



# WOOD COUNTY SOLID WASTE DISTRICT

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Ken Rieman  
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Amanda Gamby  
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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

January 22, 2008

Minutes of Meeting

A meeting of the Wood County Solid Waste District Policy Committee was held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of January 2008, in the Wood County Commissioners' Hearing Room, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, One Courthouse Square, Bowling Green, Ohio.

Commissioner Carter called the meeting was called to order at 8:38 a.m. The following attended...

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jim Carter, Pres., WC Commissioners  
Brad Espen, WC Health Department  
Jack Ritchie, Phoenix Technologies

### THOSE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Patricia Bacon, City of Northwood  
John Quinn, Mayor, City of Bowling Green  
Skip Baltz, North Baltimore Recycling  
Donald Bechstein, Plain Twp. Trustees

### ALSO PRESENT:

Ken Rieman, WC Solid Waste District  
Lauren Schall, WC Solid Waste District  
Patti Bowsher, WC Solid Waste District  
Dan Raezer, Evergreen RDF  
Judy Hagen, City of Perrysburg  
Vic Gable, C.E.S. of Woodlane  
Sergeant Rod Konrad, WC Sheriff's Office  
Deputy Tom Otle, WC Sheriff's Office  
John Aleksander, Owens CC  
Mick Torok, N.A.T. Transportation

Commissioner Carter moved to Item I, Approval of the October 16, 2007 Meeting Minutes. Due to the absence of a quorum, the October 16, 2007 minutes were not voted on. The minutes from October 16, 2007 and January 22, 2008 will be reviewed at the April 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Commissioner Carter moved to Item II, Solid Waste District Issues. Ken Rieman reported that they have been doing waste audits for Century Tag and Label and the new Owens Illinois Plant in Perrysburg.

Mr. Rieman also reported on flow control. He said there have been a couple changes in the law that allows flow control. Mr. Rieman stated that Wood County is one of the only counties in Ohio with both a public and a private landfill. He mentioned that the Stark-Tuscarawas-Wayne Joint Solid Waste Management District in Ohio passed a rule that they would not accept any material from another waste district that does not recycle as much as them. It is a way to keep the waste from Cleveland from coming their way. That rule was upheld in court and Mr. Rieman questions how the rule will be enforced and how the recycling rates are figured.

Mr. Rieman also discussed the Sunny Farms Landfill in Fostoria. He said a company out of Cleveland was trying to buy Sunny Farms because of the new ruling at Stark-Tuscarawas-Wayne Counties. Cleveland does not have operating landfills anymore so they may be looking for places to go with their trash.

Mr. Rieman then discussed Local Landfills. He said Sunny Farms has been operating under a proposed denial for over a year. When they applied for their permit last year the Health Department passed a resolution proposing to deny them their license because of the operating conditions there. However, nothing has happened and they continue to operate. Mr. Rieman believes that they operated all last year without a license.

Mr. Rieman also reported on the ODNR Grants. He said they are working on applications. One application is for the commingled sort line at the Bowling Green Recycling Center. Plans for that are almost complete and will include a new building and a new sorting line inside that building. The Solid Waste District is asking the State for funding for that project. Another grant application is for a tire shredding operation. They Solid Waste District requested \$75,000.00 and it must be matched dollar for dollar. They are also applying for a grant for a bio-digester for food waste processing and disposal. Mr. Rieman said that could be a significant sized grant of about \$250,000.00 and must be matched with \$250,000.00. At this point, that grant application is being written for Wood Water Services, which is a subsidiary of N.A.T. Transportation. It may be combined with a dairy digester depending on whether one of the dairies decides to be part of that operation. The advantage of being with the dairy is that they will also take care of the manure from the dairy and the bacteria in the cow manure is one of the ingredients needed to make the bio-digester work.

Commissioner Carter moved to Item III, Education & Awareness Report. Amanda Gamby reported that the District has been busy with the holidays the past few months. They assisted the City of Perrysburg, Judy Hagen, and Perrysburg Township with their Recycle Round-Up on October 20<sup>th</sup>. The event collected computers, household hazardous waste, tires, and mercury containing thermometers. The District participated in the Woodland Mall's Trick-or-Treat Event on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. They distributed Household Recycling Guides and temporary tattoos with a recycling logo to over 1,000 families. On November 17<sup>th</sup> the District partnered with the Bowling Green Recycling Center to design a float for the Bowling Green Chamber of Commerce Holiday Parade. Ms. Gamby also reported that she (along with Paulie Shaffer) attended the OALPRP Winter Conference November 28<sup>th</sup> – November 30<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Gamby was inducted on to the Board of Directors and will serve a two year term. A tree/room was decorated for the 2007 Old Home Holiday Tour at the Wood County Historical Museum from December 1<sup>st</sup> – December 16<sup>th</sup>. Decoration promoted the "Every Day Solutions" theme and recycling in Wood County.

Ms. Gamby said she is working to complete the 2007 Year-End-Report and copies will be distributed within the next month. Ms. Gamby and Ms. Shaffer gave 79 presentations and 180 tours, reaching over 4,000 individuals. Tours consisted of 69 for the Bowling Green Recycling Center, 65 Wind Farm tours, and 46 Landfill tours. Information on special events and programs will be listed in the Year-End-Report.

Ms. Gamby also discussed advertising. She said there have been several holiday advertisements, including the annual "Treecycle" ad to help promote Christmas tree recycling in Wood County. Local newspapers have also run articles pertaining to the methane gas collection project at the Wood County Landfill and the commingled curbside recycling and sort line project between the City of Bowling Green and the Bowling Green Recycling Center.

Ms. Gamby reported that since updating [www.wcswmd.org](http://www.wcswmd.org), the District has started to track statistics and the number of users of the website. The first month of tracking showed 331 people had visited the site. The most viewed page (after the Home Page) was the Landfill page, followed by the Recycling page. Referring sites are also listed, allowing the District to see how individuals are locating the site. The intent of the statistics is to better advertise and distribute information based on what individuals are looking for on the site.

Upcoming events include several tours and presentations for the next few months. April is especially popular with teachers because of Earth Day (April 22<sup>nd</sup>). Ms. Gamby is working with other organizations throughout the County to develop and schedule programs and events for 2008.

Ms. Gamby stated that Paulie Shaffer's retirement was official on December 31, 2007. The District has promoted Ms. Gamby into Ms. Shaffer's position as Environmental Educator and is following procedure to fill the vacant Education Assistant position within the next couple of months.

Commissioner Carter moved to Item M, Health Department Report. Due to the absence of Jim Konopinski, no report was given on Health Department activities.

Commissioner Carter moved to Item V, Landfill Reports. Dan Raezer reported on Evergreen Landfill activities. Since the last meeting, Evergreen has finished the east slope of the landfill which faces the City of Walbridge. They also brought a portion up to the appropriate height level and brought a contractor in to cover fourteen acres of that area. Fourteen acres was too much for Evergreen's employees to cover adequately and in a timely manner. They also finished some late season seeding. It has been a busy time for Evergreen and there are small areas to be filled to properly utilize the air space. Mr. Raezer also mentioned they have started their leachate recirculation, which will lessen their dependency on needing to discharge to the City of Toledo through the sewer system.

Mr. Raezer said there is nothing to report regarding the Delta Fuels soil issues. He said it is now up to the EPA and they have been non-responsive. Evergreen wants to resolve that issue so that they can move on with the soil bioremediation process once the weather warms up. As far as 2007, the tonnage for the Landfill was similar to tonnage in 2006. It was within a few hundred pounds. Mr. Raezer said Evergreen finished 2007 with no accidents or injuries at the Landfill.

Mr. Rieman then reported on activities at the Wood County Landfill. Five acres of clay liner were constructed at the Landfill. The Landfill had some problems getting approval to move ahead with the frost protection. They finally received approval on December 12<sup>th</sup> to place the five feet of trash for frost protection. December 15<sup>th</sup> is the EPA's deadline for moving trash; however, it is impossible to move five acres of trash in two days. They had to continually test the temperature of the clay every day before they started and also when they finished. Mr. Rieman said they tested the temperature with the same thermometer used for the compost and it held right around 38 degrees. The Landfill will be doing another five acres next year and then every year for the next three years to try to finish that north side before the 2011 permit call in. If they don't get it finished by 2011 there will be new rules that require a more expensive plastic liner.

Mr. Rieman also reported on the gas project at the Landfill. He said they have a proposal from Capstone Turbine Corporation to install microturbines at the Landfill. One problem is that the volume of the gas is small compared to most projects they do. Another problem is the quality of the gas because it contains some contaminants. Finding the right generator is tough. The sterling engine was the original unit they were looking at. The sterling engine had advantages because it is a burner and all you had to do was to have the gas burning. However, with the internal combustion engine or the microturbine, there are moving parts, which creates corrosion and wear. Mr. Rieman said the sterling engine will not be ready for this project so the decision is between microturbine and the internal combustion engine. Microturbines can do the job but are more expensive and require additional clean up. The internal combustion does not need as much clean up but it needs more gas. They are trying to balance those options out to see what the best thing to do is.

Mr. Rieman then reported on rates at the Landfill. At the last meeting Mr. Rieman discussed the impact that fuel was having on the Wood County Landfill. The cost of fuel has gone up \$1.00 per gallon for diesel fuel in the last year. The Landfill has not had fuel surcharges; however, many companies they deal with that have transportation or run heavy equipment do have fuel surcharges. Most private landfills also have fuel surcharges. Mr. Rieman has had discussions with the Commissioners and they suggested presenting the information to the Policy Committee. Mr. Rieman explained that they are trying to cover the rising fuel costs and at the same time, be

fair to the customers. In other words, when the fuel prices go up, the fuel surcharge increases; however, when the fuel prices go down, the fuel surcharge to customers also decreases. The idea is to try to keep these changes from impacting everybody negatively. Mr. Rieman also discussed a fuel surcharge calculation chart that was created to possibly raise about \$100,000.00 at a 10% fuel surcharge. He said that fuel had stayed fairly stable (\$1.09-\$1.48) from 1991 to 2000, before rates started climbing. They are doing a projection and there could be a shortage by the end of the year if some adjustments are not made. Mr. Rieman explained that they want to make the adjustments in small increments to be fair to the customers. This is the longest that the Landfill has gone without an increase in the base rate. The base rate has been the same since 1991. What they want to avoid is the last two increases were from \$9.00 to \$18.00 and then \$18.00 to \$32.00. No businesses or haulers can absorb that kind of impact.

Commissioner Carter moved to Item V, Litter Collection & Enforcement. Sergeant Rod Konrad reported on the year-end total of materials that have been picked up by the litter crew. They collected 2,194 pounds of aluminum, 4,206 pounds of glass, 2,593 pounds of plastic, 2,742 pounds of steel, and 20,491 pounds of trash. Sergeant Konrad also mentioned they picked up 367 tires. 815 inmates worked 4,424 hours and walked 298 miles along the road. From the jail they brought 8,784 pounds of steel cans, 1,201 pounds of plastic, and 28,870 pounds of cardboard. The inmates worked 1,142 hours at the Bowling Green Recycling Center and worked 754 hours at fairs and festivals.

Commissioner Carter asked Sergeant Konrad that when the inmates walk the roadside, do they cover the same roads and are there particular ones they operate on? Sergeant Konrad replied that Deputy Tom Otley has some roads that need the crew quite often during the year, such as Rudolph Road and Mitchell Road. Those roads seem to have a lot of traffic and roadside litter. Other than that, random roads are selected that they have not been down in a while.

Commissioner Carter moved to Item VII, Program Updates. Vic Gable reported on activities at Community Employment Services (C.E.S.). He reported on the collection totals for 2007. He mentioned that Elmwood, Otsego, and Rossford schools are well enough developed that a recycling program is on-going every year. They are still working with other school districts to get to that level.

Due to Dave Spengler's absence, Ken Rieman reported on Bowling Green Recycling Center program updates. Mr. Rieman reported that the Recycling Center processed 6.2 million pounds of material in 2007 and the residual rate of trash was about 1.1%. The Recycling Center and the City of Bowling Green are signing a contract for commingled processing. The City intends to pick up recyclables commingled curbside with an automated arm truck (just like the one used for garbage). Some of the long term changes include the addition of cardboard, paperboard, office paper, and magazines to curbside collection. However, glass cannot be collected curbside because of safety issues and problems with the processing. Glass will still be accepted at the 24-hour drop off. The new collection process will require a new building and processing line. Most of those plans are getting finalized. Mr. Rieman said the Solid Waste District applied for grant funding for \$100,000.00 from the State for that project. The overall project is estimated to cost \$550,000.00. The District has put \$100,000.00 towards the project from last year's grants. They expect to hear from the State about the funding sometime in May and Center cannot spend any money on the processing line until they hear from the State. This project also gives the Center the ability and capacity to serve other areas beyond Bowling Green. Mr. Rieman is hopeful that the project will be underway by the end of the year.

Due to the absence of Duane Hamilton, no program update was given for B.G.S.U.

John Aleksander, Director of Buildings and Grounds at Owens Community College reported on program updates at Owens. He thanked everyone who was involved in awarding the recycling grant to Owens and will be put to good use. Owens recycles mostly corrugated cardboard, paper products and some cans and bottles. They would really like to expand and plan on issuing purchasing orders within the week for a used baler, commercial shredder, a tipper, a scale, and some conveyor systems. The extra equipment will help with the processing of the additional recyclables they hope to collect this summer. Mr. Aleksander

mentioned that Owens also purchased a dozen different collection containers from three different manufacturers. They are in the process of evaluating those containers for easy use, abuse, etc. and they are soliciting opinions from the faculty and students. By the end of February they will make a decision as to which containers they will purchase. Owens is also planning on taking over the document destruction of confidential material that is currently being sent out.

Commissioner Carter moved to Item VIII, Other Business. Ken Rieman discussed the Gonzales building demolition. He said the total cost for demolition, which includes trucking and disposal, was approximately \$27,000.00. The disposal cost was about \$17.00 per ton or about \$7.54 per yard. He said that a lot of money can be saved if the materials are separated.

Mr. Rieman also discussed a letter sent to all the local government entities by John Sweeney of Waste Management, which caused a lot of concern. Apparently Waste Management was given some contracts through the State Bid process. The letter Mr. Sweeney sent indicated that the people had to change their waste haulers based on this contract. Mr. Rieman received calls from several communities. Mr. Rieman said the letter was very misleading and he contacted the Department of Administrative Services, who will investigate the situation. Mr. Rieman said there is nothing wrong with Waste Management soliciting business; however, the letter sent indicated that they have to change their hauler to Waste Management. Dan Raezer from Evergreen Landfill said this is the first he has seen of the letter and he will see if he can get more information on the issue.

Jack Ritchie believes that about four years ago the same type of misleading information was sent out to practically all the industries in the area. Mick Torok, N.A.T. Transportation, stated that this is the first in his experience that townships, villages, and other government entities received this type of letter.

Mick Torok also added a comment about the grant they are working on about diverting food waste from the Landfill. The bulk of that tonnage they are trying to divert is going to Sunny Farms Landfill in the form of sludge from the de-watering process. They are trying to divert 500-5,000 tons of food waste and a very small percentage of that food waste may go to the Wood County Landfill.

Mr. Torok also commented on the fuel surcharge proposal at the Wood County Landfill. He said in the 1980's when the two big rates were put in by the Commissioners, it took away 50% of their customer base and 60% of their tonnage. Mr. Torok considers the fuel surcharge rate increase small and equitable. It is a small enough of an increase that they can easily explain to their customers.

Judy Hagen, City of Perrysburg, added a few comments. She said she met with Amanda Gamby last week to work on plans for the Recycle Round Up, which will be held sometime in May. They also worked on preparing for Earth Day activities and events. Ms. Hagen also mentioned she is meeting with ODOT because they are going to have a "Keep Ohio Beautiful" kick-off for cleaning the roadways on March 29<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Carter asked if there were any other comments. Jack Ritchie mentioned that there is a nationwide push against not allowing recyclable materials in the landfills. North Carolina has just passed a law that does not allow recyclable materials into their landfills. Mr. Ritchie believes that eventually most states in the United States will do the same, which will help his business and help the environment.

The next Policy Committee Meeting was scheduled for **April 8, 2008 at 8:30 A.M.** in the Commissioners' Hearing Room. With no further business to discuss, the meeting ended at 9:25 a.m.