strayer, no program update was given on Owens Community College.

Judy Hagen reported on program updates for the City of Perrysburg. She said the Great American Cleanup was March 28th and 100 bags of litter were collected at the Route 20/I-75 interchange. She also mentioned they are participating in the Nike Reuse-A-Shoe Program. For the entire month of April shoes are being collected at the fitness centers and two athletic shoes stores in Perrysburg. Owens is running their own shoe collection that they will combine and take to Ottawa-Sandusky-Seneca Joint Solid Waste District. Perrysburg will also have all seven of their schools collecting shoes during the last week in April. Last year they collected ten gaylords with 400 shoes in each gaylord. Ms. Hagen is hoping to top that number.

Ms. Hagen also mentioned the Grassy Creek cleanup. She has been there three times so far this year and one major dam issue with willow trees was cleaned out. 50 tons of willow trees and debris were cleaned out of one particular blockage in Three Meadows subdivision. Ms. Hagen was very pleased to see many volunteers there. Ms. Hagen also said she has other various cleanups scheduled. Toth School is going to cleanup their creek on April 15th and children will be helping cleanup Fort Imagination on April 16th. Perrysburg will also be working with C.E.S. and the Solid Waste District on April 17th for Clean Your Files Day at the Levis Commons location.

Other activities include another creek cleanup on Earth Day (April 22nd) with students from a social studies class. On April 17th Ms. Hagen will be working with Amanda Gamby and Erica Bruielly from the Solid Waste District to celebrate Earth Day with the theme, "The Power of One" (one more pound, one more week, one more day, the power of one seed, etc.). On April 26th she will participate in a litter cleanup event with the Girl Scouts of Western Ohio at Fort Meigs. On April 30th the downtown merchants of Perrysburg are going to clean Streetscape. Ms. Hagen also mentioned that April 24th is the 25th anniversary of Perrysburg being a Tree City and a big celebration is planned. May 2nd is the Recycle Round Up and Best Buy will be there taking televisions, small appliances, CD's, DVD's, and VHS tapes. A deputy will also be there to collect prescription and non-prescription drugs, and B.G.S.U. will be collecting mercury thermometers and thermostats. Enviro Tire will also be at the event to collect tires for recycling, and Goodwill will be collecting computers.

Ms. Hagen added that there is a church group, God's Green Group, and they received grant for recycling bins. There will be a big kick off for a pilot program to set up recycling in churches. The kick off event will be held in May with a freecycle fair where people from the church will bring items they no longer need (clothing, electronics, books, etc.). Certain groups will be invited to come to the event to take what they need at no charge. Goodwill and Easter Seals will also be there to take away any leftover items.

Due to the absence of Bob Warnimont, no report was given on recycling activities at Perrysburg Township. Ken Rieman mentioned that one issue that was discussed with their new building was whether they had space for a satellite operation. That idea has been put on hold due to funding issues because it would take money to purchase balers. That operation currently has two 32-foot trailers for the satellite recycling. The trailers always get filled, which means that the residents are definitely recycling.

Skip Baltz then gave an update on North Baltimore recycling. Many years ago he was approached about getting recycling started in North Baltimore. Mr. Baltz said he asked various scout groups, church groups, and school groups and told them he needed people to operate the North Baltimore recycling facility. He did not receive much response possibly because there was no guarantee of money. He said at one of his Masonic Lodge meetings one evening he mentioned the opportunity to them. Mr. Baltz said they were all for supporting him and Wood County and he was very pleased. In the beginning they started collecting recyclables in a parking lot in the center of town with a single-axle trailer on Saturday mornings. They only had barrels and plastic bags for residents to set their recyclables in. It was difficult to handle the materials in the cold winter weather and then in the summer heat with bees around the pop cans and bottles. Mr. Baltz met with Mr. Rieman to come up with a solution to those problems. They looked around town to find any kind of a building that would work for some type of satellite recycling center. They approached the Village of North Baltimore about a small portion of their water treatment plant that was only being used as a temporary repair shop. The Solid Waste District provided funding to pour a concrete floor for a new repair shop so the old building could be used for North Baltimore's indoor recycling collection facility. Mr. Baltz reported everything has gone very well over the years with a good group of dedicated men who are there every Saturday from 9:00 a.m. until noon. Mr. Baltz also gave credit to Mr. Rieman and staff at the Solid Waste District, as well as the Bowling Green Recycling Center staff for all their help with the program. Mr. Baltz also said they are in need of a new floor but they understand that money is tight at both the Solid Waste District and the Village. They are trying to figure out a way to fit the cost of a new floor into the budget.

Commissioner Carter moved to Item VII, Solid Waste District Issues. Ken Rieman again discussed the EPA State fee increases. Steve Lonneman added that those fees fund a significant amount under the Ohio EPA and that they also fund the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR). As garbage production goes down, the fees are going to go down that the State collects so they are going to have to collect them from somewhere else in order to maintain the EPA. The State has decided that at this point we all benefit from a clean environment and we all produce garbage therefore that is a nice way for all of us to pay our fair share. Mr. Lonneman said Evergreen has seen about a 40% reduction in tonnage since 2004; however, this means there has also been a 40% reduction in the amount of funds that the State collects. Money has to come from somewhere else to make up those deficits. Mr. Rieman stated that is an important point to make because if they eliminate this fee completely, they still have to find the money elsewhere. Mr. Lonneman added that it is not just a solid waste fee that is used for managing the solid waste program at the EPA. It also includes the ODNR Division of Recycling and Litter Prevention and Soil and Water Conservation. Mr. Rieman added this is an issue with major consequences to the Evergreen Landfill since they are near the state line. It also affects the Solid Waste Plan's because Evergreen Landfill is the major landfill for assuring capacity with the Wood County Landfill being the backup.

Mr. Rieman then discussed grants. He said the Finance Committee met and a decision was made to suspend all the capital grants for this year because of the financial situation. As cut backs are being made, it is important to make sure the Solid Waste District is still meeting the State plan requirements. One of the Plan requirements is 90% access for residential recycling. After comparing figures from last year's report, Mr. Rieman found that the facilities serviced by the Bowling Green Recycling Center through the satellite trailers provide 67% of the required 90% recycling access. The Solid Waste District did not fund the Recycling Center for the satellite recycling trailers last year but did provide money towards the new sort line building. Mr. Rieman said in order for the Recycling Center to continue operating those trailers the Solid Waste District needs to continue the grant funding. The recommendation of the Finance Committee is to fund the \$35,000.00 (the same amount funded in the past) to make sure the trailers continue.

Mr. Rieman asked the Policy Committee for recommendation to fund the satellite trailers at this time to make sure the 90% access is maintained. Commissioner Carter asked if there were any comments or questions from the Policy Committee. Mayor Quinn motioned to follow the recommendation of the Finance Committee to fund the trailers. Skip Baltz seconded that motion. With no comments or questions, all members voted yes, motion carried and recommendation was approved.

Mr. Rieman reported another issue discussed by the Finance Committee which is funding of the Sheriff's Litter Collection and Enforcement Program. He said currently the Solid Waste District provides \$98,000.00 per year to fund two deputies. With the current financial the question is whether or not the Solid Waste District will have the money to be able to fund two deputies. The District paid the second quarter payment for 2009 but

uncertain where they will be financially in the next couple months. Mr. Rieman questions if the program can continue to operate with two people or will it have to be reduced to one person. At some point a decision will have to be made on how that contract is continued. The contract is ongoing with the 30-day cancellation by either the Sheriff or the Commissioners. It is an issue that Mr. Rieman wanted to make the Policy Committee aware of the situation.

Mayor Quinn asked in relation to all this information, what is the responsibility of the Policy Committee in relation to the responsibility of the Commissioners. Mr. Rieman replied that this Committee is to make recommendations to the Commissioners. Mayor Quinn said then for example on an issue like the Sheriff's litter program, how can or should the Policy Committee be involved in the decisions. Mr. Rieman said that is a determination for the Commissioners. The Policy Committee by law only has to meet once per year to review the plan. Mr. Rieman said this Committee has always met more often than that because it would be difficult to explain everything to everybody in just one meeting. What has happened over the years is the Commissioners have deferred to the Policy Committee to make recommendations; however, the Commissioners are the final decision makers. Commissioner Carter stated that he shares the agenda and all the notes and discussions from the Policy Committee Meetings with the other Commissioners. He added that ultimately most of the things that have to do with the contract and the County do have to go through the Commissioners by ORC.

Mr. Rieman said he also included information to the Committee members about requirements for the State plan. The biggest issue is to assure there is enough capacity for disposal. The other main issue is the 90% recycling access. There have also been requirements to provide educational programs and a website, which the Solid Waste District has done long before it was a requirement.

Mr. Rieman also mentioned that he included some articles for the Policy Committee Members and attendees to show it is not only Wood County who has recycling strain. Included is an article about Toledo and Mr. Rieman said there are other places that have completely shut down recycling collection and that the problem is everywhere.

Commissioner Carter moved to Item VIII, Other Business. The next Policy Committee Meeting was scheduled for **July 21, 2009 at 8:30 A.M. in the Commissioners' 5th Floor Hearing Room.**

With no further business to discuss, Brad Espen made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Skip Baltz seconded the motion. All members present voted yes, meeting adjourned around 9:35 a.m.

A. Education, Awareness & Other Projects

1. Year End Report is complete and all should have received a copy through the mail in February. An electronic version is available on our website for the first time this year;
2. Feb. 11th & March 18th: KR, AG, & EB attended two Storm Water Planning meetings hosted by the Wood County Engineer's Office. At this time, it has been decided that our office will continue to support this program through existing solid waste "cross over" programming and reporting procedures;
3. March 25th: AG & EB attended the First Aid and CPR Training hosted by the County to prepare us for emergency situations when working with the public during tours, events, and presentations;
4. March 28th: AG & EB assisted Judy Hagen and several volunteers during the annual Great American Cleanup/ODOT Roadway Cleanup in Perrysburg. Ms. Hagen will report further on this event;
5. Working with the Wood County Highway Garage and Jason Sisco, Wood County Engineer's Department, to incorporate recycling into the annual roadway litter cleanup, which is ongoing throughout the month of April. WCSWMD's yellow trash barrels are being used as recycling containers, allowing the employees to separate recyclables as they remove litter from county roads and ditches.

B. Advertising/Awards

1. Advertising has been focused on Earth Day and upcoming events to get the community more involved with existing programs and events;
2. The annual Earth Day display is on exhibit at the Woodland Mall throughout the month of April to provide users with local disposal/recycling information and other educational brochures issued by our office;
3. The WCSWMD Website continues to be used as a means of providing the most current information to residents;
4. "Clean Your Files Day" brochures have been posted in several businesses and organizations in Wood County to encourage greater participation in this year's event.

C. Upcoming Events/Other Updates

1. The second annual "Clean Your Files Day" is scheduled for this Friday, April 17th, from 10:00-2:00. We are excited to have three locations this year: Wood Lane Industries, Bowling Green Recycling Center, and Levis Commons in Perrysburg. Document destruction will be offered at no charge for the first 100 lbs. brought by each person, tree saplings will be given to each participant, and all will have an opportunity to win one of the three 10' trees donated by North Branch Nursery. A detailed brochure of the event has been included with this report;
2. April is one of our busiest months because of Earth Day being scheduled on April 22nd. A separate sheet is included with this report, describing each event, its location, and when it will be held;
3. The WCSWMD will be working with the Bowling Green Recycling Center to plan an Open House on May 30th to explain the recycling process and display the new sort line to offer an insider view of operations. Look for an invitation in the mail within the next month or so;
4. The Digital T.V. Transition has been rescheduled for June 2009. Our office continues to educate the public on alternatives (i.e. digital boxes, cable, satellite dish, etc.) and proper disposal. We are excited to report that Best Buy is offering electronic recycling, which includes television up to 32" in size. Recyclers are charged a \$10 recycling fee and offered a \$10 Best Buy gift card in exchange. Environmental Recycling also offers T.V. recycling for a fee.