



# WOOD COUNTY SOLID WASTE DISTRICT

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Ken Rieman  
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Amanda Gamby  
Environmental Educator

Patti Bowsher  
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## POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Jim Carter, Chairman

Brad Espen

John Quinn

Donald Bechstein

Patricia Bacon

Jack Ritchie

Skip Baltz

## POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

September 16, 2008

Minutes of Meeting

A meeting of the Wood County Solid Waste District Policy Committee was held on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of September 2008, in the Wood County Commissioners' Hearing Room, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, 1 Courthouse Square, Bowling Green, Ohio.

Commissioner Carter called the meeting to order at 8:29 A.M. Roll call was taken and the following attended...

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

### THOSE ABSENT:

Donald Bechstein, Plain Twp. Trustees

### ALSO PRESENT:

Ken Rieman, WC Solid Waste District  
Lauren Schall, WC Solid Waste District  
Erica Bruielly, WC Solid Waste District  
Patti Bowsher, WC Solid Waste District  
Amanda Gamby, WC Solid Waste District  
Dave Spengler, BG Recycling Center  
Jim Konopinski, WC Health Department  
Vic Gable, C.E.S. of Woodlane  
Judy Hagen, City of Perrysburg  
Mick Torok, N.A.T. Transportation  
Sergeant Rod Konrad, WC Sheriff's Dept.  
Ronda Downard, WC Juvenile Court  
Andrew Kalmar, WC Commissioners' Office  
John Pasquarette, Ohio EPA  
Kim Burnham, Ohio EPA  
Jan Larson, Sentinel-Tribune  
Jennifer Feehan, Toledo Blade

Commissioner Carter began the meeting by asking for review of the minutes from the April 8, 2008 meeting. With no corrections, Pat Bacon made a motion to accept the minutes and Jack Ritchie seconded that motion and 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. Jim Konopinski reported that since the last meeting, all landfills received monthly inspections with the exception of Wood County, which did not get an inspection in July. In addition to the landfill inspections, one Class II composting

facility received a quarterly inspection, two infectious waste facilities received quarterly inspections, and two large generators of infectious waste received annual inspections. There were no solid waste hauler complaints received during this time, however, one solid waste hauling vehicle was inspected. Six new solid waste complaints were received and three were finalized. The 2009 solid waste license applications were sent to all the landfills and to Hirzel's Composting Facility. The deadline is September 30, 2008 and to date they have not received any completed applications. Next week the Health Department will be sending out the 2009 solid waste hauler license applications and the deadline for receipt is October 31, 2008, with vehicle inspections to follow.

Lastly, Mr. Konopinski mentioned that this will be his final report to the Policy Committee because he will be retiring at the end of the month. He said it has been a pleasure working with everybody. The Committee thanked Mr. Konopinski for all of his hard work and dedication to the program.

Commissioner Carter moved to Item IV, Landfill Reports. Due to Dan Raezer's absence, Ken Rieman gave a brief report on Evergreen activities. Mr. Rieman stated that Evergreen is continuing to see a decline in tons and they are down 22% from a year ago. They are completing a cell and weather permitting, the plastic liner should be installed this week. Mr. Rieman said that Mr. Raezer is hopeful that Evergreen will be using the cell by November.

Mr. Rieman asked Pat Bacon if there was any news on the contaminated soil issue. Ms. Bacon replied that Evergreen did receive approval from the Ohio EPA and the soil has been remediated. Mr. Rieman said that now the issue can finally be put to rest. John Pasquarette from the Ohio EPA stated that the contaminated soil is currently in the remediation unit but it is not in Evergreen Landfill yet.

Mr. Rieman then reported on Wood County Landfill activities. He reported that they are also working on cell construction, which includes three feet of clay that takes six individual lifts. They had just about finished the fifth lift when it started raining. That pushed back construction and they hope to finish that sixth and final lift this week. After the sixth lift, sand, piping, and then fabric are placed on top.

Mr. Rieman also mentioned the volume at the Wood County Landfill is down from last year and the volumes are what they had projected. The reason for the decreased volume is because there were a couple large waste projects and demolition of a building in North Baltimore that came to the Landfill last year. While the volumes were down, the base amount that the Landfill takes in is about where they expected it would be primarily because the Wood County Landfill is mostly residential waste and not as much industrial waste.

Next, Mr. Rieman discussed leachate, which is a big issue at the Landfill. In past years, the leachate collection was averaging about a million gallons per year. Year to date, the Landfill has had about four million gallons of leachate. At the same time, the costs are going to increase by 400% as of July 2009. The Landfill is looking into all the options that are available for handling the leachate. Mr. Rieman reported that leachate costs were once about \$25,000.00 per year and were steady and manageable. The cost to handle the amount of leachate this year (four million gallons) is estimated at \$115,000.00 to \$125,000.00. With the increases that are going to take effect in 2009, the cost for the same four million gallons will be about \$160,000.00 to \$170,000.00 per year. That is why the Landfill is looking into leachate recirculation and a force main as some alternatives. Mr. Rieman stated that a force main eventually gets paid for and as a result, transportation costs become fixed. The force main also has some advantages with financial assurance.

Mr. Rieman then reported on some of the challenges with expenses at the Landfill. He said income is consistent for the Landfill budget. However, with the Solid Waste District budget, the challenges are dealing with less income. It is challenging times and they are going to continue to make adjustments. One adjustment that seems to be doing well is creating the fuel surcharge.

Mayor Quinn asked Mr. Rieman where the leachate comes from. Mr. Rieman responded that the leachate is the rainwater that drains down through the landfill. They try to get the drainage off the top to drain to

sedbasins. The drainage that stays out of the trash is considered clean water that can be discharged into ditches. However, drainage that goes down into the trash becomes leachate and must be treated before it is released.

Mick Torok, N.A.T. Transportation, added that no matter how well the Landfill diverts the rainfall, garbage trucks that enter the Landfill on rainy days contain approximately 10-15% rainwater. He said sometimes the garbage trucks carry about 2,000 pounds (at a cost \$43.50) just in rainwater in the course of a rainy day.

Commissioner Carter moved to Item V, Litter Collection and Enforcement. Sergeant Konrad reported on Litter Collection from January through August 2008. Items collected include 1,820 pounds of aluminum, 2,645 pounds of glass, 1,982 pounds of plastic, and 1,305 pounds of steel. They also collected 15,430 pounds of trash and 393 tires. This year at the Wood County Fair the crew collected 2,040 pounds of cardboard, 1,198 pounds of plastic, and 438 pounds of aluminum.

Commissioner Carter asked Sergeant Konrad how he accumulates the weights of all the materials collected. Sergeant Konrad replied that the plastic and cardboard are weighed at the Bowling Green Recycling Center, the trash is weighed at the scale at the Landfill, and the tires are manually counted. Commissioner Carter also asked when the trash is taken to the Landfill, who pays for the disposal? Ken Rieman explained that it is paid for by the Solid Waste District since the trash is coming from the public roadways.

Ronda Downard then gave the report on the Juvenile Court Program. She reported that they had a shortened program this year because of school running well into June and then starting earlier in August. They had 152 youth cover 93 miles of road and they collected 96 bags of trash. She said that over half of that was taken to the Bowling Green Recycling Center to be recycled.

Commissioner Carter moved to Item VI, Program Updates. Vic Gable gave an update Community Employment Services. Mr. Gable reported that schools are all up and running other than one school that had some trouble locating some of their containers. He also reported that Owens Illinois is going to expand the recycling program to all four of their buildings in Perrysburg Township.

Dave Spengler reported on Bowling Green Recycling Center updates. He said they are still continuing to work on the comingled recycling facility at the Center. The building is complete and the concrete floor was poured about ten days ago. Once the floor is cured, they will be ready to install equipment in that building for the actual processing. That equipment is not all ready to be shipped because it is still being built but they expect some of it to be arriving shortly. They are also working on the electrical and should be completed soon. The startup is anticipated at the end of November at the earliest.

Mr. Spengler also stated the Bowling Green Recycling Center continues to service the thirteen satellite locations throughout Wood County and have not received any grant funds to support that from the Solid Waste District and Grant Committee this year. They are hoping to receive some funding for that program in the future.

Mr. Spengler also mentioned that volumes at the Recycling Center are up about three or four percent and they hope to process approximately six and a half million pounds of recyclables this year. Glass still is a concern because of the lack of a good market. The only use of it right now is providing it to the Wood County Landfill to use as road base. They are hopeful that new markets for glass might open up in the future.

Due to the absence of Duane Hamilton, no report was given on program updates at B.G.S.U.

No report on program updates at Owens Community College was given due to the absence of John Aleksander.

Judy Hagen then reported on program updates for the City of Perrysburg. She mentioned that they had a wonderful presentation with the Energy Hog and the Solid Waste District at the Summer Rec program with the YMCA Day Camp. Ms. Hagen also mentioned they participated in the Clean Your Streams event on September 13<sup>th</sup> and cleaned the ditch behind the Kroger in Perrysburg Township. It was a cooperative effort and Perrysburg

Township came and picked up 66 bags of trash, three grocery carts, two pallets, and three milk crates. She said that is the best the ditch has been cleaned in 12 years and they also cleaned the ditch along Route 20.

Ms. Hagen also mentioned that they had their 1,000<sup>th</sup> customer at the compost site where people can come and recycle their brush and raked leaves. Last year the total for the entire year was 1,077. Part of the increase in customers is the addition of Saturday hours.

Ms. Hagen had a meeting with Jason Sisco from the Engineer's Office about storm water management. The purpose of the meeting was to try to get cooperative efforts to share information about storm water education and programs. She also went to the teachers in-service on August 26<sup>th</sup> to give teachers information about what can be recycled and Vic Gable is also working on recycling with Perrysburg schools. She also mentioned there are now eleven totes (65-gallon) at the high school football stadium to encourage recycling of pop bottles during football games.

Ms. Hagen reported that Keep America Beautiful has selected the two rest stops on Interstate 75 as a pilot program for cigarette butt program. Additional ashtrays have been purchased and a survey will be conducted to determine if adding more ashtrays was effective in reducing the cigarette litter.

Ken Rieman then reported on Event and Festival Recycling. He mentioned that the Clear Stream recycling system that was tested at the fair worked well. The District office has received many calls since the fair from people interested in loaning out the containers for events. The office has approximately 60 units available and have been loaning them out for various events and festivals. It is one of the few systems that has worked so far and it may be something to expand on in the future. Mr. Rieman also mentioned that the volume of the Clear Stream containers used at the fair this year made a big difference on how quickly the trash cans filled up. The only challenge with these containers is that plastic bottles and cans are collected together, which must be sorted. Mr. Rieman believes that the Recycling Center will be able to handle the sorting once the commingled operation is ready. Some of the groups that borrow the containers separate the cans from the plastic so that they can sell the aluminum for money.

Commissioner Carter moved to Item VII, Solid Waste District Issues. Ken Rieman discussed a page from the Solid Waste District Annual Report. The recycling figures are calculated by taking the tonnage disposed in the County to get the recycling rate. He said obtaining the recycling figures can sometimes be a challenge. For example, they have had a difficult time getting the cardboard recycling total from BFI. The residential figures are easy to calculate because of the Per Capita program. The communities are required to report their recycling totals before they can receive funds.

Mr. Rieman also discussed a timeline of the Solid Waste District Plan Update and that Plan preparation began in August 2008. A draft of the Plan is due November 2009 and the final draft is due to the Ohio EPA in 2011. The challenge is to look at things early enough, but with the changing times, it is difficult to develop a program that will work with the existing conditions. In the past 15 years, it has been easier to plan because things have been more consistent.

Mr. Rieman also discussed changes the District has had to make in the budget for next year. He said they had to find the most painless budget cuts but they are still trying to find ways to save money. Mr. Rieman said that since Jim Konopinski announced his retirement, it has brought up the idea of whether the Health Department contract should continue. He explained the Health Department contract was created to take care of many local solid waste issues. At the time the program started, there were 22 dumps in the County and they each had to be inspected to make sure they were not an environmental problem. There were issues with a tire dump in Northwood, West Millgrove, etc. Mr. Rieman said that it has been an excellent program and partnership. Mr. Rieman explained that the District is not required to fund the program and if the local Health Department does not have a program, then the responsibilities legally fall to the Ohio EPA. As they look at the budget, the question is can they continue to afford the program? Mr. Rieman said that it is unclear how long the District could afford to sustain the program. Mr. Rieman said that with Mr. Konopinski retiring, it is a perfect opportunity to discontinue the program. Mr. Rieman again explained that the program itself is excellent and the Health Department has done a very good job. Mr. Rieman does not want to see the Health Department hire a new full-time employee for

the position and then not have enough funds for the program a couple years into the future. Mr. Rieman said now is the time to look at the situation and determine if the District can afford to fund the program long-term.

Mr. Rieman explained some of the cuts that were made to the budget will probably have to be restored in the future. As a Waste District, there are two major requirements. One is to assure sufficient capacity for disposal and the other is to provide recycling to the community. Mr. Rieman mentioned that they had to cut some of the money that goes toward the Wood County Landfill for capacity assurance to make sure it is there. The other cut the District made was payment to the Bowling Green Recycling Center to run trailers for the recycling satellite locations throughout Wood County. The thinking was that they would spread the pain because they felt it would not be right to fund the Recycling Center but cut other programs. As the District looks to next year's budget, they must keep in mind what is required by the State Law, which is to have sufficient capacity for disposal and also to provide recycling opportunities.

Mr. Rieman started an open discussion regarding the issue of continuing to fund the Health Department Solid Waste Program. Mr. Rieman's concern is that they are at a transition point with the current employee in the position.

Brad Espen stated that the Health Department does not want to lose the program. He believes that it has been very successful since it started in 1992; however, with the \$86,000.00 per year cut, it would be impossible for the Health Department to continue the program on its own. Mr. Espen said they had meetings last week with the Ohio EPA to discuss options. Some of the possible options they are looking into is returning the solid waste portion of the program to the Ohio EPA and somehow maintaining the construction and demolition debris fees. Annually they receive about \$35,000.00 tipping fees from the CD & D program. The Health Department also brings in about \$13,000.00 per year from the solid waste hauler program. That would only be enough funding to maintain approximately half of a position. With the solid waste portion, they only receive \$5,600 from the Ohio EPA in license fees plus an occasional \$100.00-\$150.00 over a three year period for the infectious waste generators. Without funding, the program would go to the Ohio EPA and would result in loss of local oversight, which Mr. Espen feels is very important. Also, responses and inspections may not be as timely since the Ohio EPA only has five inspectors for 24 Northwest District Counties.

John Pasquarette from the Ohio EPA commented that they are here today and also attended the Wood County Board of Health Meeting last week to show their support for the Health Department, and to repeat the sentiments that both Mr. Rieman and Mr. Espen mentioned. He believes the Health Department has done a great job and they annually survey them to check to make sure all the minimum inspection requirements and all the other requirements for the program are met. The Health Department has always maintained "Approved Status" on the Ohio EPA Director's Approved List. The potential funding challenges for the Health Department is an interest to the Ohio EPA. Mr. Pasquarette explained that they are working with Mr. Espen and the Health Department to see if there are options of maintaining just the CD & D program but also to let everyone know that has a hand in all the local decisions that the Ohio EPA feels, along with the Health Department that it would be great if there were a way to manage the funding challenges to keep issues under local control. The Ohio EPA will do the program if necessary because they have taken over in other Health Department jurisdictions that have chosen to give up the program. Mr. Pasquarette said sometimes that is a challenge because there are 24 counties that they oversee in Ohio and sometimes they are hours away. He said at least they would be local here in Bowling Green but explained they have five inspectors that do the work of Jim Konopinski throughout 24 counties. With the retirement of Jim Konopinski and no replacement, one of those five inspectors is going to only have part-time oversight of the issues that Mr. Konopinski has had full-time oversight with in Wood County.

Mr. Rieman commented that as he mentioned before, the funding is the issue because their main concern is balancing the Solid Waste District budget. Mr. Rieman stated that today is not the day to make a decision and there are options that need to be further addressed. Mr. Rieman added that the Solid Waste District will continue to fund the program throughout the end of the year. He said the contract has a 30-day cancellation clause by either party and that was always built in because of funding levels going up and down. He said they will have to make decisions based on the money that is available. The Health Department Board wants to keep the program but Mr. Rieman asks if they are willing to put any money themselves into the program.

Mr. Rieman discussed another issue. He stated that over the last couple of years, the Ohio EPA has mostly been funded by solid waste fees (\$3.50 fee on every ton of trash). There have been a lot of changes since the contract and program were created in 1991. Mr. Rieman said the District must meet with Mr. Espen, the Health Department, and the Ohio EPA to discuss the different options available. Mr. Rieman said even if the District can fund the program for one more year, his question is what will be the long-term solution. Mr. Rieman also explained that any decision made by the Solid Waste District Policy Committee would have to be recommended to the Board of County Commissioners and they would make the final decision.

Mr. Espen added that besides all the complaints that Mr. Konopinski responds to, he routinely checks two large operating solid waste landfills, one CD & D landfill, one closed landfill, 35 infectious waste generators, one infectious waste treatment facility, one Class I composting facility, eleven Class IV composting facilities, and also 100 Phase I and Phase II assessments for consulting firms. This means if they get a call from an engineer or a consultant hired by someone who wants to develop a parcel, Mr. Konopinski will check the records to see if there were any problems, such as signs of illegal dumping, septic activity, etc. These are all time consuming duties but Mr. Konopinski takes care of those plus inspects approximately 200 haulers in the County.

Commissioner Carter asked if the Ohio EPA would be taking over all of those issues. Mr. Espen responded that the EPA would take care of all those issues with the exception of the Phase I and Phase II assessments. Another employee in the Health Department would have to handle that duty and somebody else would have to perform the hauler inspections.

Mr. Pasqualette said it is the EPA's understanding that the Wood County Health Department checks into every seven-day notice on clean hard fill. Mr. Pasqualette stated that the Ohio EPA wouldn't have that level of oversight and they do not check all of those to that degree unless they receive a complaint. Also, the Ohio EPA does not have any authority over solid waste haulers.

Commissioner Carter asked if the contract is still good until the end of the year. Mr. Rieman replied that the contract continues indefinitely with a 30-day clause that can be cancelled by either party. Mr. Rieman's recommendation at this point is to at least continue funding through the end of the year. Mr. Espen stated that for the next three months he will try to spread some of the work throughout the Health Department staff but he will be doing the majority of the work after Mr. Konopinski retires in October.

Commissioner Carter moved to Item VIII, Other Business. A special Policy Committee Meeting was scheduled **for October 21, 2008 at 8:30 A.M. in the Commissioners' Session Room**. The only discussion at the next meeting will be the Health Department funding and the budget so the regular reports will not be presented.

Ken Rieman also discussed a letter the District received from Stark-Tuscarawas-Wayne Joint Solid Waste District regarding a rule they implemented that trash from other counties cannot be disposed of at their county landfill unless your recycling rate meets or exceeds their recycling rate. He said this letter won't really affect Wood County because our trash does not travel there. There may be more information about this in the future.

Mr. Rieman also mentioned that he and Mick Torok, from N.A.T. Transportation, are going to attend a food waste recycling program in Madison, Wisconsin. The conference also includes biodigestors and food waste reduction. When studying waste flows and recycling, food waste is a big issue and how to handle it and more information will be learned at the conference.

With no further business to discuss, Pat Bacon made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Skip Baltz seconded the motion. All members present voted yes, meeting adjourned around 9:28 a.m.

**A. Education, Awareness & Other Projects**

- 1) July 22: 2008 Earth Camp, The Great Litter Caper: We hosted the Energy Hog from the Alliance to Save Energy's popular commercial in the morning, and throughout the day, students were Litter Scene Investigators, with an arrest of the litter culprit in the afternoon by Sergeant Rod Konrad and Deputy Tom Otley. 175 children and adults attended this year's event. See photos on reverse;
- 2) July 22-24: The Energy Hog Traveling Road Show was in town visiting several area events and libraries. This fast paced and energetic presentation is designed like a game show that educates children on energy wasting and saving practices. The Road Show made stops at Perrysburg YMCA Camp, Wood County Girl Scout Camp, & Wood County and Walbridge Libraries, reaching over 300 people. See photos on reverse;
- 3) July 29-Aug. 4: Wood County Fair: District employees rotated shifts at the Education Trailer and booth during the week, answering several questions and providing solid waste and recycling information to Fairgoers. Clear Stream containers were available during the fair for recycling and the Wood County Sheriff Litter Crew assisted with the pickup and hauling of the collected recyclables. Due to the popularity of the Clear Stream containers, the District has decided to make them available to local groups for use during their events;
- 4) Sept. 3: Amanda and Erica attended an Education Exchange Workshop hosted by the OSS Solid Waste District. This workshop gave us an opportunity to share our educational presentations with other recycling/litter prevention colleagues from around the state, and provided us with ideas for future programs and presentations;
- 5) Sept. 13: Clean Your Streams: Although in its 12<sup>th</sup> year, this was the first year that Wood County hosted a Kick Off location/clean up sites for this event. Our office partnered with Jason Sisco, Wood County Engineer's Office, to recruit volunteers, locate cleanup sites, and organize groups the day of the event. Despite the constant rain on Saturday, 55 volunteers arrived at Lake Township's Friendship Park to clean 3 locations in Wood County. As a whole, the event attracted 788 volunteers.

**B. Advertising/Awards**

- 1) Due to budget constraints, the District has cut back significantly on advertisements in an effort to afford holiday advertisements toward the end of the year, including Treecycling information;
- 2) The WCSWMD Website had been visited 3,403 times since the beginning of 2008.

**C. Upcoming Events/Other Updates**

- 1) Sept. 19: Amanda and Erica have been invited to participate in Eastwood Nature Day again this year. Our office will be a part of several educational sessions, presenting on composting/vermicomposting to over 100 6<sup>th</sup> graders;
- 2) Oct. 2: Amanda and Erica will attend a Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Workshop at Wyandot County Solid Waste District's office. This workshop will also include a tour of their recycling facility and litter trail;
- 3) Oct. 25: Amanda and Erica will attend an educator's workshop on the Leopold Education Project;
- 4) Oct. 27-Oct.31: Amanda and Erica will be conducting 21 tours of the Bowling Green Recycling Center for BGSU's Biology 101 classes;
- 5) Nov. 22: Bowling Green Chamber's Holiday Parade: The theme has not yet been decided, but the District will be partnering with the BGRC to create a float once again for this year's parade;
- 6) Nov.-Dec.: Our office will be participating in the Wood County Historical Museum's Holiday Decorating. Our Christmas tree, featuring recycling and proper disposal decorations and ornaments, will be one of the many decorations at this year's holiday reception;
- 7) Nov. 12-Nov. 14: Ken, Amanda, and Erica will attend the Association of Ohio Recyclers (AOR) Conference in Huron, OH. The Windows on Waste Curriculum used by our education program has recently been correlated to the Ohio Academic Content Standards, and Amanda and Erica will receive information to distribute to teachers during the educational sessions at the conference;
- 8) We have begun to update tour notes for the Wind Turbines, Wood County Landfill, and Recycling Center. We are working with local experts to gain the most current knowledge on these locations to continue to provide quality tours.
- 9) With the school year beginning, we have started to fill our calendars with tours and presentations for local school groups and continue to develop the education program as we discover new techniques and programs.