



WOOD COUNTY SOLID WASTE DISTRICT

639 South Dunbridge Road, Suite 3

Bowling Green, Ohio 43402

PHONE (419) 354-9297 FAX (419) 354-1620

Email wcswmd@wcnnet.org

Website www.wcswmd.org

Ken Rieman
Director

Amanda Gamby
Environmental Educator

Patti Bowsher
Office Manager

POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Jim Carter, Chairman

Brad Espen

John Quinn

Donald Bechstein

Patricia Bacon

Jack Ritchie

Skip Baltz

POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

August 11, 2009

Minutes of Meeting

A meeting of the Wood County Solid Waste District Policy Committee was held on the 11th day of August 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 8:29 A.M. The following attended...

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

THOSE ABSENT:

Donald Bechstein, Plain Twp. Trustees
Brad Espen, WC Health Department

ALSO PRESENT:

Ken Rieman, WC Solid Waste District
Lauren Schall, WC Solid Waste District
Erica Bruielly, WC Solid Waste District
Amanda Gamby, WC Solid Waste District
Kristin Tillison, WC Health Department
Mick Torok, N.A.T. Transportation
Vic Gable, Woodlane - C.E.S.
Dave Spengler, BG Recycling Center

Commissioner Carter began the meeting by asking for review of the minutes from the July 21, 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, Program Funding. A complete explanation of the proposed requests is attached (see pages 5-6). Vic Gable reported on School Recycling Assistance Request from Community Employment Services (C.E.S.). He mentioned that C.E.S. submitted a request to the Solid Waste District for a subsidy for the school recycling portion of their recycling program. They started school recycling about seven years ago and they have grown to include every school district in the County. Because of the commodities market, they have lost some revenue from the sale of recycled materials. They are requesting a subsidy of \$150.00 per month to help offset fuel costs and to maintain the program. This is only meant to support that particular portion. They do have other outside commercial customers they are starting to charge, as well as other government entities. This is only to offset some of their expenses related to the program which also provides employment for nine individuals that they serve throughout the County.

Commissioner Carter commented that all four items being brought forth to the Committee today are suggestions for the County Commissioners. The County Commissioners will then make the final decisions. Ken Rieman has provided quite a bit more information concerning the funding request for C.E.S. Commissioner Carter added that this particular school recycling program is a requirement by the State.

Mr. Gable distributed a list to the Committee Members of all the schools C.E.S. provides the recycling service for in the County. He also thanked Amanda Gamby and the Solid Waste District for their help with the program and said it has been a good partnership.

Pat Bacon stated that Ken Rieman mentioned the District has spent \$95,000.00 to establish the program seven years ago? Mr. Rieman explained that the \$95,000.00 was spent over the span of seven years. He said most of that funding went towards the purchase of trucks and containers and not any one time purchase. He said the program is a mandatory requirement of the State Solid Waste District Plan. At this point they have got the money invested and it is a reasonable amount to keep it going. He asked the Committee for a motion to recommend support of the school recycling program to the Commissioners.

Commissioner Carter explained they will need to address and motion on each request individually. Mayor Quinn made a motion to accept the C.E.S. school recycling funding request and seconded the motion. All members present voted yes. Motion carried and the recommendation will be submitted to the Wood County Commissioners for final approval.

Commissioner Carter moved to the next order of business, Bowling Green Recycling Center support. Commissioner Carter noted that Mr. Rieman provided a summary of the request and asked Mr. Rieman if he had any information to add. Mr. Rieman pointed out that in the past the Solid Waste District provided \$35,000.00 to the Recycling Center each year. That changed last year when the new building was built. That \$35,000.00 took care of labor and the satellite trailers. Mr. Rieman explained that the District must provide a 90% access or reach 25% residential/commercial recycling according to the Solid Waste Plan. Without this support, the Plan will not be approved.

Mr. Rieman stated with the markets being down the Bowling Green Recycling Center has less income (about 75-80% drop) from all of the materials. The District was ready to fund the \$35,000.00 support to the Center, which was approved by the Policy Committee Members and Commissioners. When the Agreement reached the Prosecutor's Office it was discovered that the \$25,000.00 bid limit applies. This issue has not come up in past years but it still does apply. Because of concern about finances and revenue, Mr. Rieman said that the support amount was reduced to \$24,000 so the Center could get the needed funding. Since the last Policy Committee Meeting, Mr. Rieman spoke with Darcy Wilhelm from the Commissioners Office, who handles many of the contract issues. She did not feel that payment of the utilities directly would work. An estimate was done of what would be needed to at least get the Recycling Center to break even at this point. The idea is to take the \$24,000.00 that was approved from July 2009 through July 2010 and amend the contract to run July 2009 through December 2009. Doing that would increase the amount of money that would go to the Recycling Center by \$2,000.00 per month and would get the Center through the next six months. The other option is to bid this out, which could be done but the bid specs would have to be written. Right now the District is in the middle of writing the Solid Waste Draft Plan, which is going to take some time.

Mr. Rieman's recommendation at this time is simply to modify the existing contract so that it runs until the end of the year. Mr. Rieman said that markets have been steady but have still been at the low level and believes the District can give enough support to maintain operations. The original request of paying the utilities has changed after talking with Ms. Wilhelm. Mr. Rieman requested to modify the agreement and asked for a recommendation from the Policy Committee to continue support for the Recycling Center. The final decision however would be made by the Commissioners.

Mick Torok from N.A.T. Transportation commented that when the Recycling Center is supported, the satellite centers are supported as well. N.A.T. runs one of the largest satellite locations in South Eastern Wood County. They pay the electrical and labor charges and in return the Solid Waste District has provided them with equipment and maintenance of equipment. Mr. Torok estimates that they recycle approximately 100,000 pounds per year. Mr. Rieman said he believes that number is higher than that. Mr. Torok said a substantial amount of material is being diverted to the Recycling Center from their garbage trucks. If just half that material went back on to their trucks, it would significantly increase their landfill fee. Mr. Torok has no problem picking up the utility cost and other labor costs at the Bowling Green Recycling Center.

Commissioner Carter said the request presented before the Committee is to just have a motion of continued support and let the Commissioners make the final decision. Skip Baltz made a motion to approve the request for continued support for the Recycling Center and Jack Ritchie seconded the motion.

Mayor Quinn asked what the actual amount that is being requested. Mr. Rieman said that at this point the amount would be \$4,000.00 per month. He said there is \$2,000.00 per month already obligated by contract. That contract was actually approved by the Policy Committee and the Commissioners originally was for \$35,000.00 for the year but was cut back to \$24,000.00 because of the bid limits. The request for funding would only be until December 31, 2009.

Commissioner Carter asked if there were any other comments or questions on the motion. With no further comments, Commissioner Carter asked all in favor of approving the request. All members present voted yes, motion carried and request approved.

Commissioner Carter moved to the next request, Glass Recycling Support. Mr. Rieman said that this request has also changed a little since the last meeting. The question is should they continue to recycle glass because of the very low value. In the past glass has always been subsidized by the other materials, however; the problem now is there is no money to do that. The Center has come up with a method that they think can be supported long-term and can be done without running into problems with the contract and bid issues. It was suggested that the Landfill buys the glass from the Center at the \$25.00-\$30.00 per ton charge, which will pay the cost. There is a concern that the Landfill has their own financial issues but they can move some other support from the Solid Waste District to offset that. This proposal supports the glass recycling based on the volume that goes through so payment is only made if the material is there.

Mr. Rieman asked Dave Spengler if he wanted to address anything on the glass issue. Mr. Spengler said that as they stated last month's Policy Committee Meeting, they have some financial concerns based on what the markets are doing right now and it is uncertain when or how much those markets are going to rebound. For a long time the other materials have subsidized the processing of the glass but that is no longer happening with the reduced market values. If the Center does not get some sort of support they are in danger of deciding not to accept glass any more. The Center is struggling with alternatives and also reaction from the public. The Center would appreciate the Policy Committee's consideration.

Pat Bacon asked where the glass processing equipment is located. Mr. Rieman replied that it is located at the Bowling Green Recycling Center. He said it was brought in several years ago with grant funds to pulverize the glass. Ms. Bacon asked if that is the equipment that requires repairs. He replied yes but the District cannot fix the equipment since they do not own it, however; the Landfill can continue to buy the material. The Center did increase the price the Landfill is paying to help with the cost of running the equipment. The Solid Waste District can provide other support to help take care of the cost but the Landfill does receive a considerable amount of money from the Waste District anyway for capacity assurance. It is a way to follow the rules and regulations to still make it work.

Mr. Rieman asked for a recommendation for continued support of glass recycling. Commissioner Carter asked for any other comments or questions. Jack Ritchie made a motion to continue to support the glass recycling and Skip Baltz seconded the motion.

Commissioner Carter asked for any other comments or questions. Jack Ritchie discussed markets, which are rebounding slowly. He said the reason the markets got so high was because of the exports to China. Since then China has wised up in this economy and realized that they cannot drive the markets up like that. Mr. Ritchie said there will be a rebound to a more normal cost and that will be where the recycling centers and material recycling facilities will be able to make money on their recycling. The glass will always be a problem because there is just no real market for that.

Mayor Quinn asked if there is every going to be anything ever that they can use the glass for or is it just being accepted as a favor to the residents. Mr. Rieman replied it was proposed to develop a market to use the glass for fiberglass through Owens Corning; however, the building market fell apart. That was probably the best hope they had for glass recycling but that option is still a possibility in the future.

Commissioner Carter said there is a motion and a second on the floor and with no further comments, asked all in favor of approving the request. All members present voted yes with the exception of Pat Bacon, who voted nay. Ms. Bacon said she is going to leave the decision up to the Commissioners. Mr. Rieman said he understands and there has been a lot of discussion on this subject. Motion carried with one negative vote.

Commissioner Carter moved to the last item to be discussed, the Sheriff's Litter Collection Program. Mr. Rieman said that this request is because of the change in manpower and budget issues. The concern again is writing the Solid Waste Plan. Mr. Rieman believes that Wood County was the first to have a litter collection program throughout the State and has been copied by other districts. There were two deputies and one Deputy got promoted. The recommendation at that point was to continue with one deputy due to the budget limitations. The other Deputy, Tom Otley, retired last month. Mr. Rieman said the concern at this point is financial and not the worth of the program. They have made many other cuts over the last couple years such as the Health Department program and the Capital Grants program. Mr. Rieman also mentioned that since the last meeting, the ash Evergreen thought was going to come from Detroit is not coming. That would have been a significant increase in revenue for a little while. Another issue that has occurred since the last meeting is the \$1.25 EPA fee added on by the State, however; the impact of that is unknown at this time.

Mr. Rieman stated that the Sheriff's Litter Collection Program is doing an excellent job but it is not a mandatory program. He said if revenues fall this program would be the next one that the District would look at to reduce the amount of money that is spent. While the District is recommending continued support, it also depends on funding and allows the program to be included in the Solid Waste Plan. He said it is written into the plan right now as contingent on funding.

Mr. Rieman requested that the Policy Committee recommend the program to be continued with support for one deputy if the Commissioners feel that funding is sufficient. Mr. Rieman does not see the program going to two deputies again. Commissioner Carter said that the final decision will fall back on the Commissioners and they will have to take a good look at whether or not the program is affordable.

Mayor Quinn moved to motion to continue support for one deputy if funding is sufficient. Pat Bacon seconded the motion. With no comments or questions, all members present voted yes, motion carried.

Commissioner Carter said the purpose of the meeting this morning was the program funding requests. He asked Mr. Rieman if there were any other issues to discuss that happened since the last meeting besides what was mentioned earlier about Evergreen and the Ohio EPA fee increase of \$1.25. Mr. Rieman those were the only other major items.

Commissioner Carter asked for any other comments or questions before scheduling the next Policy Committee Meeting. The next Meeting was scheduled for **October 13, 2009 at 8:30 A.M. in the Commissioners' 5th Floor Hearing Room.**

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 9:06 a.m.

The August 11, 2009 meeting will focus on the four program funding requests presented July 21, 2009. This is an additional explanation of those requests and how they fit within the Solid Waste District Plan requirements.

Request #1: School Recycling Assistance – Community Employment Services (CES)

AMOUNT REQUESTED: Payment of \$150.00/month to maintain recycling collection for all Wood County schools

JUSTIFICATION: CES provides all schools in the County with the ability to recycle by picking up materials and delivering them to the Bowling Green Recycling Center. When market values were much higher, the Bowling Green Recycling Center shared the value of the materials. That is no longer possible. This money allowed CES to pay for labor and transportation costs. Containers and vehicles were funded by the Solid Waste District.

School Recycling is a mandatory requirement of Goal 4 of the State Solid Waste District Plan. The new state plan has emphasis on a system that must be in place or a plan to implement recycling collection must be a part of the District Plan. It also requires education and promotion of the program once everything is in place.

The District has spent \$95,000.00 to establish the program. The funding assistance to maintain the program is minimal and amounts to only \$1,800.00 per year. There is no way to comply with plan requirements at a lesser cost.

It is requested the Policy Committee recommend funding this program to maintain current compliance and assure the ability to comply with its mandatory requirement in the new plan.

Request #2: Recycling Center Support

AMOUNT REQUESTED: Payment of utilities (estimated \$17,000.00/yr.) to maintain recycling access

JUSTIFICATION: A 90% access to residential recycling is mandated by Goal 1 of the Solid Waste District Plan or demonstration of a 25% residential recycling rate will be attained and maintained within a year (Goal 2). The sustained 25% rate cannot be reached without existing residential recycling programs. Therefore, Goal 1 applies to the Wood County Solid Waste District.

The Bowling Green Recycling Center provides 67% of the required 90% access and processes 53% of residential recycling materials. Without the Bowling Green Recycling Center programs, the District cannot demonstrate compliance with Goal 1 or Goal 2.

With current market values and the current reduced support from the District (\$24,000.00 of the recommended \$35,000.00), the Recycling Center needs additional assistance to maintain long-term operations.

The proposal to pay utility costs estimated at \$17,000.00 per year on a monthly basis will allow the facility to break even. This is projected to provide the base support to sustain ongoing daily operations. It is requested the Policy Committee recommend to the Board of Commissioners that the District reimburse utility costs to enable the facility to continue operations and to keep the District in compliance with state requirements presently and continue that compliance for the required plan update. This is only \$6,000.00 more than what was originally approved and paid in previous years to support recycling access provided by the Bowling Green Recycling Center.

Request #3: Glass Recycling Assistance

AMOUNT REQUESTED: \$8,000.00 to repair equipment & \$25.00/ton support payment (\$12,500.00/yr.)

JUSTIFICATION: Glass recycling by the Bowling Green Recycling Center accounts for 9% of the residential recycling materials reported to the Solid Waste District. Eliminating glass recycling at the Center makes reaching the 25% recycling goal very difficult, if not impossible. Continuing to accept glass will help meet both Goal 1 and Goal 2, required by the Solid Waste District Plan.

Glass recycling has been subsidized by income from other materials for many years. Low market values make this no longer possible. The cost to continue glass recycling is estimated at \$4,000.00 per year for equipment maintenance and @\$25.00 per ton to pay processing costs. The average annual cost is \$16,500.00 per year.

Glass is a heavy material that contributes significantly to the recycling rate. Feedback has indicated people want glass recycling to continue. Without the requested support, the Center will have to discontinue recycling glass in order to eliminate the financial loss from the material. The requested subsidy will pay for the cost of handling the material allowing them to continue accepting glass.

It is requested the Policy Committee recommend to the Commissioners that the requested support be approved to continue glass recycling.

Request #4: Sheriff's Litter Collection and Enforcement Program

CURRENT SITUATION:

The program had been reduced from two deputies to one due to the promotion of Rod Konrad and budget concerns. This will reduce costs from \$96,000.00 per year to \$48,000.00 per year.

Tom Otley decided to retire July 31. Due to Tom's retirement and budget concerns a letter was sent July 9 recommending the program and funding be reviewed due to budget concerns. This was the same action taken when the Health Department Sanitarian retired.

The Litter Collection Program is not mandated by the Solid Waste District Plan but does provide many benefits to the community. In addition to collecting litter from roadways, the program also assists at the Wood County Fair and other festivals. It also provides a great deal of assistance at the Bowling Green Recycling Center.

Unlike the Health Department Inspection Program, there is no entity required to assume the program. It might be possible to fund or partially fund the program with other funds but that is a determination to be made by the Commissioners and Sheriff.

While current Solid Waste District funds appear sufficient, future funding is uncertain. The concern is that should Solid Waste District revenue be reduced, funding for the program would be in jeopardy immediately. Significant cost reductions have already been made and this is a non-mandatory program.

It is requested the Policy Committee recommend the program be continued with support for one deputy if the Commissioners feel that funding is sufficient.